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HRI Dogs: Success Is So Sweet!



This little 8-month-old girl came in with a serious injury and was in pain and walking on three legs. One of our volunteers picked her up and drove through the falling ash and red-hot cinders of the Western fires to bring her to a foster home skilled in caring for medical issues. The x rays showed a badly broken femur and a bone rotated completely out of the hip socket.



After 6 ½ hours of orthopedic surgery, and a metal plate to hold it together, she can walk again and is pain-free; running like the puppy she is! Through it all she has remained a sweet and affectionate, typical Havanese, and now she is in a new home where she is adored and living a great life.



From March 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021 we had to turn away 44 dogs because of aggression.

This is shocking to many of us. Our breed is known to have a sweet, non-quarrelsome disposition.

So what has happened?

Poor socialization and training?

Is popularity causing bad breeding practices?

Mixing breeds?

Mill dogs?

We don't know the answer, but sadly we can't accept these dogs due to the safety of our foster homes and other HRI volunteers.

HRI does have insurance that requires us to have an aggression plan that needs to be followed.

What Do All Those Letters Mean?



Continuing last month's list of initials **after** a dog's name:

Agility, where dogs go through a course of obstacles at speed, titles are the most numerous and complicated! Here are some of them:

Novice **NA** Novice Agility

Open **OA** Open Agility

Excellent **AX** Agility Excellent

Excellent **MX** Master Agility Excellent

Novice Jumpers With Weaves **NAJ** Novice Agility Jumpers

Open JWW **OAJ** Open Agility Jumpers

Excellent JWW **AXJ** Agility Excellent Jumpers

Excellent JWW **MXJ** Master Agility Excellent Jumpers

Combination **MACH** Master Agility Champion

Online Auction This Fall!



Details To Follow

Barking – Nuisance Barking Inside the House

Ah, you can finally sit down and enjoy some quiet time with a nice cup of tea and a good book. Your dogs are lying on the couch with you or, like many Havanese, lying on the top of the couch looking out the window. Then along comes a delivery person, a runner, or a neighbor walking their dog, and chaos erupts. If you are lucky, your dogs give a couple of woofs and settle right back down. However, life is not always that easy, and some dogs act like the world is about to end, barking wildly until the person is out of sight. Of course, the delivery person, runner, or dog taking a walk will always move away, and our dogs think that their barking was responsible! Yelling at the dogs typically makes things worse because our dogs think we are joining in the fun.

Most of us do not want our dogs to be totally silent if someone is lurking outside, but we don't want our dogs to sound like screaming banshees every time someone walks by. Here are a couple of quick tips that can help us maintain our sanity in these situations without totally suppressing barking:

- **Restrict visual access.** Moving the furniture and closing curtains or blinds can accomplish this but might not be the most desirable solution. You can also block your dog's view by placing removable window film on the windows. The films attached through static cling are easily removable. They can be quite decorative while still letting in quite a bit of light.
- **Play a game of "Scatter."** This may seem like a lazy way to deal with the problem, but it works! I start this game when the dogs are just chilling. In a happy tone of voice, say "Scatter" and then throw a bunch of small treats across the room. For our intelligent Havanese, one or two repetitions and our dogs will come flying to us when we say Scatter. Personally, my dogs thought I had lost my marbles the first time we did this. Keep some small treats handy. The next time your dogs start to bark, say Scatter in a happy voice and toss the treats away from where the dogs are barking. Pretty soon, your dogs will come running to you rather than to the door or the window when they hear a noise.

- Wouldn't it be nice to be able to quietly ask your dogs to be quiet and have them comply immediately? Check out this excellent article by dog trainer Kiki Yablon, "How to Get Your Dog to Stop Barking—by Thanking Him for Barking" <https://www.clickertraining.com/node/3931> She has a simple, elegant way of using positive reinforcement to teach dogs to quiet on cue. Just like Scatter, this is easiest to teach when the dogs are not barking. We teach the dog that Thanks, or a cue of your choice, means that something good will happen. Once your dogs respond to the cue by moving away from the window or door, we can start using the cue when they are barking.

Fear-related barking and barking at dogs when on a walk are complicated issues, and you may need to list the aid of a professional trainer or behaviorist.

By Gail Czarnecki

Cornell Univ, former faculty Univ Illinois, Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition, 30 years with Purina, Karen Pryor Academy Certified Training Partner, Family Paws Parent Education Consultant, Association of Dog Trainers APDT, Pet Professional Guild



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