

DOG & PUPPY TRAINING

Whining

It's annoying, but it's also communication. There are 5 main reasons dogs whine.

1. Attention whine: Feed me, throw the ball, pet me, etc. The more you reinforce, the more demanding the dog becomes. Don't give in! Ignore until he quiets. For example: if he wants out of the crate, don't move towards the crate until he is quiet. As soon as he quiets reach for crate door. If he starts up again, remove your hand until he quiets. Be patient, it will take time. Stick to your guns! Same story with demanding food. No food until whining stops.
2. Stress or Fear whine: Look for the cause. Other signs include cowering, lip licking, yawning, clinging, moving away and tail tucking. Don't yell. Give you & your dog space from the object; people, dogs, vacuum, etc. Every time he looks at the object give him a treat. If he won't take the treat, then the fear of the object is greater than the treat. Move farther away and increase the value of the treat. Work slowly; don't rush progress. Small steps to reduce stress or fear.
3. Alert whine: Natural watchdogs. Barking or whining. They feel the need to tell you something is different. Keep treats handy. After one or two whines, call dog to you and reward. With practice he'll whine a couple times and come to you rather than fixating on whining.
4. Excitement whine: Approaching dog park? Picking up leash? Use management & training.
 - Management: Remove from situation if possible. If he whines at window, close it. If leash is his cue, take him outside by the collar only presenting leash once you are outside.
 - Training: Like Alert whine technique, immediately call dog to you and give a treat or another behavior to change energy such as sit, down, etc. For Example: Car whining. Get dog quiet before you start your engine. Give a treat. Drive down your driveway, if the whine starts, stop car and get them quiet again. Reward with a treat. Another trick is to provide your dog with a stuffed treat while driving.



5. Hurt Dog whine: Could he be sick or injured? Look for cues: acting strangely, breathing irregularly, change in eating or eliminating habits. Consult a veterinarian.

