

Keep Your Pet Happy!

By Nancy Secrist, Easdale: the best pet care

My grandfather lived to 92 and he knew a thing or two about dogs. He would see our farm dog snoozing after a good run and say “A tired dog is a good dog.” That’s wisdom; many dogs get into trouble because they have so much energy and not a lot of opportunity to use it! Who hasn’t come home to a trash can emptied out all over the kitchen? Maybe a corner of your furniture or cupboards show a few (or a lot) of tooth marks. There may have been an incident of the stuffing escaping a pillow with a little help from your four legged friend. Even separation anxiety, whining, and other stress is more intense due to lack of exercise.



If you are lucky enough to be reading this before getting a dog, do your research on the characteristics of the dog you will be getting. High energy dogs require a special commitment to provide the time and place each day to exercise and activity to help them settle down in the evenings. Breeds such as Border Collies are bred to run more than 50 miles a day plus dogs that share some of that background feel the same needs. Northern breeds are bred to run while pulling sleds. Other types of dogs are content with just a little exercise and make a great choice for families with long work/school days.

When dogs show stress, anxiety, or high strung behavior, many are given the equivalents of Prozac and other mood altering drugs. Drugs have side effects which need to be carefully weighed against the benefits. While this is one choice, all alternatives including exercise and interactive play toys should be considered.

Destructive behaviors are a combination of mental boredom and lack of stimulation as well as inactivity. There are now many different interactive toys that allow your dog to solve a puzzle for a food reward. Be sure to check the review of every toy; some are not safe! Best of all, spend time with your pet in walks, or even better, training classes. The great thing about training classes is that you learn more about what motivates your dog while you gain the benefit of a better behaved pet.

Dogs like to know they “fit in.” Expecting a dog to do nothing bad isn’t realistic--rather be proactive and teach them what they need to do for your approval. There are lots of wonderful dogs out there who just want some job satisfaction and a paycheck--your praise!

Leaves Are Falling—JUMP!



Extended Stay Discounts!

Call For An Estimate!

BestPetCare.net • 330-666-2004 • f
Boarding, Grooming and Fun Activities for Dogs and Cats.