



A quarterly newsletter bringing you informative treats from the dog world, and keeping you up-to-date with our services

## [Call of the Wild] Reactive Dog Camp

By Caroline Spark

Friends jokingly called it "Bad Dog Camp," perhaps imagining the canine equivalent of the Jerry Springer show. But anyone dropping by during the first ever Call of the Wild Reactive Dog Camp would have been hard pressed to find even one bad dog! No barking, growling, fights, or even near misses, over the whole three days of camp.

Co-hosted by City Dog Country Dog and Synergy Behavior Solutions, the camp was limited to a small group of participants (10 working teams), allowing a one-to-one ratio of instructors to campers. The camp was carefully structured so that the dogs could have as much space as they needed (key in preventing dog-dog problems) while practicing training exercises and enjoying nature activities. The dogs also enjoyed solo hikes, barn hunting, treasure hunting, forest agility, and river games, with time in between to rest and relax. Every dog made progress and achieved more than one personal best! By the end of the camp, habitual worried looks and tense bodies had morphed into smiling faces and wagging tails. And when the "Ice Cream Trucktor" drove onto the training field loaded with celebratory frozen treats, most of the dogs were able to claim their Frosty Paws prizes without reacting to other dogs nearby. For those who weren't quite there yet, their humans were happy to go fetch!

The day before the camp began, an article called Bad Dog appeared in the New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/10/booming/bad-dog.html>. In this article, the author reflects on her relationship with her elderly dog, Chance, whose considerable aggression towards other dogs has been an issue for most of his life. She writes: "It's easy to love a well-behaved dog. It's harder to love Chance with his bristly personality and tendency toward violence. Yet in the end, I measure the success of my relationship with Chance by its challenges, because if I can't love him at his most imperfect what use is love?"

Everyone at dog camp demonstrated the truth of that statement – and there was a lot of love to go round! Campers and staff pulled together to make the camp a success, creating a kind and supportive atmosphere by sharing experiences, knowledge, skills, and tips, helping each other, and greeting each dog's progress, however small, with great enthusiasm.

This spirit is continuing in offerings from City Dog Country Dog and Synergy Behavior Solutions throughout the year – check our websites for news of cool stuff for reactive dogs and their people, including private training, classes, meet-ups and other practice opportunities.



Relaxation and focus exercises



Who knew being around other dogs could feel so great!



Hunting in the barn



The ice cream trucktor

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Call of the Wild  
Dog Camp  
August 22-24  
2014

Call of the Wild  
Reactive Dog Camp  
September 5-7  
2014

"Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog." – FRANKLIN P. JONES

## [Did You Know?]

### These 3 Pet Apps

**Tagg.** Essentially a GPS attachment for your dog's collar. This app tracks your dog's activity and sends you a message if he goes astray. It also measures movement, making it easier for you to ensure your dog is getting enough exercise. (iOS and Android)

**iCam.** This is the app for you if you want to watch remotely what your dog is up to. Extra useful if you're leaving your dog alone for the first time, you recently moved, or you're traveling. (iOS and Android)

**Pet First Aid.** With this app, you're prepared for any medical emergency, from simple cuts to choking, CPR, fractures, disaster preparedness, and giving medication. Pet First Aid shows you what to do with detailed videos and step-by-step illustrations. (iOS and Android)

New from City Dog Country Dog!

## EXERCISING Your Leash-Reactive DOG

AN ONLINE VIDEO AND BOOKLET



Invaluable for anyone looking for creative ways to keep their reactive dog happy and relaxed in mind and body! Only \$10!

To purchase, contact:  
[info@citydogcountrydogtraining.com](mailto:info@citydogcountrydogtraining.com)

## [A World of Dogs]

### The Rescue Cred of Gentle Giants

If you ever visit the Natural History Museum in Berne, Switzerland, consider stopping by Barry and paying your respects. In his 12 years working with the monks at the Great St. Bernard Hospice, situated in a treacherous 49-mile pass in the Western Alps between Italy and Switzerland, Barry saved the lives of 40 people, lost or buried in the snowy landscape dubbed "The White Death" by Napoleon's soldiers. As one of the original St. Bernard rescue dogs, Barry's body was put on exhibit at the museum in 1812 as a testament to the canine courage and service that has graced human history for as long as we have shared our lives with dogs. Big dogs especially.

The St. Bernard is one example of a range of large-breed dogs to whose stamina, strength, and calm disposition—along with carefully bred physical traits that make them perfect for work in certain environments, like water or snow or high altitude—we owe countless human lives. Others include dogs such as Great Pyrenees, Leonbergers, Bernese Mountain Dogs, and, since we touched on the topic of Napoleon, Newfoundlands. An unnamed Newfie is credited with saving the emperor's life when rough seas knocked him from the fishing boat in which he escaped his exile on the island of Elba. It was also a Newfie, Seaman, who famously accompanied explorers Lewis and Clark on their Corps of Discovery expedition from 1804 to 1806, saving both men repeatedly from drowning, bear attacks, stampeding buffalos, and more.



Not to be size-ist, of course. Each and every day dogs of all sizes perform all sorts of heroics. They warn us of snakes, save us from burning buildings, track down lost kids, alert rescuers to injured or unconscious people. The list is endless. But surely giant breeds deserve a special place in our collective heart. For centuries, long before movies and the Internet made stars of canine heroes, these gentle pony-sized dogs saved our lives in some of the most inhospitable and challenging surroundings on the planet.

## [Tips & Tools]

### 4 Ways to Make Your Vet Happy

**Appointment decorum.** Be on time for your appointment and, if it's your first, be early so there's time to fill out paperwork. If you can't make it, call and let the vet's office know.

**Injury prevention.** Nobody likes to get bitten or scratched, and your vet is no exception. Always mention in advance if your dog tends to get nervous or cranky during vet visits.

**Ignore your cell.** The vet's exam office is not the place to return phone calls. If you're in mid-conversation when called in, excuse yourself, hang up, and give your full attention to the vet.

**Good communication.** Be prepared to describe your dog's symptoms and behavior. Has anything unusual happened? Tell the vet. Draw a diagram if that helps make things clear – vague communication is a pet peeve of most vets. It's also a good idea to take notes or ask for written instructions.

## [Dogs in Action]

### Training A K9 Officer

Canine police officers are invaluable in a wide range of law enforcement work. They detect narcotics, explosives, and other illegal materials, track criminals, help enforce public order, and protect their human partners. Little wonder, then, that their training is thorough, challenging, and lifelong. First, dogs are carefully bred and selected. What makes a great K9 officer? Requirements like a first-rate nose, strong prey or play drive, stamina, and high trainability place German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, and Belgian Malinois at the top of the selection pile. Important character traits are friendliness, an even disposition, intelligence, courage, and the ability to switch between adrenaline-fused situations on the job and mellow interactions with the general public, for example in schools and out on the streets.



Training starts with basic—but comprehensive and targeted—obedience work. Candidates who meet all the criteria progress to specialized training for police work and eventually graduate to proper K9 officers. Then, the dogs are paired with a handler and a new level of training begins: turning a dog and a person into a team, a K9 unit. And training doesn't end when the two begin working the field. Federal recommendations call for 16 hours of ongoing training per month, and many agencies practice more.

## [Healthy Dog]

### Acupuncture for Dogs

Like humans, dogs sometimes suffer with pain and inflammation, and relief for your dog doesn't have to be limited to conventional treatment options. Acupuncture, the process of stimulating certain points on the body by inserting needles, has been shown in studies to enhance blood circulation, release toxins, relax muscles, and relieve pain. Veterinary acupuncture, a component of traditional Chinese veterinary medicine (TCVM) treatments, can complement traditional medicine at any stage of your dog's life. It's often used preventatively, but can also provide relief during a range of illnesses and conditions such as arthritis, asthma, gastrointestinal distress, skin problems, and traumatic nerve injuries.

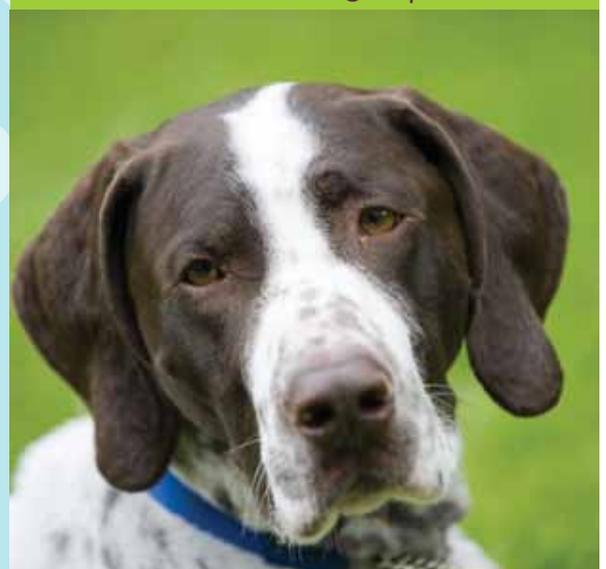
To know if acupuncture is right for your dog, always consult with a veterinarian trained in TCVM

## DOG IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### *German Short-haired Pointer*

Super jock, couch buddy, water fanatic, famously trainable – the German Short-haired Pointer is a dog of many distinctions. This exercise junkie needs vigorous daily mental and physical stimulation to thrive, but when that happens, the GSP is mellow at home with his family, happy to snuggle up and watch re-runs. An all-terrain pooch, he can hunt, point, sprint, jump, swim, retrieve—you name it, he can do it, and he's never happier than when he has a job to do. The GSP is an intensely social dog and an outstanding companion. Just look at the many books inspired by the GSP, from Thomas Mann's *Bashan and I* to sportswriter Mel Ellis' memoir *Run, Rainey, Run* and Robert B. Parker's Spenser novels that feature Pearl, the detective's trusty GSP friend.

To give a GSP a new home, visit your local shelter or rescue group.



## [Chew Training]

We know from evolutionary science that dogs chew to tone their jaw muscles. Once, splitting bones and grinding down marrow was necessary to survive. That's no longer the case, but the urge lives on—stronger in some dogs than in others. How often dogs chew and what they chew fall under individual taste. What is certain is that chewing is normal and healthy, not a behavior problem. But it can still be a problem—for you and your furniture.

Here's how to train your dog to chew the right things:

**Step 1.** Prevent mistakes. When you can't supervise, put your dog in her doggy-proof area with a sanctioned chewie.

**Step 2.** Teach good chewing choices. Audition a range of chewies until you find the ones that most appeal to your dog. Dogs have texture preferences, so try to match what yours like. If she is attacking the couch pillows, try giving her plush toys. If she is eyeing the table leg, try a hard chew. Praise liberally when your dog chews something allowed. Supervise carefully, especially at first, to be sure you dog doesn't tear and swallow, risking choking, intestinal blockages, or worse.

**Step 3.** Interrupt mistakes. If your dog tries to chew the wrong thing, interrupt and trade her for something she can chew on. Praise liberally when she does.

**Step 4.** Repeat if needed. If mistakes happen a lot, revisit step 1. Go back to using the doggy-proof area until your dog is consistently making better chewing choices.

A note about puppies: They chew more, yes. But don't be fooled. Chewing isn't a phase and it won't stop when your puppy grows up, so you need to teach her what's okay to chew. Give her plenty of appropriate things to chew right away to get her hooked on those instead of your shoes. This goes for newly adopted dogs, too.



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## [Our Amazing Team]

**Caroline Spark**, PhD, owns and operates City Dog Country Dog. She has a background in counseling and adult education, and multiple certifications in dog training and behavior consulting. Her special interests include canine psychology, behavior modification, and outdoor adventure events for dogs and people.

**Heather Ohmart**, BA, is a CCPDT certified dog trainer who runs our City Board & Train program, and specializes in raising and training puppies to be great family companions, therapy dogs, and service dogs.

**Julia Provonchee**, MSc, is an Animal Behavior College certified dog trainer, and specializes in working with dog reactivity and dog bite prevention in the Portland area.

**Karolin Klinck** is currently completing studies at the Academy for Dog Trainers, and offers private and group training on the Oregon Coast. She specializes in rehabilitating reactive and fearful dogs.

**Mary Williams**, MA, is City Dog Country Dog's Office Manager. She is passionate about databases and Office Dog, Suzi.

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