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Wimbledon's magazine for local women... by local women

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Teenage Sex

Caroline Pearson-Wright
& the questions you've
been too afraid to ask

WIMBLEDON WEAR

Championship Style
with Nicola Murray

INSPIRING SUCCESS

Kelly McAteer Wimbledon's hottest property

Plus: Dog Psychology, Tennis Stars Come to Town, Bathroom Magic, New Local Garden Emporium, Festival Fun this Summer, Ten Top Property Tips, Down Town Facelift, Exhibitionists at Wimbledon Art College, Local Actress in "Wife After Death", Asthma, Smiles & The Diet Game and more!

COMMON COURTESY

An insight into dog behaviour by Canine Psychologist Corinne Jakubowski.

My name is Corinne Jakubowski, and I am a Canine Psychologist and Trainer. I live in Wimbledon with my husband and two black Labradors, (Baxter who is 10, and Lola who is 6 years' old). I first started work in the fashion manufacturing business, and then Baxter came into our lives. He is a "Barking Mad" Labrador. He is highly intelligent and can be over excited within seconds. Baxter got me hooked into the Psychology of dogs.

I have now been practicing for 8 years and have been trained in the USA, and the UK, under the some of the leading trainers of our time, such as Karen Pryor and Kay Laurence. I use modern methods of positive reinforcement with reward based training. My approach is based on the Science of Psychology and Behaviourism. Old fashioned training methods typically included force, intimidation and pain. Traditional trainers may use a mixture of the above. The outcome is a dog which is submissive, unpredictable, and has mixed emotions towards his owner. This is not a method I endorse or encourage.

CHASING BICYCLES, HORSES AND JOGGERS

On Wimbledon Common I see a lot of dogs chasing bicycles, horses and joggers, which can be very dangerous. A dog that

is fearful of a fast moving object will often chase it away. It is a survival mechanism from the wild. From the dog's point of view it is very self-reinforcing as he is successful every time! "Scary thing has been pushed away". The fact that the bicycle or jogger was going in that direction anyway is irrelevant in the dog's brain. He is successful. The more your dog repeats this type of (bad) behaviour the more that behaviour will become ingrained and difficult to undo. So many owners "bury their heads in the sand" with this sort of behaviour, but the best solution is to face the fact that your dog is not perfect, and you have a problem! If you deal with the problem very quickly, you have a chance of rectifying the behaviour. This problem can be avoided if the dog is properly socialised to fast moving objects in a positive way at an early age.

TRAINING HYPER ACTIVE OR NERVOUS DOGS

Amongst other methods, I practice a particular technique called "click to calm". The clicker is simply a unique "click" noise from a small box, another example would be dolphin trainers using a whistle, both are scientifically called "a marker signal". It is simply information to the dog (or dolphin) that he has got it right! This method actually means you can alter an emotional state of a hyper

active or nervous dog. By simply clicking and treating at the appropriate time, it calms the dog. As the dog performs the behaviour you asked for, he is not thinking about his fear or anything else that may make him uncomfortable. A busy dog has no time to be fearful. It is extremely powerful.

The root cause of most of the problem cases I see is a failure to understand the dog's normal behaviour. Owners want their dogs to be socially acceptable in any situation. Once you understand what is "normal" for the dog, their problems can be solved and adapted to living successfully with humans.

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