

January 2010

ISIS Gazette



Congrats to Shelby and her mommy Amy for winning cover model! Shelby is darling!

Society Gals

by Marcia Hedrick

Hi! My name is Susan Eitelman and I live in Efland, North Carolina. I work as an Executive Assistance and Community Relations Coordinator at NetApp in Research Triangle Park, NC. I have another more exciting life as an emerging artist and I study oil painting with a local teacher. Having a deep love and respect for nature and especially animals, Dan, my husband, and I chose to live in the country with a tank of fish, our neighbor's horses grazing in the pasture around our house and our dear Lhasa Apso named Sasha. I guess the story starts with sweet Sasha who is a busy, social girly girl. Because both Dan and I work we thought it might be nice if Sasha had a friend and companion. I had just freed up some time on my schedule so it seemed the perfect time to start a puppy search. My only criteria were a small dog, female, and not an alpha. I honestly don't remember how I came across Bobbi's website but I think it was just a matter of following links at other websites. Anyway, the minute I came across The Shire website, I knew the little Imperial Shih Tzu was what I was looking for and I was greatly impressed with the love and care Bobbi expressed for her dogs on the website. I filled out the application and waited to hear from Bobbi. Bobbi got back to me right away but there was only one female left from her litters and this baby would probably not be a good match for Sasha. Searching closer to home for a female did not yield anything so I contacted Bobbi again and resigned myself to wait for the next litter to get a female. Fortunately, Bobbi had the good sense to ask me why I had decided against a male puppy and so our discussions started. Bobbi thoroughly answered all my questions, sent me some links, and put a lot of my concerns to rest. We started to look at Tommy. How could anyone not love Tommy at first sight!

After careful consideration, we decided that Tommy would be the best choice after all and for many reasons. Bobbi walked us through the entire process, including the nail biting flight from Washington to North Carolina. I'll never forget sitting at RDU Cargo on December 22nd at 11:30 PM in the dark and cold waiting for a little crate to arrive all the way from the west coast. When it finally arrived, everyone in the cargo area gathered around as the attendant opened the crate door and out popped the cutest little puppy face in the world. Oooohs and aaaaahs and smiles broke out as we all just admired this tiny fluffy bundle of extreme cuteness. Tommy has been with us 10 days now and he is the consummate perfect puppy. He is cute beyond words, smart, playful and loving. We cannot thank Bobbi enough for helping us choose the right puppy and sending little Tommy to



North Carolina to bring smiles and joy to all who meet him. Dan, Sasha, Tommy, and I could not be happier!

Thank you again Susan for becoming one of our own Society Gals!



www.theshireshihtzu.com

Thank you Bobbi of The Shire Shih Tzu for helping to better this breed.

The Benefits Of A GPS Dog Collar.

Written by: [Adam Webster](#)

We all want to keep our dogs safe. We take them to the vet, feed them the right foods, and take care of them like they are our own children. Have you every wondered how you would feel if your child, or dog, was lost? Well, With a GPS dog collar, you will wonder no more.

With a GPS dog collar you will not have to worry about losing your dog because you will know where he is every minute of the day. Though this new technology you can, via satellite, track your dogs location. You will have an added since of security knowing that you will not have to worry if your dog runs off.

These collars work by transmitting a signal that can be picked up by a satellite. The satellite will the transmit the signal to a control center. If you have lost your dog the satellite will send you an alert telling you exactly where your dog is. These collars work with pin point accuracy and will lead you to the exact location.

One of the best features of these collars is how you are alerted. Depending on the collar you purchase you can be alerted in a verity of ways. Some you will have to call a customer service number and they will lead you to your dog. There are those that allows you to log into you computer and pull up a map to see the location. Then you even have those that will email you or text you on your cell phone.

These collars even allow you to set up a safe zone. The collar will alert you any time your dog goes outside the area that you have preset. You will be able to preselect the areas that your dog is allowed to go. If your dog goes to far then you will be alerted to the location. You will have the control over how far and where your dog is allowed to go.

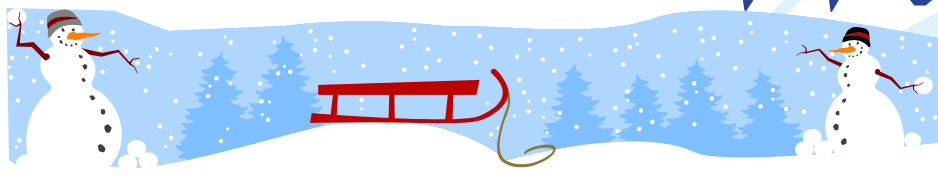
The Collars are battery operated, but dead batteries will not be a worry. The collar is set up to alert you if the battery starts get low. At this time just pop some new batteries in and you are back in business. If you use rechargeable batteries then you can have a set charging while you have a set in the collar.

The cost of these collar are very reasonable. By checking the Internet and your local pet store you can pick on up at a very good price. Do some bargain hunting and you will be amazed at some of the great deals that you can come across. The price that you pay nothing compared to security you will receive.



Congratulations!! Kipu for winning this month's Photo Contest! Thank you Sandy for sharing this great picture of Kipu with us.

Winter



Canine communications

Woofs, howls, whines and whimpers compose communication, canine style

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Introduction

- When Monkey gets left in the boarding kennel, he “scolds” his owners with non-stop barking when they return.
 - Bear howls with the fire sirens, Ruffy woo-woos when her owner comes home, Chief barks a fearsome sound when the UPS truck comes down the street, Amber whines when left alone for more than a few minutes, Ranger growls a throaty sound when another dog approaches his food bowl or toys, and Ringo barks to be let out or in and when his 5:30 p.m. dinnertime rolls around.
 - Dogs have a wide range of vocalizations, all designed to help them get along in their human or canine pack. Although most of these sounds draw our attention, we often misread their intentions and confuse alarm barks with anxiety attacks, please-don't-do-that requests with aggressive warnings, and simple communication of needs with nuisance noises. And sometimes we even manage to develop nuisance noises out of what began as a communication of needs and escalate please-don't-do-that requests into aggressive warnings.
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Barking

- This is the most common of dog noises, done to signal the approach of a strange person, dog, or other animal; ask for play; show distress; say hello; get attention; or warn the approaching stranger or critter. Barking has tones; dog owners can distinguish those tones by listening and by reacting in an appropriate manner. The alarm bark that says “someone's coming; come see who it is” is different than the “come-play-with-me” woof, the deep “get-off-my-property” warning, the “I'm-glad-you're-home” greeting and the “please let me in” request. And all are different than the non-stop, inhale/exhale panic barking of a frightened pet.
- It appears that early breeders deliberately selected for barking in some breeds. Breed histories and modern dog lore indicate that the Norwegian Elkhound barked to lead the hunter to the cornered moose; livestock guard dogs barked to alert shepherds to intruders and to warn trespassers not to bother the flock; palace guard dogs also barked to warn of invaders and prowlers; hounds bayed their way to the rabbit, raccoon, or fox; and terriers barked to mark their progress as they chased their quarry above and below ground.
- But the evolution of barking is not so cut and dried. Writing in the chapter “Social and communication behaviour of companion dogs” in [The Domestic Dog : Its Evolution, Behaviour, and Interactions With People](#) edited by James Serpell, John W.S. Bradshaw and Helen M.R. Nott wrote: “It is possible that humans have selected dogs to bark more readily in order to draw attention to potential hazards or problems (‘watchdog barking’) and also during the pursuit of prey, directing the hunter towards the kill. It does, however, seem unlikely that this was due to conscious selection, since dogs that have evolved in all parts of the world generally all show the same propensity to bark”
- Further, the authors stated: “Coppinger and Feinstein (1991) point out that young animals of many species of canid tend to bark more frequently than adults. It is therefore possible that, during selection for tameness, juvenile characteristics were also selected for, including the propensity to bark.”
- To bolster this perspective, Bradshaw and Nott went on: “Studies on foxes selected over 20 generations for tameness by a group of Soviet biologists showed that over successive generations the foxes gradually began to sound more and more like dogs.”
- The authors concluded that while the bark may serve as an alarm or a warning, many times it seems to

serve no communication purpose at all – except perhaps to direct attention to body language that solicits its play, challenge, or other social activity as a sort of “yoo-hoo, I’m over here and I’m play-bowing” call.

The evolution of barking may be only of academic interest to most dog owners, but the fact of barking is an irritation to many and can even land an otherwise respectable pet in the slammer. Communities pass noise ordinances against excessive barking, neighbors fume and threaten lawsuits, and landlords hand over eviction notices – all because Barkley can’t keep his mouth shut.

Excessive barking

These days, every dog owner is well-advised to teach an additional command beyond the sit, down, come triad for well-mannered pets. To avoid anti-dog regulations and legislation and keep peace in the neighborhood, every Barkley, Rascal, Sassy, and Fluffy should learn “Shhhhh!” or “Quit” to turn off the sound before it causes trouble.

Along with teaching some version of “knock-it-off,” dog owners should always respond to barking and praise the dog for alerting to the visitor or passer-by so the dog knows he can do his job before being told to zip his lip.

Some dogs that bark excessively are victims of separation anxiety, a malady that causes various neurotic behaviors when dogs are left alone. Mild cases can be handled by training; severe cases require long-term behavior modification.

Books that may help with barking dog problems are [Dog Problems : A Professional Trainer's Guide to Preventing and Correcting](#) by Carol Lea Benjamin; [I Just Got a Puppy : What Do I Do?](#) By Mordecai Siegal and Matthew Margolis; and the *Owner’s Guide to Better Behavior in Dogs* by William Campbell. *(Out of print but may be available in used bookstores)*

[\[More on barking\]](#) [\(Available books\)](#)

Howling

Many breeds and some individual dogs have a propensity to howl, a sound that is considered music to the ears of a houndsman or the wolf fancier but not so cool by suburbanites and city-dwellers. Some of these howlers need a trigger, a siren to accompany or another dog to start the chorus, but some need no encouragement to throw back their heads and send a mournful song to the full moon, to the strains of a violin, or to some unseen, unheard spirit.

Wolves howl to bring the pack together before a hunt and to seek contact with other pack members.

Even though they do not gather to hunt, some dogs may howl to connect with another being. At times, however, dogs seem to howl out of sheer joy.

Growling

Growling can be used in play, as a warning or threat, or as a defense signal. A pet might growl in mock ferocity when playing tug of war or carrying a favorite toy. He might also growl when petted where it hurts, when a child pulls his tail or ears, or when he wants his own way. All throaty vocalizations are not growls, however; some dogs have an entire repertoire of sounds to show happiness, throaty growls or roars among them.

More than any other dog sound, however, growling should be heeded with special attention, for it is also the rhetoric of dominance and aggression. Bentley’s almost sub-sonic rumble when Katy toddles near his food dish or grabs his tail; Spot’s grumble when told to sit or when corrected for knocking over the garbage can; Misty’s mutters when she’s put in her crate at night – all are warning signs that the pooch is trying to play the system to get his own way.

It does not matter if the growls are submissive or dominant, if the pet is fearful or bold when uttering the protests; the result – an out-of-control pet – is the same if they are ignored. Submissive pets that growl when approached need training to instill confidence; dominant pets that do the same need training to instill deference to authority. Both may need the attention of a professional trainer or behaviorist.

Other sounds

Along with barking, howling, and growling, dogs whine and whimper to get attention or to indicate pain. Whining – a leftover from the days when the puppy needed his mother’s milk and comfort – can

be another propaganda ploy to gain the upper paw, for its annoying tones often cause the owner to give in. "If Barkley wants out of the crate, fine, as long as he stops that incessant noise!" Sidney Jones may grumble under his breath, but if he actually lets Barkley out of the crate, his problems will multiply. Some dogs whine out of panic, escalating their upset until they salivate heavily and dribble and spray spit on themselves and their surroundings. These dogs need confidence, not punishment. In the short run, giving in may be the best answer as long as it is followed up with a program, guided by a behaviorist or knowledgeable dog trainer, for building self-reliance.

Norma Bennett Woolf

Double Diamond H



Freddy
January 2010
ISIS Puppy of the Month