

The Scooper



The Miami Obedience Club, Inc.

Officers:

- President: Dave Proe*
- Vice President: Carol Ann Klein*
- Recording Secretary: Sally Richardson*
- Corresponding Secretary: Carol Clark*
- Treasurer: Nancy Atkins*

Board of Directors:

- Nancy Bloom, Pat Kopco, Jill Sidran, Wien Yu*

Training Directors:

- Obedience: Jane Davidson*
- Agility: Debbie Russell, Lynn Proe*
- Assistants: Laurie Zisman, Jill Sidran, Carol Clark*

Committees:

- Agility Trials: Mike Orloff, Ginny Guin, Peter Liu*
- Canine Good Citizen: Laurie Zisman*
- Club Phone Rep: Carol Clark (305) 681-5246*
- Education: Jacqueline Kurzban*
- Finance: Dave Proe*
- Library: Trina Chicvara*
- Membership: Wien Yu*
- Obedience Trial: Jill Sidran*
- Sunshine: Debra Willey*
- Webmaster: Laurie Zisman*

Scooper Editor:

- Lynn Proe*
- E-mail: lzp@doortosummer.com*

The Water Dish

What I enjoy most about riding my bicycle downtown to work each morning is watching people walk their dogs. The Metro-Path that runs under the Metrorail is my main route and it seems to be very popular with dog walkers as well. I see mixed breed dogs as well as purebreds. I am sometimes a little surprised by some of the breeds that I see as they are not very commonly seen here in Miami.

As I ride closer to downtown, I pass the Brickell Metro Rail station. Most of the dog owners in that area live in high rise apartments and the Metro Rail station as well as the bike path seems to serve as a make shift dog park. I see dogs chasing balls and socializing with other dogs as they meet on the path. Most of those that I see seem very well mannered. Many pick up after their dogs which is always a good thing to see.

It is nice to know that as the city continues to grow, people find dog friendly housing as well as ways to be with their dogs in the city.

Lynn Proe



**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
APRIL 4, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Dave Proe at Denny's Restaurant, 5825 NW 36 Street, Miami, Florida. Carol Ann Klein made a motion to dispense with the reading of the March 7, 2012 Minutes. This was seconded by Nancy Atkins and approved. Roll was taken by passing around a sign-in sheet and brags were shared.

Dave announced that Carol Ann Klein had been elected by the board as Vice President and that he had appointed the following committees:

Trina Chicvara – Plaques and Awards Chairperson

Lynn Proe – Scooper Editor

Carol Clark – Phone

Debbie Russell and Lynn Proe – Agility Directors

Laurie Zisman – CGC Coordinator

Ginny Guin and Peter Liu – October 2012 Agility Trial Chairs

There was discussion on the President appointing the Agility Trial Chairs. The Constitution reflects the Board appoints

There was also discussion on the free entries for Obedience, Rally, and Agility Trials. At present, the Trial Chairs and Chief Ring Stewards for the Obedience, Rally, and Agility Trials each receive one free entry per trial.

There was discussion on the meaning of "one" free entry. Whether it means one entry per trial or whether it means all the entry/ies for one trial. Trina pointed out that this standing rule was under review. The Board will make a determination on this issue.

COMMITTEES

Correspondence: Carol Clark received a letter from the Florida Association of Kennel Clubs that our annual dues, \$25.00 were due. Because Jackie Kurzban usually handles this, she will be contacted regarding any more information. Carol Clark also received a letter from George Peace enclosing a check for \$1205.08 from the estate of late member, Bill Harris. This money is to be used to establish a fund from which dog handling instruction will be prepaid for children 12-18 years of age. This instruction is to cover Conformation, Obedience, Agility and/or Tracking and is for children who otherwise could not afford the fees. Discussion followed and Pat Kopco is to obtain a copy of the will to review the exact wording.

(continued)

In the interim, the check is to be held by MOC.

Carol Clark also received word that all information submitted to AKC is to be submitted electronically. There will be a fee if the U S Mail is used.

Treasurer: Nancy Atkins reported MOC's financial position. Dave requested the yearend financial reports. Nancy A. to provide.

Club Phone: No report.

Obedience Trial: Trial Chair, Jill Sidran, gave a report: The Premium List is out. There will be 5 rings, the ribbons have been ordered, an inventory of the Obedience equipment in the Obedience trailer was taken and the condition of all the mats was good. There are two sets of jumps which need to be repaired and Tracy Hanna's father has been asked to do the repair. Trina Chicvara is handling the ribbons, Ginny Guin is the Raffle chair, and Vicki Phillips and Nancy Bloom are the Hospitality co-chairs.

CGC: Laurie Zisman announced that there was a CGC held on 3/28. Ten dogs were tested and all ten passed.

Agility Trial: No report.

DACOF: Dave announced that MOC is still building a team and that the cut-off date will be after the Vero Beach shows, 4/5-8/12.

DOCOF: Carol Ann reminded everyone that DOCOF is the Sunday before Labor Day, 9/2/12. She will be passing around a signup sheet at a later date.

Membership: No report.

Sunshine: No report.

Finance: Because of his duties as President, Dave advised that he is stepping down as chair. A new chair is to be named. Laurie was added to the Committee. Dave to check with Cliff McBroom to see whether he will remain active on the Committee.

Equipment: Jill mentioned the inventory of the Obedience trailer that was taken on 3/28. She mentioned that all is in order except for the need to repair two sets of jumps.

Obedience Training: No report.

Education: Trina mentioned that she is compiling a list of our books which are no longer needed and can be sold. This list will be sent to Lynn for publishing in the Scooper.

Scooper: Lynn asked for pictures of our dogs and brags to be published in the Scooper. She also mentioned a new article—"Meet MOC". This will article will introduce different MOC members and describe their activities in/contributions to the club.

Website: No report.

(continued)

Old Business: Nancy Atkins requested that we finish the Standing Rules review. Trina to handler this in June, after the May Awards Banquet meeting. Trina requested approval to order patches (CD, CDX, UD, RN, etc., etc) to be given out with the plaques at the May meeting. The cost is \$315.

Discussion ensued because of the cost and because some members do not use or want the patches. The request was approved. A box is to be brought to the May meeting so that those who do not want the patches can deposit them in the box for future use by others. Also, a checkbox is to be added to the plaque application for next year to indicate whether a member wants his/her patches. There was lengthy discussion on the Board vote at the 3/7/12 Board meeting regarding the use of the Arena on Monday nights for Agility classes. The Agility and Obedience Directors are to meet to discuss putting the Agility program together.

New Business: Trina requested an audit for the Club. Because Trina has arranged audits for the Greater Miami Dog Club, she will look into the cost. There was lengthy discussion in relation to the vote taken at the 3/7/12 Board meeting regarding the use of the arena for Agility classes on Monday nights. Because the Obedience Chair was not present and because there were only about 12 people at the meeting, this item was tabled until the June 2012 meeting. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Ann Klein for Sally Richardson, Recording Secretary.

Minutes not approved until the next membership meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
APRIL 4, 2012**

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Dave Proe at 9:50 PM. Present were Dave, Carol Clark, Carol Ann Klein, Nancy Atkins, Pat Kopco.

The minutes of the last Board meeting were corrected to reflect that Cori Gacusana did not resign her membership from the MOC. She resigned her posts. She has remained a member.

Old Business: There was discussion about the five letters that the Board has sent to Gina Reed, Erin Leff, Marilyn Leff, Keith Staub, and Cori Gacusana.

New Business: There was a question from Carol Ann whether a new set of competition Rally signs had been ordered. Jill responded that the signs were ready for the May Trials. With the change in Club officers, there will be two signatures required for each check. This is being put in place with our bank.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Carol Ann Klein
for Sally Richardson, Recording Secretary.*

Sunshine Corner

We send our sympathy to Jackie and Sandra Kurzban, who lost Ben, their Rottweiler. We are thinking of you.

**Debbie Willey
Sunshine Chair**

Miami Obedience Club wishes a Happy Birthday to the following club members who are celebrating in May:

- David Proe
- Lynn Proe



ANNOUNCEMENT

MOC 2012 AWARDS BANQUET

TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY
MAY 2ND AT THE

Longhorn Steakhouse
1630 NW 87th Avenue
Miami, FL 33172
(305) 477-4122

Meeting Starts @ 7:00 pm

MOC OBEDIENCE AND RALLY TRIALS **RAFFLE**

MOC's 98th, 99th, **100th** & 101st and 18th, 19th, 20th, & 21st Rally Trials are coming soon, Saturday, May 26, 2012 and Sunday, May 27, 2012.

We need raffle donations of nice items, dog related or not, or of services that may be rendered or of money so items can be purchased.

Please bring you donations to the MOC meeting in April or to the Monday night Obedience training and give them to Jill.

The raffle has been a success in the past because of your contributions so please be generous and make our **100th Obedience Trial** a special event.

Our Dogs are Incredible!

By Debbie Willey

On Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31, Dinah and I had the honor of participating in the Eastern Regional of the 2012 Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge in Atlanta, Georgia. The venue was beautiful Centennial Olympic Park and 2012 marks the 15th anniversary of the Purina Incredible Challenge. Dinah and I were invited to compete in the Incredible 30-Weave Up-and-Back Racing. Dinah won the Eastern Regional weave event last year, so she was back to defend her title. The pressure was on!

For the 30-Weave Up-and-Back racing, two dogs compete side by side on a course of 30 weave poles, a tunnel, and then back through the 30 weave poles again. Missed entries or skipped poles are corrected, costing time. Eight dogs compete in four quarterfinal races, with winners going to two semi-finals races and then onto a final race.



It was a “girls” weekend, with Dinah and me and my Mom, Lucy, and sister, Susan, as cheerleaders for Dinah. Friday was the practice day where the eight weave competitors were timed and seeded for Saturday’s competition. Dinah did well in Friday’s practice run. Throughout the day, we enjoyed watching agility, diving dog, Jack Russell hurdle racing, flyball, and freestyle flying disc. We had a good day. It was time to get some rest and get ready for Saturday.

Saturday was the competition day, the big event! There were lots of spectators, camera crews and lots of incredible dogs and handlers. Our event was scheduled for 2:30pm, so there was plenty of time to relax (relax?!) and enjoy the other events.

(Continued from page 5)

Dinah and I were scheduled to run in the first quarterfinal heat of the weave challenge. It was show time. We won our first heat and I breathed a sigh of relief. But it was time to get ready for the next race. We won our second heat, so we were headed to the final race to determine 1st and 2nd place. Our competition was a cute terrier/border collie mixed breed named Keen, who became the crowd favorite. It was off to the races. Dinah was perfect but out of the corner of my eye, I could see that Dinah and Keen looked like they were neck and neck. I was trying to focus and talk to Dinah while trying to get a glimpse of Keen in the other set of weaves. It was a close race and the winner had to be determined by slow motion replay. I was surprised when they announced that Dinah was the winner. Wow, what an exciting race and certainly a crowd pleaser!

I am proud of Dinah. She did a fantastic job. We had a great time and it was especially fun to share it with Mom and Susan. We look forward to another road trip to Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri in October for the National Championships!

I have been fortunate to have participated in 4 regional Purina Incredible Challenge events and 2 National events and have enjoyed all of them. The Carson International and Nestlé Purina personnel are great and above all, they encourage us to have fun with our dogs. What more could we ask? So, go out there and have fun with your incredible dogs. It's amazing what they'll do for us and with us.



Brag

Mike Orloff and Pat Kopco

We went to the Northeast Florida HCR hunt test in St. Augustine – this picture pretty much explains the weekend.

On Saturday, Jagger got his final finished pass for his UKC/HRC Hunting Retriever Championship and Ozzy got his first finished pass - on Sunday, Jagger passed another finished test and he and Ozzy both passed the upland test - Ozzy's first upland outing.

And Zappa, well Zappa was Zappa - he had a great time as only he can, but because of that he didn't get to retrieve too many birds.

All in all a great weekend!



Jackie Kurzban

Gala aka AKC/UKC CH.Targon's Abstract Dreams
CD,RE,MX,MXJ,NF,FM,CI,TT,CGC,RTD
And Damon aka Tailwynd's Nightstalker at Targons
RN,CGC.

Gala and her brother Dali (not pictured here) will be seven years old next month. Damon just turned one. Some photographs are a brag in itself.

More Brags....

Canine Good Citizen Brags

On March 26, 2012, Laurie Zisman with the assistance of Jill Sidran and Carol Ann Klein had 10 dogs obtain Canine Good Citizen certificates. Most of the dogs were from Carol Ann Klein's Level II class. "This was the largest class I've seen since I have been working at the desk" reported Jane Davidson.

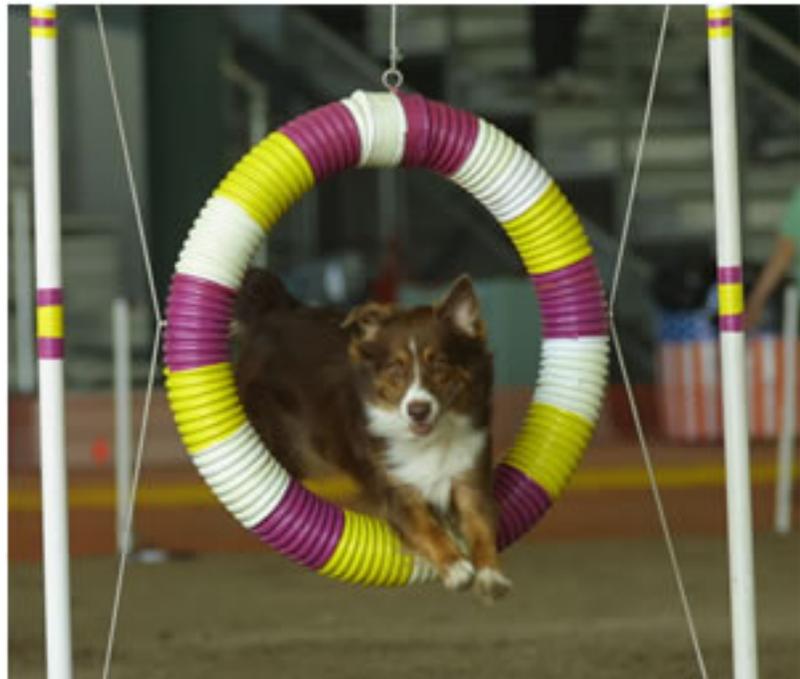
Lynn and David Proe

Last weekend at the Tailwaggers USDAA Trial, Dylan ran in Veterans Snooker as a final run in his agility career. The weather was awful, heavy rain with thunder and lightening which Dylan does not like at all. He ran anyway with all same heart, soul and spark as he has always performed. He kept all of the bars up but ran out of time.

Dylan is the dog that has taken us places that we might not have gone without him. The 2005 AKC Nationals, the USDAA Nationals in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Enjoy your retirement Dylan!

**ADCH-Bronze MACH2 Zischka Proe's Dylan MFX
SACH-Bronze RCH-Bronze JCH-Bronze GCH-Silver
SCH-Bronze TM-Bronze LA Bronze VSD**

River earned his USDAA Agility Dog title. He also qualified in Advanced Pairs and earned his Starters Snooker Title.



Dance was also successful at the Tailwaggers trial. She qualified in Grand Prix which also qualified her for the USDAA Nations.





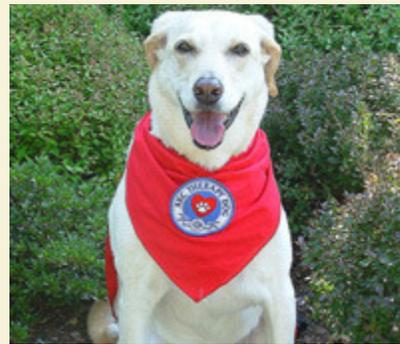
All Dogs Welcome

brought to you by the **AKC Canine PartnersSM** program

The AKC program for ALL dogs!



ALL Dogs Eligible for new AKC Therapy Dog title



Therapy dogs and their owners do a great service by helping comfort people who are lonely, ill or stressed. Therapy dogs even help children learn to read and bring security to war veterans suffering from stress disorders.

We hope you enjoyed the story about therapy dogs in the last issue of All Dogs Welcome and learning more about the new AKC Therapy Dog title. The American Kennel Club[®] now officially recognizes the selfless volunteerism of therapy dog teams with the AKC Therapy Dog title (THD). Recipients receive an AKC certificate and a patch.

All dogs are eligible to qualify for this award, including mixed-breeds and rescues, as long as they are AKC registered or listed. If you have a dog that is not AKC-registrable, you can enroll him or her with the AKC Canine PartnersSM program for ALL dogs.

And when you sign up, you also help ALL dogs. AKC donates \$5 of every enrollment fee to the AKC Humane Fund to support its good works for all dogs and their owners.*

Enroll your dogs in the AKC Canine PartnersSM program by visiting our website at www.moredogfun.com or by [downloading the paper form here](#). Remember, when you enroll your dog in the AKC Canine Partners program, ALL Dogs Win!

*For every paid \$35 enrollment in the AKC Canine Partners program, the AKC will donate \$5 to the AKC Humane Fund to help all dogs. Donations will not be made in the name of the individual enrollee and are not tax deductible. To make your own tax deductible donation to the AKC Humane Fund or learn more about it, visit www.akc.org/humane_fund/.

Common Myths about Dog Training

MYTH #1:

If a dog can not learn a behavior, he is stubborn, dominant, stupid or a combination of the three.

REALITY:

The truth is dogs in many ways are just like people. Some dogs will pick things up very quickly and others will take more time and guidance. Often times, when we as trainers see a dog having difficulty learning a task, it is because the dog is not being communicated to in a way that the dog can understand. Other times they fail to learn a task because they are not properly instructed as to when they have done the behavior correctly and therefore have no way of knowing what you are asking of them.

Always reward your dog for doing something right and use patience when demonstrating a desired behavior. If your dog still seems to have trouble learning something new, think about how you have been teaching the dog from the dog's point of view. Think about how certain behaviors may not be as clearly taught as you thought they were, or if there are elements in the environment that might be causing your dog to become confused or distracted. Is the behavior too complex and perhaps needs to be broken up into smaller steps? Another possibility to consider is whether the dog is capable of physically learning a certain behavior - for example, a dog that has hip problems might find certain positions like "sit" uncomfortable.

MYTH #2:

My dog knows he did something wrong because he looks guilty.

REALITY:

Guilt is a human emotion and whether animals feel emotions in the same way that humans do is subject to a great deal of debate among scientists! However, in terms of the "guilty look," a recent study at Barnard College in New York found that the guilty look people claim to see in their animals is entirely attributable to whether or not the person expected to see the look, regardless of whether or not their dog had actually done something to be guilty about.

When a dog looks guilty it is because they are reacting to a change in our body language that tells them something is wrong and leads to body language on their part that "looks" worried and nervous to the human eye. In reality the dog has learned to exhibit these behaviors in order to appease humans who display angry or upset body language.

MYTH #3:

A puppy must be at least six months old to be trained.

REALITY:

This myth originated from "old school" training where heavy collar corrections were used and therefore it was preferred that a dog be old enough to withstand wearing the collar and dealing with the pressure of collar corrections and punishment during training sessions. With today's modern methods of training based on positive reinforcement and cooperation with your dog, there is no reason you can not start working with your puppy as soon as you can! A puppy starts learning the moment they are able to observe and relate to their environment. Unlike an adult dog, a puppy may have a shorter attention span and this will require more patience when teaching behaviors. There is no reason your puppy can not start learning right away. The sooner you start, the quicker your puppy will learn. It is important to socialize your puppy as soon as possible as well to expose him to new people and things so he will grow up to be a behaviorally healthy and confident adult dog.

MYTH #4:

Positive reinforcement training only works with small, happy regular dogs not large, tough, obstinate stubborn

dogs.

REALITY:

Using positive reinforcement primarily to train animals is the norm among exotic animal and marine mammal trainers. If you can train a large predator such as a killer whale or a tiger through concentrating on rewarding behaviors, there is no reason you can not do the same with your dog regardless of his breed. Moreover, as our knowledge of behavior is strengthened through research, the consensus is that using aversive training methods on fearful or aggressive dogs is more likely to lead to worse behaviors, whereas focusing on rewarding the animal and alleviating their fears and anxieties leads to more well-adjusted dogs and stronger human-animal relationships.

MYTH #5:

My dog pulls on leash or jumps on me or lies on the couch or will not let me clip his nails because he is dominant, etc.

REALITY:

The concept of dominance has been used to explain just about every inappropriate behavior in dogs that owners can possibly complain about. The problem is the term dominance as is used by most dog owners and unfortunately some trainers is completely incorrect. Dominance describes a social relationship between two or more individuals. It is NOT a character trait.

Despite what many people believe, dogs do not spend their time seeking to establish control over humans. If a dog jumps on you, it is because he has not learned that this is an undesirable behavior. If he pulls on leash, he has not been taught that he should walk closely beside you. If he does not like being groomed, he most likely finds the brush and clippers uncomfortable or scary or both.

The moral of the story is, if your dog is doing something you do not like, forget about worrying about dominance. Instead decide what it is you want your dog to do instead and then proceed to teach him that and reward him for doing it right.

MYTH #6:

Using food in training is bribery.

REALITY:

While food can certainly be used to bribe a dog, the above sentence displays a fundamental lack of understanding of the laws of learning theory. When you are teaching an animal—any animal, **including humans** something new, there needs to be a motivation for getting it right and a signal that you've done so (a reward, or more correctly, a reinforcement. For humans, this could be an A+ from a teacher, paycheck or bonus from your job! All animals work for reinforcements and dogs are no different.

Trainers often use food simply because most dogs love food and find it worth working for. We also can use toys, play, work, petting, praise and a whole variety of other things to reward our dogs. A reward or reinforcement is something that is presented to an animal in order to show them they got something right.

A bribe is something that you give to an animal to get them to do something they already know how to do.

MYTH #7:

My dog should work for me because he wants to please me.

REALITY:

Dogs do what they do ultimately because it works for them. As humans we can count ourselves incredibly lucky to have such creatures that appear to enjoy our company and share our lives. However, we need to understand that

this is a mutual relationship and dogs benefit from their relationships with us through getting food, shelter, play,

Continued...
and affection among other things. Therefore when a dog does something that makes us happy, we should not make the assumption that a dog only wants to please us. They are doing things to make us happy because it also gets them a treat or a belly rub or a pleasant environment to be in.

If you subscribe to the theory that a dog only should do things to please you and never should be rewarded or reinforced for doing what you want, you will most likely find yourself with a dog that is difficult to train because he will have a hard time discerning when he has done something right without any reward history from you.

MYTH #8:
If you adopt an older dog, he will not bond with you, learn new behaviors or learn to live with a new family because "an old dog can not learn new tricks."

REALITY:
You can train a dog, or any animal for that matter, at any age. However, keep in mind that the older an animal is and the longer they may have had rehearsed a behavior that you may now want to change. Because of this it may take a little longer to change that behavior. On the other hand, in some ways training an older dog can be easier than training a puppy. Older dogs are generally calmer than young puppies and in turn have better focus and attention when working with you.

MYTH #9:
My dog is urinating in the house because he is angry that I left him alone.

REALITY:
If your dog is urinating in the house, it can only be for one of a few possible reasons: 1) He has a medical condition such as a urinary tract infection or 2) He is suffering from extreme separation anxiety and is in distress. 3) You left him alone longer than you can reasonably expect your dog to hold his bladder. 4) He is not fully housetrained.

Dogs are simply not capable of the type of thought processes that would allow them to think that doing an action such as urinating in the house will get back at you for a perceived slight regardless of how much we'd like to believe that's the case!

If your dog isn't fully housetrained, sometimes it is easier to go back and start at the beginning as if he is still a young puppy and make sure you are absolutely consistent about supervising him in the house and rewarding him for going outside. Sometimes changes like moving to a new house can trigger confusion for you dog too. As a precaution you should take him to a veterinarian to rule out possible medical causes.

MYTH # 10:
You should never play tug of war because this creates aggression.

REALITY:
Tug of war can be a great game to play with your dog as long as you do it properly! Dogs should learn that it is never ok to put their teeth on your skin when grasping for the toy with their mouths. They should learn to "drop" the toy on command when you're ready to end the game. Using tug as reinforcement instead of food is actually very common among many dog sports competitors and working dog trainers because dogs enjoy it so much!

MYTH #11:
I shouldn't use food to train because then I will always need food in hand to get my dog to do something.

REALITY:
Your dog will only look for food in your hand in the future IF you do not fade out the food lures quickly.

*Continued...***MYTH #12:**

Using people food in training will make my dog beg at the table.

REALITY:

Feeding your dog from the dining table will cause your dog to beg at the table whether you feed the dog food from your own plate or from a bag of dog kibble.

If you do not want your dog to beg while you're eating, teach him a "go to your place" command to show him that he needs to go hang out somewhere else in the house while you're enjoying a meal.

woof! - Mickey The Schapendoes
- the Myth Breaker -

AKC® SYNDICATE

Helpful Tips

How to Decipher Your Dog's Bark

Have you ever wondered what Fido was trying to say to you when he began barking incessantly? Dogs use a variety of sounds—barking, howling, baying, and growling—to convey different things. Your pup may be barking for attention, or growling to protect his bone. Whatever noise Fido is making, he's trying to tell you something. The American Kennel Club® offers the following tips on how to decipher your dog's bark. **Is anyone out there?** Dogs can communicate with others far away by howling. When dogs travel in a pack and one gets separated, the lost dog will begin howling and wait for the others to respond. That way, he will know which way to travel to be reunited with his pack. Sometimes, dogs hear sounds such as a siren that they perceive to be another dog calling to them, and they'll start howling in response.

- **Stranger Beware!** Fido will defend himself and his space against strangers by emitting a deep, explosive series of barks. This signals to the approaching person to stay away.
- **Hey, I'm over here!** Barking is also used to get attention. Smaller dogs that are doted on by their owners tend to bark more for attention, since they are used to being the center of everything. Attention barking consists of a long series of loud yaps. Once you give him what he's looking for, he'll stop. If you ignore him further, he will most likely keep going!
- **Keep away!** Growling is designed to keep opponents away, especially if your pooch has a treat he is protecting. He will let out a deep growl that signals to anyone coming close that it is dangerous to approach.
- **The hunt is on!** Baying is a deep, prolonged sound that dogs would let out during the hunt to signal that the quarry is near. This sound is unique to most hounds.

You can learn more about the different sounds your dog makes and what he is trying to say at www.meetthebreeds.com.