



"The POOP"

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The down & dirty scoop for the friends of PetLover Central

You're Guilty! Without a conviction ...

Does leaving your dog at home make you feel so guilty that you find yourself constantly "making it up" to him? Well, the fact is, you may be the kind of person who *needs* something to feel guilty about, especially if you've been trained since childhood to feel guilty. Dog owners who tolerate demanding dogs often do so out of a sense of guilt, not love.

But, if you don't *like* feeling guilty and you want to change things, follow these simple steps:

*Train your dog from the beginning (it's not too late if you've got an older dog at home) that being left alone is a part of life. NEVER make a big deal out of coming or going. I know this one's a tough habit to break, almost "unnatural" for us crazy dog parents but emotional hellos and goodbyes keep your dog on edge. It makes it harder for him to negotiate staying alone. If you overly indulge Fido at the door as you squeeze out, he will scream in misery. So, leave quietly and calmly.

And when getting home, just give him a quick hello and go about your business and wait a few minutes for him to calm down before giving him attention.

After all, would you fall to your knees, and promise ANY family member that this will be the last time you ever go anywhere without them coming with you? Don't be or encourage co-dependency!

There is nothing unnatural or unkind about leaving your pooch at home. Even his ancestor's mom did it in the wild when wolves went off to hunt, etc.

It's the *quality*, not quantity of time you spend with your spouse, children, dogs, that is important. If you train your dog to feel leadership from you, he will be less lonely and you will be less guilty.

Bond with your dog. Practice obedience training, or agility, or even give him a massage once in a while. These prac-

tices are fun for you and him, and most importantly, will help you bond closer. 15 to 30 minutes a day will transform a stale relationship into a nourishing, healthy one. Even having your dog sleep in the bedroom with you makes a big impression in the bonding process. It's also time together so it will ease your guilt.



"Sadie" for adoption

Include your dog in some errands you may run. Getting out of the house and out of routine will require your dog to "think" a lot more which will tire him out too!

One important word of caution though! Stealing dogs is a fact of life! If for some reason, you cannot bring your dog into a store, NEVER tie him up to the pole, even if right in front, and even for a minute! Your dog could be dog-napped. Some dognappers sell their goods to laboratories for research and others find the highest bidders. NO neighborhood is safe from these thieves, it only takes a second to slash the lead and your dog is gone! How would you feel if that happened? That store that denied you entrance with a dog will be there tomorrow. Move on.

Jamie Wolf



All dog bowls 10% off through August 31st! Stop by our boutique today!



"Bandit"

When Happy: Snorts and Wags tail **Loves:** His belly being rubbed and his Lemur (stuffed animal) **From:** No-kill shelter **Smarty Pants:** Knows all Basic Obedience Commands

Coming to PLC since March 2006

"Hot" Dogs of PetLover Central



"Tiffy"

Favorite spot when not running 100 mph: Our fun tire in daycare **Loves:** Squeaky toys, tennis balls, bones and playing fetch **When left alone:** Sits on couch, watches TV **Doesn't like:** Lawn maintenance workers ("They make too much noise," says Tiffy).

A regular at PLC since 2003

Our "Hot" Dogs of the month will enjoy a FREE day of daycare!

PetLover Central's



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"Save one dog at a time."**

Sudsy Myths on the Art of Shampooing *Debunked* (1st of a 4-part series)

Myth #1: Shampooing my pet twice a year is enough.

The wash requirement for each pet is different depending on breed, life-style, skin type, hair length, diet, etc. For instance, some pets have oil glands that work in hyper drive because of their particular ancestries. Other pets need to be washed several times a month solely because of their choice of summer activities (i.e., swimming, rolling around in the grass, hiking, etc). Some pets need frequent washing to get rid of dander and decrease shedding. Consult with your vet about the frequency of bathing. The frequency with which you shampoo your pet will also depend upon the shampoo you use. Some can leave your pet feeling oily. Some will dry out the coat. Some can leave your pet smelling more unpleasant than he did before the bath.

With all this in mind, Dr. Jane Bick, a highly respected and nationally recognized holistic veterinarian, formulated Spa Scents Revitalizing Shampoo. This shampoo contains moisture activated odor-fighters that react immediately to absorb and neutralize tough pet odors. The botanical infusion of organic rosemary and sage along with nourishing essences of coconut and palm kernel oil will naturally cleanse and beautify your pet's coat as the luscious scents of mango and kiwi mingle with energizing citrus notes to bring out natural shine.

Good news! PLC carries this wonderful shampoo in our boutique.
Pick up a bottle for your pooch!

Roxanne "Ruffs"

Dear Roxanne,

How do I keep the bugs off? My humans are frustrated because the groomer says I have ticks? How can I help them to help me?

**Sincerely,
Izzy the Bichon**

Dear Izzy,

Bugs are going to jump on you, no matter what! There's not much you can do about that, however, you can use a monthly preventative that will (sorry) kill them once attached. Plus, regular grooming, either professionally, or just having mom and dad comb you daily, will help get them off before they get too comfy and spend the summer. Healthy, whole-



**Roxanne speaking
the truth**

some food (without sugar and nasty preservatives) will help too.

Dear Roxanne,

I've heard that there's a bad "doggy flu" going around S. Florida lately. What can I do to prevent catching it, and to stay healthy in case I do come into contact with it?

**Sincerely,
Lucky the Lab**

Dear Lucky,

It seems every summer, a dog flu comes to town and sticks around a while. Unfortunately, since the dog flu is airborne and there is no vaccine for it, I would say that mostly every dog in S. Florida has been exposed to this virus so it's like the old saying goes, "only the strong survive." Assuming you've been exposed (if you walk on public streets, chances are, you have) then you'll want to make sure that

you stay healthy! This means a strong immune system. I like holistic food and vitamins because since there's no "junk" then I know I've got the best chance at a strong body. However, at the FIRST sign of symptoms, like a cough or runny nose, you need lots of rest. It may never get any worse than that if your humans make sure you get lots of clean fresh water and rest. It's also a good time to give your body "extra nutrients" like green beans and yogurt (acidophilus -good bacteria) which help fight free radicals in your body. Many vets will suggest as long as symptoms don't get worse, just keep on "babying your baby" until better.

Roxanne has many accomplishments under her "collar." She was born on the streets, mothered 7 children, and is now a respected animal advocate. She graduated from Ruffs University and has a degree in archaeology (digging). Please send your comments or questions to her at info@petlovercentral.com. And stop by to meet Roxanne, our resident expert in "person!" PetLover Central, Mondays-Fridays.