

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DOG OWNERSHIP

Over the years this discussion has developed and expanded to cover not only owner responsibilities but also a look at the dog's place in our modern society.

Dog's role has changed

- No longer work – hunt, herd, pull
- Pets and companions-toys, substitute children accessory
- Frustrating for the dog-needs to be useful
- Obedience substitutes-giving him a sense of satisfaction and means of acquiring approval
- Breeding for “decorative” qualities has made some breeds unsuited for work:
 - Cocker Spaniels, Setters-too much coat for the field
 - Bloodhounds-so much loose skin that some are blinded the folds
 - Dobermans & others-excessive size and skeletal problems, lovely elegant narrow heads translates to less brain room

Congregating society (cities & suburbs)

- Unaltered bitches contribute to pet overpopulation or are neighborhood nuisances when in season
- Dog droppings are inexcusable in public places or neighbor's yard when dogs go for walks
- Loose dogs responsible for vandalism, dog bites, general disturbances
- Excessive barking, especially at night, disturbing the peace

Owners must recognize their responsibilities or face restrictive ordinances

- Required private exercise area
- Limits on number of dogs
- Spay/neuter requirements

Another problem, which relates to responsibility is the interest in **attack training** for the family dog. This training is often taught by unqualified people or do-it-yourself books. Movies and TV would lead you to believe that a dog can be trained to attack on command (and only on one specific command) and then, in spite of his highly emotional attacking state, remain under such perfect control that he will stop immediately at another magic word.

THIS IS ABSOLUTELY FALSE!!!!

- Not every dog has correct temperament
- Average dogs can be ruined or cause lawsuits
- No dog is 100% reliable under every circumstance. Are you? Can you expect more from dogs? “It is easy to teach dogs to attack. But, once the inhibitions against vicious behavior have been broken down you have put a loaded gun in your yard and have no idea who or what will pull the trigger.”
- The place for an attack trained dog is in the care of a professional and doing work which requires such training, not in your neighbor's yard.
- Pet loyalty and devotion and natural instincts will protect family

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