

# Sit Happens

Tips and Techniques for Training Your Pet

Trudi Thorpe – dogLOGIC

Trudi Thorpe runs a dog behaviour and training company dogLOGIC based in Sydney. As Trudi says "DOGS DOGS DOGS...A childhood obsession that I never grew out of." She devises and implements individual behavioural strategies and obedience techniques based on 18 years of studying dog problems and problem dogs.

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Hi Trudi

*We need your help! We recently rescued a 6 month old Border Collie pup from a dog's home, who's major appeal to us (apart from his beautiful face) was his quiet and almost shy demeanor.*

*He has settled in quite well with us and is fine with my husband and myself - but as we are finding out, is very nervous of other people, loud noises, other dogs or sudden movement.*

*It is very difficult just walking him - let alone training him, as he just seems to be afraid of everything and doesn't enjoy it at all.*

*The last thing we want to do is take him back, but it is becoming more and more difficult to deal with his fear. What should we do?*

Robyn and Jeff

Fear or anxiety of any form is extremely debilitating, whether it be present in humans or dogs. A high level of fear in a dog results in stress and confusion. Fear also overrides any training the pup may already have, and clouds not only its judgment, but also its ability to learn anything more.

The level of fear that your pup exhibits is not normal and would usually be either predisposed or the result of insufficient socialisation before the age of 16 weeks. Lack of socialisation and interaction in the early weeks of life is extremely detrimental in terms of a puppy's emotional development and especially in relation to its ability to cope with not only people and other dogs but also its environment.

Fear is not a condition that will improve with time, and if anything is likely to get worse, without appropriate care and attention.

Training classes might be an option in the future, but in the short-term could cause more problems than they solve.

Fearful behaviour left untreated or treated incorrectly can, in some cases lead to fear related aggression. As each fear related case is so specialised and unique, I would strongly recommend that you seek professional help with this one in order to develop a personalised program for your pup to follow that incorporates positive reinforcement as a way of changing his negative perceptions of the world.

Any amount of change comes slowly to these types of dogs and requires an enormous amount of patience and persistence, but as tough as it may be - it is also extremely worth it.



Photo by Animax

## It's enough to give you nightmares.



Around 80% of Australia's dogs and cats carry intestinal worms like roundworm, whipworm, tapeworm, hydatid tapeworm, and the hookworm depicted above. They hide inside the pet where you can't see them. Left untreated, these intestinal worms are not only a serious health threat to your pets, they can infest people as well. Especially children. The good news is, the powerful combination of active ingredients in Drontal® Allwormer will effectively protect your pets and reduce the risks for your children. Well proven and trusted, Drontal Allwormer has long been Australia's leading allwormer - it'll help you sleep easier at night. Available from veterinary practices and selected pet stores.



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