



Wanda's Welcome For many of us, one of our greatest pleasures is the daily joy we get from our faithful friends. It's our responsibility to care for them and better educate ourselves to ensure their lifelong happiness. For 25 years, Drs. Foster and Smith have shared their professional advice to help us return our pets' loyalty and unconditional love. **Faithful Friends** is about maintaining that special relationship.

No one wants their pet to be a nuisance in the neighborhood. There are some great exercises, really wonderful training techniques, and some behavior tactics you can use to ensure your dog is a great neighbor and so are you. It's your responsibility as a good neighbor to teach your faithful friend the proper behavior and manners that will make him a happy member of your neighborhood, admired and loved by everyone he meets.

Guest Interview: our guest today is Joel Silverman

Joel Silverman has adapted unique techniques to training animals that star in live shows, Hollywood films and commercials.



What if my dog barks and disturbs the neighbors?

The first thing you want to do when you have a problem with your dog barking, is find out why your dog is barking. Look for the source of the problem, because a lot of times the source is something really basic. It might be somebody teasing the dog; it might be your neighbor's child or a son or daughter just teasing the dog. If that's the case, you can just ask them not to tease the dog. So the one thing I always tell people is, find out the source of the problem.

Dr. Andy Walker Visit

Being A Good Neighbor

You can be a better neighbor simply by giving your dog a heart worm tablet once a month to prevent heart worm disease. Because if we protect our own animals, there's less chance that other animals in the area are going to get infected. Heart worm disease is a parasitic infection, and it affects the heart and lungs. That's the main place. **How do they get it?**

A mosquito is the agent. It transfers the disease from one dog to another. So if you have a dog that's infected with heart worm, they have an adult parasite worm actually living inside their lung tissue and their heart tissue, and those adult worms will produce juvenile forms that get out into their bloodstream, called micro-filaria, and those micro-filaria can be picked up when a mosquito feeds on the dog. They pick it up into their salivary glands, the micro-filaria live there, and they go through one change over a two-week period of time, and at that point they're ready to be infective to another dog, so if that mosquito finds another dog in the area and bites him, the disease is transmitted and the infection occurs. It shows up mostly in dogs, but also in other species of animals.

Road Trip with Phil Lerch from Pet Safe Electric Fencing

We love taking you out on the road to see interesting places and to meet the committed people whose lives and expertise are dedicated to the well-being of our faithful friends.

Today I'm going to show you how to install an in-ground radio fence. At Pet Safe we make a wide variety of pet training and containing products. We're going to show you how to be a better neighbor.

An in-ground radio fence is a system to contain your dog without utilizing a fence or any boundary that you have to build. We take a wire and bury it 1-3 inches in the ground and hook it up to a transmitter. The transmitter transmits a radio signal in a complete loop. Your dog wears a collar that picks up that radio signal. If the dog crosses that, he will get a static correction.

The most important thing about a radio fence is you need to train your dog. It's a step-by-step process that takes about 2-3 weeks, working with your dog probably 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the evening.

We utilize a visual, an audible, and a static correction. The first one is a visual, it's a flag. We put flags up every 10 feet along the wire. You train your dog not to cross the flags.

There's also an audible signal. If the dog comes close to the safety zone, the collar will actually beep, that's another warning, that's his audible signal. If the dog crosses over into the boundary area, the safety area, he will get a harmless static correction. The static correction will not harm your dog. It basically points your dog in the right direction. Using a unique positive training method, your dog easily learns the new customized boundaries you've designed. Most of our customers have found it takes a surprisingly little amount of time to train their dog to stay in the yard. Expect to provide your dog with 3 to 4 weeks of consistent, careful training before he is confident, safe and secure at home.

Victoria's Tips
I love nearly everything about dogs, except for one really annoying behavior - jumping up. Many of my dog students jump on me when we first meet, and it hurts. Today I want to show you my top-secret way to help jumpy dogs learn how to politely greet people.

Now, telling an excited dog to sit doesn't help. Revved-up dogs can't focus on words, especially when there are guests around. Showing a dog that he needs to sit works much better, because dogs are always watching our bodies for clues about what to do. So, how do I get jumpy dogs to sit? The Arm-Cross Sit.

Now, to teach it, you need a motivated dog and some treats. I'm just going to cross my arms, and when she sits, she gets a treat. With enough repetition, she'll put it together that when I cross my arms, she should sit.

Now, practice this a lot throughout the course of the day, and then as your dog gets better at it, invite some friends over and try it with them at the front door. Teaching dogs the arm-cross sit is my hands-down favorite trick for helping deal with jumpy dogs. Give it a shot with your pup.

Should I actually introduce my pet to the neighbors?

You should introduce your pet to everything and everybody, in my opinion. Especially early on. If you're dealing with a puppy, once it's had it's shots, expose your dog, on a leash, to cars, motorcycles, skateboards, bicycles, and people--male, female, old, young, everybody. The animal needs to learn that everybody is okay, and everything and everybody is positive and a lot of fun.

Why is it important to keep your dog contained in its own yard?

I always like to compare that to a child. If you have a child, you're not going to leave your child in the backyard with the gate open. It's the same thing with an animal. People need to put things in perspective and understand that animals need the same security as you have, and that is their secure place. I also believe the gate should have a lock on it. Understand that the animals need the same security as people.

If my dog is anxious around my neighbors, how do I get him to be more comfortable?

If it's an issue of jumping up on people it's kind of the same thing as getting in the garbage--take a leash chain collar, point at the front door, somebody comes to the front door, the dog runs to the front door, before you open the door put the leash and chain collar on, now you're able to correct the dog before the dog jumps up.

What kind of responsibilities should an owner have when they own dog in a city?

As far as being in a city, I will tell you that I do a lot of work in New York, and some of the best pet owners are New York pet owners that live in flats or apartments. But it's because they've identified where all the places are they're going to walk the dog. These are people that get up in the morning, and need to walk their dog. Dogs need exercise. A lot of these people will come home from lunch and walk their dog. They take the subway home, and then when they get home they walk their dog. On weekends they go to Central Park and walk their dog. So it's identifying the parks that you live in, or the parks near where you live.

What friendly advice can you give your neighbor if their dog just won't stop barking?

It's not our place to correct other people's animals. You might say, "Every time I walk over here, the dog barks. He's fine other than when I walk over here. So, can we do a favor? Let's try this, I'll walk over here, you get your dog over there in your yard, and you correct your dog by saying, "No!" Now we're identifying the problem barking. When the neighbor goes to correct the dog, it's going to understand; "okay, I'm not supposed to bark when she walks over here." It's important to be good to your neighbors, because you never know when you're going to need a cup of sugar.



Did You Know?

With Electra and Dr. Smith

Dr. Smith, what's the smallest breed of dogs?

Well, I think you know. Don't you have one? A Chihuahua? Oh, I do! A Chihuahua is the smallest breed, but we argue all the time about what the biggest breed is. But the smallest breed is a Chihuahua.

Myths

A zealous, over-friendly dog will be admired by every one of my guests and neighbors. Now, that's a myth! When guests arrive, they may not all want to share your dog's enthusiasm. Some may be scared of, allergic or clothes-conscious of your faithful friend.

Itty Bitty Buddies With Electra Mustaine

Chuey is my chinchilla. He makes all sorts of chirps, peeps, and crackles, so I guess you could say he talks. He has a small body and head, big eyes and ears, long whiskers and a short, squirrel-like bushy tail. When he gets scared he barks like a dog. He plays all night long and sleeps all day, because he is nocturnal! His cage has to be taller than it is wide, because chinchillas are used to living in the mountains.

Ask The Vet

with Dr. Race Foster
Dr. Foster, how do I introduce my dog to my neighbor's dog?

I think you have to handle that carefully, but it needs to be done, and one of the best ways is to make sure each dog is properly restrained on a leash. Slowly let them get to know each other, try to keep it a good, positive experience, but be in control.

Doesn't it have to happen all at once or can it happen over time?

It can start just by letting them see the neighbor's dog from a distance, and then you slowly close the distance, over a period of weeks.

Do city dogs get more germs than country dogs?

I think from a standpoint of parasites, that's true. The areas of grass or soil tend to be limited in the city. Lots of dogs urinate and defecate there, and parasites tend to live in the soil. Dogs that are out in rural communities have less tendency of picking up a disease.

Should vaccinations for city dogs be different than country dogs?

The vaccination protocols are the same. Some diseases are spread by direct contact, but a lot of them are just airborne, and it doesn't matter if you live in the city or the country.