



BLUE DOG BAKERY™



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dogs alike.

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We did not attend any events in July, however be sure to read about our upcoming events where you can find Blue Dog Bakery!

Give those dogs a big hug from me.

Lara

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Congratulations to Monte!

Congratulations to Monte -- our August Blue Dog of the Month! To read about Monte, check out our [Blue Dog of the Month](#) feature.

Thank you to everyone that submitted photos for Blue Dog of the Month - August! We think every dog is a winner, so find your photos on our [website](#) or our [Facebook page](#).

Submit your dog to be the Blue Dog of the Month by e-mailing us a photo, your first name, hometown and a few sentences telling us what makes your dog special. (*Note: Dogs only please*) Even if your dog isn't chosen, we will post your photo on our website to show the world how cute s/he is!

We chose from each pool of photos submitted on a monthly basis -- so please re-send your photos each month if your pooch is not chosen.



Introducing Christine Hibbard



We are thrilled to introduce Christine Hibbard, the founder and manager of Companion Animal Solutions - one of the leading animal training and behavior specialists in the country! The trainers and specialists at Companion Animal Solutions have been helping dogs and their owners bring

creative, fun and inventive training solutions to challenging behavior problems for years.

Christine graduated (with honors!) from the San Francisco SPCA Academy for Dog Trainers, which has earned the reputation of the "Harvard University" of dog training. She has logged thousands of hours helping owners and dogs live together in harmony.

We are delighted to have Christine share her expertise and insights with us in this and future newsletters. For more information about Christine and Companion Animal Solutions go to www.companionanimalsolutions.com.

Christine is shown above with her two dogs, Flynn and Conner.

Control Your Dogs Barking

by Christine Hibbard, CTC, CPDT-KA

I'm a professional dog trainer so no one is a bigger fan of training your dog than I am. I think that training a dog is fun! What I've noticed though is that most owners who call us aren't interested in training their dogs to DO something. They want their dogs to STOP doing things. The reason we're focusing on how to stop unwanted behavior is because unwanted behavior lands dogs in shelters. Unwanted behavior is also when we're most likely to see ineffective, painful and inhumane methods used to turn off behavior.

It's important to realize that dogs bark for many different reasons. Some of the reasons dogs bark include separation distress, to gain attention, to gather information about their environment or to make scary things, people and other dogs go away. Before you select a method for controlling your dog's barking, it's important to know why they're barking. If you don't know why your dog is barking you can inadvertently make the behavior worse.



The type of barking that owners complain the most about to me is ALERT BARKING. The dog is in the house and hears something and the barking begins. I've never met an owner that didn't want their dog to let them know when someone was approaching. What all owners want is to control this behavior. We want them to bark to alert us but then we want them to stop once we've acknowledged that they've done their job. While it may seem counter intuitive, I'm recommending that you thank your dog(s) for barking. In this method, you are NOT rewarding the dog(s) for barking. You are rewarding them for engaging in a different behavior (stop barking and come to me).

When the dog(s) begin barking:

1. Say, "Thank you!"
2. The dog(s) should come to you for the treat (in the beginning of this training you may need to lure them towards you with kissy sounds, slapping your thighs, etc).
3. When they come to you, say "yes" and give them a treat.

You can strategically place small bowls throughout your home. [Blue Dog Bakery](#) treats come in all shapes and sizes and you can find them in all major grocery stores. Owners almost always ask me what to do if the dog starts scamming the rule structure by "fake" barking and then running to you for a treat. Believe it or not, this is actually incredibly rare. I think the reason this doesn't happen very often is because there is an emotional basis to alert barking as opposed to just pure naughtiness. If your dog seems to be barking for attention because you've used "thank you" training, then it's time to take your attention away from your dog or use "timeouts". If you need help using timeouts, just let us know and we'll send you our two page handout on using timeouts effectively.

If your dog's barking has you at the end of your rope with frustration, try to remember that a part of barking behavior is genetic (the same as you are programmed to scream or laugh). The [Belyaev fox study](#) taught us that when we breed for tameness (or domestication), barking comes along for the ride.

If you have questions about how to stop your dogs' barking, feel free to email [Christine here](#).

Where in the world is Blue Dog?



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

What: [PHS/SPCA's Mutt Strutt](#)

When: August 20th, 2011

Where: Coyote Point Park - San Mateo, CA

If you or your local shelter/organization have an upcoming walk, run or gathering, let us know. We'd love to donate treats and add you to our [community calendar](#). E-mail me at lara@bluedogbakery.com.



Try it FREE today.