

The Emotional Health Of Dogs

Many pet owners are prepared to spend lots of money on their dog's veterinary care but do not realize that the emotional health of their dogs is just as important and that the owner is the main provider of this care.

Helping Dogs Develop Emotional Health

There are three principles to consider when solving problems concerning living with your dog.

Management

What measures can be put into place to minimize the problem? Eg dog barks at the postman. Keep dog inside when the postman is coming.

Relationship

Do I have fun with my dog so that s/he wants to be with me? Eg dog won't come when called. I always rouse on my dog for not coming instead of giving some yummy treats when s/he comes

Training

My dog jumps up on visitors when they come. Have you trained your dog to sit when visitors come and given yummy treats for good sitting?

It is useless to give verbal corrections to your dog as s/he does not know what s/he has done and just reacts with fear to an angry voice. S/he needs to learn what is the right thing to do.

It is important to help your dog feel safe. Help them to manage fearful situations such as children, other dogs, going for walks , grooming or well meaning but inexperienced people. If you have any concerns about your **dog's behavior discuss it with your vet who will be able to help you decide** if your problem requires training or is more complex.

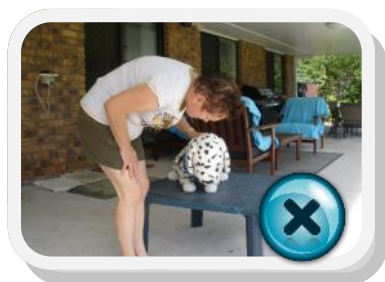
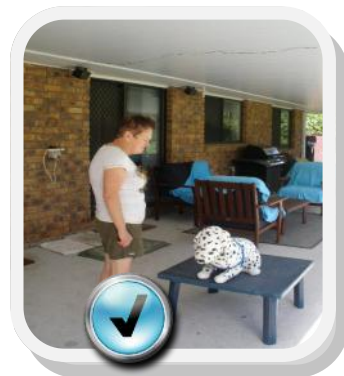
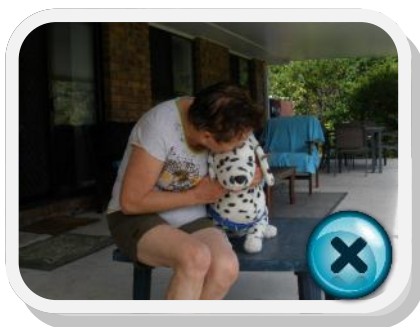
Vet Behaviourists are specially trained vets who are able to help you with **your dog's behavior. Your vet will be able to help you find one. The Vet Behaviourist** can help with medications if necessary and behavior modification programs.



How we handle our dogs is very important for their emotional health. You may have to be assertive with people if your dog is wary of them.

If your dog is wary of other dogs you may have to be assertive with people who want the dogs to play' This is too scary for some dogs.

How To Approach Dogs



Crouching low near a dog
Stroking the shoulder or side of
a dog

Avoiding eye contact

Curving away from a dog's
crate



Kissing dog

Hugging dog

Approaching tied up dog

Eye contact

Restraining dog

Patting dog's head

