

Companion Lines: Dogs

A decade's worth of canine behavior problem-solving articles written by Jacquie Lynn Schultz and first printed in *ASPCA Animal Watch* have been updated and illustrated by award-winning artist Samarra Khaja.

Chew On This



Putting an End to Canine Oral Destruction

Four-month-old Jazzy, a "mostly Lab" puppy, has just been adopted by a newlywed couple. They head out to shop for supplies, leaving Jazzy free to explore her new abode. But after spending several days in a boring old cage at the shelter, Jazzy is bursting with energy and ready to examine the couple's finery in great detail-by running it through her mouth. Two hours later, the newlyweds arrive back home to find feathers everywhere, not to mention a puppy with a very bad bellyache that requires a trip to the veterinarian. Can this adoption be saved before "Jaws" strikes again?

Chewing is a common complaint among those caring for dogs younger than one year old. Part investigation, part teething and all fun, chewing is a rewarding activity for dogs; and rewarding activities are likely to be repeated. But with a combination of training and chewing-management methods, dog guardians can keep their homes intact and their dogs in their homes.

Dogs are apt to chew for several reasons. First, they are curious creatures that lack opposable thumbs. Hence, they cannot pick up most objects with their paws for closer scrutiny. Instead, they examine them with their mouths. Second, from four to eight months of age, they will shed all their deciduous (puppy) teeth and grow a new set of permanent teeth. Chewing assuages the discomfort that accompanies teething. Third, chewing expends energy and gives a bored pup something to do. Older puppies and young adolescents are bursting with energy. If not properly exercised, they may expend that energy gnawing on your family heirlooms. Fourth, dogs suffering from separation anxiety often chew objects embedded with their owners' scents to help relieve the stress of being left alone. Finally, some dogs were purposefully bred to use their mouths. Retriever guardians are the group most likely to complain about excessive mouthing and chewing by their pups.

Take the Bite Out of Teething

It is possible to get through this difficult stage without major losses. The first step is to create a safe haven for your puppy. A dog crate or small, carefully dog-proofed area will do. When dog-proofing an area, get down at puppy eye-level to scope out potential problems. Electrical wires, drapery cords, and curling wallpaper corners will jump out at you from this vantage point. When you cannot supervise your puppy, place her in her safe haven with an

approved yummy chew toy, like a rubber Kong™ toy stuffed with kibble in a bit of cream cheese.

Invest in a variety of chew toys appropriate to the size and chewing preferences of your dog. As the dog's guardian, the onus to select desirable yet safe chew toys falls on you. Items such as beef-marrow bones, rawhide, chew hooves and pigs' ears all have their pros and cons. The first few times you offer such items to your dog, watch closely to make sure they're suitable for her. Throw away any sharp splinters or small, sticky remains. Alternate the chewies to keep her interest high, and save the most desirable of them for crate time or when the puppy is left alone.

Cue Good Behaviors

The only way a dog can learn which items are okay to chew and which ones are forbidden is by getting well-timed feedback from her humans. When she eyes or chews a table leg, give a verbal warning such as "eck" or "phooey" and then draw her attention to an acceptable toy. When you catch your dog chewing on an approved object, don't forget to praise, reward with a tasty morsel and tell her to carry on. Remember that rewarded behavior is more likely to be repeated. If the table leg or rug fringe remains your dog's favorite chew toy, diminish its desirability by coating it with a commercial anti-chew cream (for wood) or spray.

It's also important to remember that a young dog does not need access to the entire house. If you have children who are messy with their toys or a spouse who can't seem to locate the dirty laundry bin, keep the dog out of those rooms by closing bedroom doors or installing pet gates during the dog's chewing phase. Through a combination of management and training methods, assisted by the natural aging process, the Jazzies of the world will outgrow their "Jaws" nicknames and eventually earn full household access. Until then, make use of your dog's safe haven when you aren't there to supervise and you'll no longer fear what awaits you when you walk through the front door.

Dethroning the Canine King

A Leadership Program for Bossy Dogs



He decides where you go on walks, when you play and for how long and what side of the couch you sit on. He interrupts phone conversations and charges into new environments ahead of you. No, he's not an overbearing spouse or fast-track coworker, he's your dog. And without an immediate attitude adjustment, this four-footed despot will be barking "Off with their heads!" in no time.

Pushy canines come in all sizes, from the Lhasa apso who will not let you make the bed to the Rottweiler mix that grabs hold of your arm (with his teeth) when you attempt to leave the park before he is ready. Many of these dogs are bold and overconfident and relish dominating both people and other dogs. Some are reluctant leaders who take charge in a family when no one else assumes the mantle of pack leader. Most are males, although females swell the ranks as well. Whatever the size, sex or situation, these pretenders to the throne need to be put in their place via a benign yet effective leadership program.

First, establish rules, and ensure that all household members are willing to comply with them, because consistency is crucial. Pushy dogs do not have furniture rights. They must stay on floor level and sleep on dog beds, not human beds. Family members should not descend to floor level to wrestle with the dog but, rather, involve him in play where he



follows the rules-or the fun ends. A game of Frisbee™ or fetch, in which the toy is returned to hand, is ideal.

No Free Lunch

A pushy dog needs structure. Obedience training can give both parties a common language through which to communicate. Once the dog knows a sit and stay/wait command, it can be used frequently: during dinner preparation to control counter surfing and begging; before exiting homes, elevators or cars, when the dog wants to claim new territory ahead of his handler; and to accomplish tasks such as grooming and feet wiping, which most bossy dogs disallow.

Teach a long "down in place" for some peace and quiet during and after dinner, and feed the dog after all humans have dined, as a gentle reminder of his ranking in the family pack. Make the dog work for every treat, and exercise him on a schedule. Going out should not be his for the asking. It is imperative to take into account the dog's development stage and activity level when establishing a schedule that will meet his needs.

Leader of the Pack

While out walking, take charge by using controlled walking and heeling commands. Give the dog plenty of feedback on his performance, praising the good and warning him before he gets into trouble. Execute about-turns if the dog is forging ahead, and counter the canine body blocks he may use to control your pathway by leaning into him. Insist on a sit at every corner, and change pace whenever you desire, not when the dog does.

The length of the program depends on the dog. For some, pushiness is part of the testing done during adolescence. Once a canine teen sees there is nothing to be gained by the behavior, he may back off. The dog that reluctantly takes charge because no one else does usually is relieved to be a follower again and seldom needs more than a 30-day program.

For others, especially those genetically linked to the guarding breeds, such as Akitas, Rottweilers, bullmastiffs and Great Pyrenees, a leadership program becomes a way of life. Without it, there may be some bloodshed on the ascent to the throne-that of human family members who get in the way when their dog says, "I don't want to," expressed eloquently through a bite.

Step forward, and regain your throne. Instead of banishing him from your kingdom, direct your dog toward the role he was born to play so charmingly and disarmingly, that of court jester.

Don't Leave Me This Way **Resolving Separation Anxiety Problems**

Supposedly, absence makes the heart grow fonder. However, the absence of an owner sends some dogs into keen wailing and barking, frequent house soiling and self-destructive behaviors. These are all signs that a dog is suffering from separation anxiety.



The canines most likely to fall victim are second-hand dogs. Whether from a shelter, rescue group or greyhound-track adoption program, dogs re-homed in adolescence or older are at greater risk of suffering separation anxiety than puppies. This is probably because it is more difficult for these dogs to accept changes in their routine and environment. They cling to their new pack leader and panic when that leader leaves home to go about his or her daily business. For similar reasons, unemployed companion animal owners or those who take

lengthy at-home vacations or recuperations may find that their dog becomes disoriented when they return to work. These distressed pets need help.

Love Hangover

Separation anxiety is often a problem of over-bonding. It is not healthy for a dog to follow his caretakers' every step, to be constantly in the same room, sharing the same piece of furniture, being in close contact all the time. Promote independence by teaching the dog to down-stay on his own bed while you go out of sight. Start with a few seconds, and then build up to a length of time the dog can tolerate. Put up a gate and eventually close a door between the two of you. And, get family members involved in dispensing the "good stuff" to the dog. Walks play sessions and feedings should not be provided by only one person, for that person's absence means the end of all that is good in the world to the dog. Panic can ensue. If you live alone, perhaps a neighbor or relative will share the duties, or hire a pet-care professional to assist you.

The worst of a dog's hysteria is often during the first hour after departure. Diffuse the emotion of your leave-taking by heartily exercising the dog right after you wake up. Then, after feeding him, scale back your attention to the point of ignoring him during the last 15 minutes before you leave. Turn off the lights and turn on the television, radio or white noise machine - whatever you play most when you are home. And, with no more than a whispered "Be Good," leave the house.

Some dogs will read the signs of imminent departure and begin to work themselves into a frenzy. If putting on make-up, packing a lunch or shuffling papers in your briefcase distresses the dog, desensitize him to these or other actions by doing them frequently and at other times (such as before mealtime) so they lose their direct connection to the dreaded departure. Presenting a toy stuffed with goodies can draw the focus of less seriously afflicted canines toward cleaning out the item and away from your leaving. Buster cubes, Kong toys, Goodie balls/ships work well as canine diversions. Unfortunately, the seriously afflicted dog will not give the toy a second look until his pack is together again.

Separation anxiety can be severe and all consuming to some dogs. I have known dogs to jump through second-story plate-glass windows, eat through sheetrock walls into neighboring apartments and bloody their paws and noses trying to dig through wooden doors or out of crates. These individuals need professional assessment by an applied animal behaviorist or veterinary behaviorist, for they may need pharmacological aid while they undergo desensitization exercises. Some people choose to manage the problem by dropping off their dogs at day care or adopting a second dog, so they are never truly alone.

Luckily, if the earlier suggestions are followed, the majority of dogs will be howling "I Will Survive" in no time.

Phresh Air Phydeaux

Eliminating Backyard Banishment



If you live in the city, your urban canine is probably on a three-walk-a-day schedule for exercising, socializing and eliminating. But if your home comes equipped with a yard and a fence, keeping a dog becomes much easier. The simplicity of giving your dog his morning constitutional while you're still garbed in a robe and slippers can't be beat. Add a dog door, and you don't even have to get out of bed! Phydeaux can meet his own needs on his own schedule. However, some dog guardians use the yard as a crutch and, before you know it, the backyard becomes Phydeaux's entire world. How much is too much of a good thing?



Who Put the Dog Out?

When dogs become adolescents, they can't seem to get enough exercise, and their inconsistencies often frustrate their owners. One day Phydeaux seems all grown up; the next day, he's chewing his way through the house like a buzz saw. In a fit of pique, Phydeaux's owner banishes him to the backyard. At first it may be just during meals to prevent begging, or when company comes, to prevent jumping. Next, it's during work hours so he doesn't soil or chew when left alone. Before long, the only time Phydeaux sees the inside of the house is during storms or winter freezes. Is this any life for a dog?

Turning a rambunctious adolescent into a backyard dog doesn't solve anything. It merely brings temporary relief. True, your dog can't climb into cranky old Aunt Edna's lap if he's outdoors, but he'll also never learn how to behave appropriately around houseguests.

A dog that is kept outside experiences social isolation. He may engage in excessive barking and howling in an attempt to reunite his pack. When a family member enters the yard to spend some time with him, he erupts into rapturous leaps and vocalizations, displaying a level of enthusiasm certain to squelch any possibility that that person will ever make a return visit.

Over time, an isolated outdoor dog will become exceedingly independent and difficult to train. Whatever desire he had to please will be gone, replaced by the need to occupy his time in any way possible. His motto becomes "If it feels good, do it!" Dig up the tulip bulbs. Excavate a cooling pit. Fence-fight with the dog next door. Without human feedback to the contrary, these are all rewarding activities for a backyard dog. There is nothing wrong with letting a well-mannered dog spend a lazy day lying in the grass, soaking up the sun or playing in the fallen leaves. But when the yard takes the place of teaching your dog appropriate house manners, you need to step back and examine why you have a dog.

Come Rain or Come Shine

If your dog enjoys spending a considerable amount of time outside, he needs protection from the elements. A doghouse can offer access to cool shade on a hot day or shelter from the cold, rain or wind. When providing a doghouse, make sure the opening does not face into the wind during the coldest months of the year. If the opening is large, hang some carpet strips over the doorway to keep heat in and cold out; and provide good insulated bedding, such as straw, to keep the dog up off cold ground. Remember to clean the place out every few months to ensure that no other beasties have set up house—a nest of yellow jackets was discovered in one poor Brittany spaniel's outdoor shelter.

If your dog spends more than an hour outdoors on a hot day or several hours outside other times of the year, make sure he has fresh water available. Weigh down his water container, or affix it to a stationary object in such a way that he can't easily tip it over. His meals are best served in your house, because leftover food will attract unwanted insects and possibly wildlife.

For those situations where there is either no fence or a need to keep Phydeaux out of certain areas such as your begonia bed, build a sturdy exercise pen, where your dog can do dog "things" without incurring the wrath of family gardeners or neighbors. If you live in a community that prohibits fences, an overhead trolley cable may be the answer. However, these lines aren't safe for dogs with powerful acceleration, such as greyhounds. The impact when they hit the end of the line is considerable, and spinal cord damage is likely. Staked chains should be avoided because they can kink and tangle, and injure the dog.

Dogs are companion animals and, as such, belong in our homes and in our lives. Just because you have a backyard doesn't mean that Phydeaux should be restricted to it. Take



the time to teach him house manners and socialize him to the world beyond your property, and you will discover you have within him the best possible companion.

REMEMBER: It is in violation of the MAGSR contract to adopt one of our dogs as an “outside” dog. They are to be part of your inside family. They should not be outside (tethered or contained in a fenced yard) unless you are home and only for limited time.

The Potty Wars: Part I

The Three "C"s of Housetraining your Pup



In an ideal world, puppies come from a highly reputable source, where someone lovingly keeps the litter area clean at all times. The new caretaker has a fenced-in yard to which no other dogs have access and a stay-at-home schedule that allows frequent potty trips to that yard. Under these circumstances, most dogs are housebroken in only a few weeks. However, most of us live in the Real World.

Real People, Real Pets

In the Real World, our puppies may have spent enough time in a second-rate facility, puppy mill or pet shop to become accustomed to lying in their waste, which makes crate training difficult. We may hold jobs that preclude a schedule compatible with a puppy's developmental needs, or live in housing without fenced-in yards, thus forcing us to paper-train until our pups are fully immunized. The further a lifestyle varies from the ideal, the greater the challenge housebreaking is.

Real World housetraining requires a strategy based on three components:

- Consistency: a consistent walking schedule catered to the dog's developmental stage and individual preferences
- Confinement: a method that helps build bladder and bowel control
- Cleaning: a good enzymatic odor neutralizer to clean up accidents

Pencil Him In

What is a suitable schedule? Puppies can control themselves roughly one hour for each month of age, up to nine or ten hours. At three and a half to four months, they can usually stay clean for six to seven hours overnight, but eliminate more frequently during the day. Three walks a day is fine for most dogs eight months or older.

A puppy usually needs to eliminate after waking, eating and exercising. Charting his output will help you predict his needs more accurately. Does he soil five or fifteen minutes after dinner, two or ten minutes after waking?

Hold it!

For the first few weeks in a new home, a new puppy may seem like a pee-and-poop machine, but as he matures and develops muscle tone, he will learn to control himself for longer periods between potty trips. Confinement, preferably in a training crate, builds control by associating the pup's distaste for soiling in his special area with soiling inside the house in general. It is patently unfair to crate a pup for longer than he is physically able to control himself. In these cases, confine him to a small space such as a bathroom or kitchen with papers at one end and a bed and toys at the other. It slows the housebreaking process and confuses the dog a bit, but it is the best option, short of hiring a pet sitter, if no one can be home with the puppy during an average work day.



Whether using papers or a yard, the pup should wear a leash and collar and remain under your control. If you don't acclimate the pup to your presence while he's relieving himself, you may create a dog that won't soil in front of you but waits until he's back in the house and can disappear behind the sofa or under the dining room table. Do not allow puppies access to carpeting, especially wall-to-wall, when it nears time to eliminate, for they often return to and re-anoint accidents here. Should an accident occur, get out the odor neutralizer immediately and clean, clean, clean.

For the average dog, that's really all there is to housebreaking - well-timed walks, confinement and a good cleaner when all else fails. It sounds so simple; but if it were, related problems wouldn't be rated number one on our Behavior Helpline hit parade.

For some pups, the three basics just aren't enough. Part II of "The Potty Wars" will offer extra help for people with problem dogs.

The Potty Wars Part II: Troubleshooting

Trouble-shooting Elimination Problems

"The Potty Wars: Part I" outlined Housebreaking 101, stressing the importance of the Three Cs: Consistency of schedule, Confinement to a training crate when alone and Cleaning up accidents with an enzymatic odor neutralizer. Part II addresses four complaints often heard when the Potty Wars continue to rage.



I. "My dog eliminates in her crate."

There are two common causes for crate soiling. First, the crate may be too large for current housebreaking purposes, thus allowing your dog to soil at one end and lie high and dry at the other. Second, bedding in the crate may be acting like a diaper, wicking offensive waste and moisture away.

The solutions are easy! If the crate is too large, reduce its size with a barrier that blocks off excess room. The pup should have just enough room to stand up, turn around in a circle and stretch out. As for bedding, your dog must earn it by keeping her crate clean for approximately seven days.

When she accomplishes that, add thin bedding, such as a sheet or worn towel. If that too stays clean, then you are safe to add whatever bedding you like.

Make sure you do not have unrealistic expectations and are not crating the pup for too long a stretch. And, if the problem stems from behavior learned during an extended stay at a pet shop, you will probably need to work hands-on with a professional trainer to develop a customized protocol.

II. "No matter how long we stay outside, my dog waits until we are home to soil."

This problem is common in urban dogs that were paper-trained until they were fully immunized. Most folks paper-train by putting down papers in one spot, taking the puppy to the spot until the dog seems to "get it," then leaving the dog in peace to eliminate. The puppy learns that housebreaking means going to a particular place in private to soil. The papers are almost incidental. Avoid this problem by simulating outdoor walking habits indoors. Put down the papers on a schedule instead of leaving them out constantly, and place them in different places instead of always the same spot. Take your pup to the papers on leash, teaching her a toileting command such as "Do your business," and praise her for a job well done. This routine easily transfers to walks outdoors.



III. "My dog keeps me outside for hours before he goes!"

Some folks walk their pups just until they eliminate and then promptly turn around and head for home. In no time, dogs learn that they can extend the fun only if they can "hold" themselves. A walk should be the reward for soiling. When you leave your home, take your dog immediately to a suitable toileting spot, such as a lamppost, patch of grass or curb in front of a fire hydrant. It's helpful if this is a spot other dogs use. Issue your potty command. Circle the spot with your dog for five minutes, ten minutes tops. If he urinates, praise and go play. If he holds, go right back in and crate him. Try again in an hour or two. Before you know it, you should have a dog who will eliminate on command in his spot.

IV. "My dog was housebroken, but when he turned nine-months-old, he started baptizing the sofa near the window."

As a male dog matures and begins to lift his leg, he marks his territory, leaving scent cues for other canines. Consider castration, since an unneutered male is more likely to engage in marking behavior than a neutered one. A well-timed verbal correction when he is lifting his leg is helpful, too. Confinement will once again be necessary when he is alone until the problem is resolved.

The Potty Wars too often make adversaries of dogs and their caretakers. It should be a battle waged together, on the same side, because the spoils of this war - a clean and dry home - spell victory for all parties concerned.

Rebels With Paws Surviving a Canine's Adolescence

Those weeks of careful monitoring have finally paid off - you're now the proud caretaker of a housebroken pup! But wait, is that a yellow stain partway up the drapes? And after you unclip Rex's leash in the dog run, and he maniacally bounds around for forty-five minutes, it still takes a ten-minute game of "Catch Me If You Can" to get him back on-leash to go home. What gives? Your puppy has grown into a teenager.



The Wide World of Spot's

From the age of six to eighteen months, your dog undergoes adolescence - that gawky stage between puppyhood and adulthood. Physically, your dog has his adult teeth but he still needs to chew on hard toys. That cottony puppy coat is falling out during one tremendous shedding cycle, allowing the adult coat to grow in. He has almost reached his adult height, but for now is all loose elbows and gangly movement.

And what movement! During adolescence, the domestic canine resembles a perpetual-motion machine that requires super-human stamina to wear out. It's a good idea to find your pup a friendly pack of other canine adolescents to run with in the safety of an urban dog run or suburban fenced-in yard. If your dog lacks canine friends, send him or her out with your resident human teen to fetch a Frisbee™ or go jogging.

Tiring out your canine teen will also save wear and tear on your abode. Chewing often results when a bored, anxious or curious dog is allowed the run of the house. For the canine adolescent, boredom and curiosity can lead to major household damage via chewing, digging and general re-organization. This damage could largely be avoided if caretakers would simply continue to confine their dog in a training crate or dog-proof room whenever no one is around to monitor canine investigations. Canine teens are not yet capable of the consistency it takes to earn the run of the place unsupervised.



Those Paws, Those Eyes... That Smell!

Hormones also play a major role in your canine's adolescence. Most dogs become sexually mature at eight- to twelve-months of age; at this time, females will experience their first estrus (heat) cycle and males will begin to lift their legs and show interest in "the ladies." By spaying or neutering early (between two- and six-months of age), you can save yourself and your dog such varied experiences as increased indoor urination (Females in heat do it to advertise for suitors; for intact males it's a way of marking territory.), inter-dog aggression (primarily between dogs of the same sex who are compelled to 'fight off the competition'), and the complete loss of attention span that attends raging hormones. This also eliminates accidental mating, false pregnancies and the male teen's need to taste-test female urine.

Remedying Rover's Memory Loss

An adolescent, even a neutered one, will experience occasional lapses in attention. At times he may look at you as though you just addressed him in Mandarin, trying to convince you that you never taught him the sit command. Handle these lapses the same way you would with an untrained dog. Take a step or two backward in your training program and patiently re-teach him the command by luring him into the requested position. Be sure to make it worth his while with the use of positive reinforcement. Keep his focus on you, using favorite toys and treats as lures. And keep your training sessions short and functional, always ending with a game or playtime. If you take away the fun, he or she will show even less interest.

In order to get through your dog's adolescence, remember to provide plenty of exercise, continue to crate/confine when he or she is unattended, spay or neuter, and keep your training sessions fun. And by all means, hang on to your sense of humor. Though your pup may try your patience, take heart - adolescence is one thing your dog is guaranteed to outgrow!



Feeding Management

Adult cats and dogs require sufficient nutrients to meet energy needs and to maintain and repair body tissues. Feeding amounts for maintenance of adult cats and dogs should be based on the animal's size and energy output. Activity levels vary dramatically between pets and will play an important role in determining caloric intake. Demands for energy can vary as follows:

- House Pets can have a wide variety of activity levels. An animal with a "normal" activity level should receive what we will call "maintenance" energy. A pampered lap dog may require 10% below maintenance, while an active pet that regularly exercises outdoors may require maintenance plus 20-40%.
- Show Dogs and Cats must be fed a balanced diet and the correct amount of energy since deficiencies may be quickly reflected in coat quality. While on the show circuit, the pet's energy requirement may increase by 20+%. However, the pet should be fed maintenance amounts when not on the show circuit.
- Working Dogs include sheep/cattle dogs, police dogs, guide dogs, etc. The dietary needs of a working dog will depend on its occupation since the energy needs will increase with the work level and/or stress. A dog with a moderate workload may require an energy increase of 40% compared to maintenance whereas one with a high workload may require an extra 50-70%.
- Environment influences energy needs. Extreme hot or cold weather can increase the pet's energy needs in order for them to maintain body temperatures. Both keeping warm and keeping cool require extra energy expenditure.
- Repair or disease - An animal recovering from surgery or suffering from a disease



may have an increased nutritional requirement for repair and healing and to fight infection.

Methods of Feeding: Cats and dogs may be fed successfully in a number of ways that meet both the owner's and the animal's needs and circumstances.

1. **Portion control feeding:** The food for a meal is measured and offered as a meal thereby controlling the amount of food that can be consumed. This method is used for weight control programs and for animals that might overeat if fed free choice. Food can be provided in one or more meals daily. We generally recommend that all dogs be fed twice daily. This means that the package feeding guidelines are divided into two meals spaced eight to twelve hours apart. Puppies/kittens, lactating bitches/queens and animals recovering from certain medical conditions often require more than two meals per day.
2. **Free choice feeding:** This is also known as "ad lib" feeding or "free feeding." Food is available at all times, as much as the pet wants, whenever the pet wants. Most lactating pets are fed by the free choice method, and it is generally the method of choice for feeding most cats. This method is most appropriate when feeding dry food which will not spoil if left out. Some dogs and cats, however, will overeat with this method, so two associated diseases must be considered:
 - a) **Obesity.** If the pet begins to put on too much weight, the owner will need to switch to portion control feeding.
 - b) **Developmental Bone Diseases.** If the puppy to be fed is a large or giant breed or if the breed is susceptible to OCD, hypertrophic osteodystrophy, or hip dysplasia, do not free feed the puppies. They may over eat and this can lead to rapid growth and a greater incidence of bone diseases. Large or giant breed pups should be fed with the portion controlled or timed feeding methods.
3. **Timed feeding method:** This method involves making a portion of food available for the pet to eat for a specified period of time. For example, the food can be placed in the dog's bowl for 30 minutes. After that time, if the pet has not consumed the food, it is removed. This can be a good feeding method for puppies, particularly just after weaning. The food can be offered to the puppies for 30 minutes, two or three times per day.

