

# Genius Dog Newsletter

## GENIUS DOG TRAINING

*“Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.” Roger Caras*

### What Goes In – Must Come Out...

By Carmela L. Lutz, CPDT-KA

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...and then what happens? Well, if your puppy or dog is like Sydney – she ate it (her stool).

As embarrassing as this issue may be, it isn't that uncommon in dogs. Coprophagia is the consumption of feces. Some dogs will eat their own feces or that of another dog or animal (e.g., cats).

Although there has been a lot of debate about what causes coprophagia, little is actually known. Some theories are nutrient deficiency, hunger, boredom, stress or anxiety, attention-seeking behavior, or getting rid of the “evidence” (to prevent being scolded for potty training accident).

In Sydney's case I believe there were several issues going on at the same time. At first I believe it started out of boredom and possible hunger, but later became a habit. Sydney only ate her own feces, so I didn't have the added problem of dealing with her eating our other pet's (one dog and two cats) feces.

After doing some research and consulting with a veterinarian, I tried several strategies:

1. Added pineapple to her diet – no change in behavior.
2. Added FOR\*BID to her diet – some short-term success.
3. Sprayed her stool with Bitter Apple – intermittent success due to inconsistent use.
4. Changed to a higher protein dog food – minor reduction in behavior.



It is important to note that during this time, management techniques (e.g., had her on a leash or supervised her whenever she was outside, immediately picked up all feces from the yard, and kept the litter box in a room she didn't have access to) and training played a key role in the reduction and eventual elimination of the behavior.

Puppies tend to explore their environments with their mouths. In some cases, puppies not only explore, but can eat non-food items (e.g., socks, rocks, sticks, plastic, even light bulbs) as well. This unusual eating habit is called Pica and can be a serious health issue (e.g., choking, intestinal blockage, etc.) for your puppy, dog, or cat.



Manage your pet's environment as much as you can (e.g., put dirty socks in a covered hamper, not in a laundry basket or on the floor). Use Bitter Apple or Boundary on forbidden items and have a variety of interactive toys available for your pet to play with.

One method that is not recommended is punishment. This approach won't resolve the problem and is likely to produce either fearful or aggressive responses from your pet.

### California Increases Consumer Protections for Pet Insurance

Assembly Bill 2056, which will go into effect July 1, 2015, will require pet insurers to disclose important information regarding their policies, standardized definitions, and provide consumers with a 30-day “free look” period. California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones stated, “In the state with the largest number of insured pets, once again California is leading the way by becoming the first state in the nation to enact a law that adds consumer protections to this rapidly growing line of insurance.” To read AB 2056 in its entirety, click on the link below:

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140AB2056](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB2056)

## GENIUS DOG TRAINING

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We're on the Web!

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## TRAINING SPECIALS

All clients receive **10%** off all private, in-home training. Offer expires May 31, 2015.

Save **\$30** on our *new* Trick, Click & Treat class and get a free clicker and 4 oz. bag of Blue Buffalo Blue Bits Training Treats! Offer expires May 31, 2015.

## STORE SPECIALS

We do our best to offer quality pet products at reasonable prices. We encourage you to compare our prices to other local pet store retailers. Check us out today at [www.GeniusDogTraining.com/store](http://www.GeniusDogTraining.com/store).

## COMING SOON!

Our first **Ask a Trainer Day** of 2015 was held on January 31 and it was a huge success. Check our website and Facebook page for more upcoming events.

*Genius Dog Training is independently owned and operated since 2008.*



## Wylie's Corner

### San Diego Humane Society

**Walk for Animals: Paws in the Park – North County**

**Date:** Sunday, March 29, 2015

**Time:** 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA 92025

**Walk for Animals: Paws in the Park – San Diego**

**Date:** Saturday, May 9, 2015

**Time:** 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** NTC Park at Liberty Station, 2455 Cushing Road, San Diego, CA 92106

Enjoy a pancake breakfast, vendor village, and fun doggie activities at both events.

For fees and additional information click link below.

[www.sdhumane.org/walk](http://www.sdhumane.org/walk)

### Animal Friends of the Valleys

The poster for the 11th Annual Wines for Canines & Kitties event is pink and white with floral patterns. It features a bottle of Wiens Family Cellars wine. The text on the poster includes:

*Animal Friends of the Valleys*  
11th Annual  
*Wines for Canines & Kitties*  
WIENS FAMILY CELLARS  
SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH  
4PM - 7PM

FEATURING OUR BELOVED  
FIDO FASHION SHOW  
GUEST SPEAKER  
RIC BROWDE  
SPRING BUFFET CREATED BY  
CHEF VOLKER  
MUSIC BY  
LIL EDDIE ENTERTAINMENT  
SILENT/LIVE AUCTION

TICKETS ARE \$50 EACH  
TAKE UP TO \$450  
LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS AVAILABLE. TICKETS MUST BE  
PURCHASED IN ADVANCE.  
FOR TICKETS VISIT  
[WWW.ANIMALFRIENDSOFTHEVALLEYS.COM](http://WWW.ANIMALFRIENDSOFTHEVALLEYS.COM)  
951-674-0618 EXT. 218

Tickets are \$50 each and must be purchased in advance. For tickets call (951) 674-0618 ext. 218

### Helen Woodward Animal Center

We will see you June – August 2015 for our annual Dog Surfing Lessons and September 13, 2015 for our **10th Annual Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon!** For more information click link below.

[www.animalcenter.org](http://www.animalcenter.org)



*"The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed in this article are my own and do not necessarily reflect that of **Genius Dog Training.**" – Wylie, CEO*