



Last Chance Dog Training



What Can Make a Dangerous Dog

After so many horror stories of attacks by dogs, I think the public can use some information on what can make dogs dangerous. In my travels, I have seen lots of dogs left in people's back yards to play within a fence. Nothing wrong with that as long as the owner is made aware of some of the problems that can lead to aggression. The main one being excessive barking and chasing along a fence as people, mostly children, run by. They think it's cute because the dog can't or won't leave the yard to play or jump on them.

Two things happen in this situation: (1) the dog gets excited and jumps the fence, or (2) the dog gets very frustrated and angry and starts to resent being constantly teased.

We all want our dogs to bark if someone approaches the house. I'm not talking about a few alert barks to let you know someone is there. I'm talking about the constant barker or the hysterical barker that goes into a frenzy when someone walks by.

It's very annoying to your neighbors as well as being very dangerous. You can read several times a month where a dog leaves it's yard to attack someone and I would bet that, if you knew what went on before the incident, it would closely resemble the scenes I have just described.

Can something be done to avoid this type of behavior? Yes! Quite easily. Simply begin correcting the dog when it is doing the nuisance barking. You must be reasonably consistent when doing these corrections or it won't work, you will just confuse your dog.

What kind of correction?

Again, very simple: Go get the dog, grab them by the collar or leash and scold in angry tone of voice. NO HITTING! Most dogs want to please the owner and if you let them know you aren't happy with a behavior they will change.

If you don't know what to do or what I am suggesting isn't working for you, then contact a professional trainer. There are no shortage of them, if you don't like what one tells you, find another till you can find one that you feel comfortable with.

Or join a dog training club or a group class, no shortage of those either.

Just don't let the problem go on, or in a few years you will have a dangerously aggressive dog on your hands,,,,, I promise you.

Ken Buzzard, TFDT
Animal Behaviorist
lastchancetraining@earthlink.net
410-233-8836