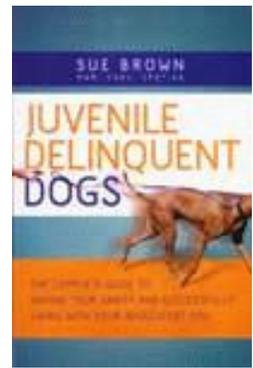


An excerpt from

Juvenile Delinquent Dogs - The Complete Guide to Saving Your Sanity and Successfully Living with Your Adolescent Dog

by Sue Brown, Dogwise Publishing. 800-776-2665, www.dogwise.com
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Intro

IF AT SOME POINT DURING your dog's adolescence you have said to yourself, "What was I thinking?" you're not alone! We all experience those times when our usually well-behaved dogs act like rebellious teenagers or juvenile delinquents. We know they aren't "bad" dogs; they simply have some behaviors that put our sanity and patience to the test.

If you have a "juvenile delinquent" dog, some of the following behaviors are probably familiar to you:

1. Jumping on family members and visitors
2. Nipping and mouthing, especially when excited
3. Stealing objects such as shoes, socks, remote controls or pillows and playing keep away
4. Chewing objects such as shoes, socks, remote controls or pillows
5. Darting out the door and running away
6. Barking at everyone who passes by your house
7. Stealing food or other items off the countertops or tables
8. Emptying the trash cans
9. Chewing up tissues, toilet paper and paper towels
10. Lunging and barking at other dogs while out on walks
11. Pulling on the leash
12. Playing "tug-of-war" with clothing
13. Marking/urinating on items in the house
14. Not coming when called
15. Not responding to you when you're certain he heard you and knows what to do

Each stage of your dog's life can present challenges. However, people often find that adolescence is the most difficult stage with which to live. According to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, nearly half of dogs surrendered to shelters are between the ages of five months and three years. The majority of those dogs are in the household less than a year,

indicating most are in homes as puppies and then relinquished during adolescence. Approximately half of the animals studied had not been neutered, and virtually none had obedience training.

Considering that such a large number of dogs relinquished to shelters and rescue groups are adolescents, it's clear that many people feel overwhelmed by the issues of raising adolescent dogs—or dogs of any age with some "adolescent" tendencies. While some give up dogs that are not the right fit for their families, others have simply not been able to find the help they need to get through their dog's adolescent developmental stage.

My goal with this book is to help you see that—in most cases—the issues you are experiencing are not insurmountable, but are issues that we all go through to varying degrees when raising a dog. It is my hope this book will help keep many dogs in their homes and help everyone in the household through this stage of a dog's life.

There are plenty of puppy books and general dog training books available, but none specifically geared toward the behavior issues and training of adolescent dogs. It's a common misconception that, if you can get past puppyhood, the rest will be easy. People are often unprepared for what can happen during adolescence. It's important to know what to expect, what is realistic, and how to successfully navigate this adolescent stage with your sanity intact.

This book is for anyone who currently lives with an adolescent dog, will be living with an adolescent dog in the near future, or who has an older dog who still has adolescent tendencies. While this book is geared toward adolescent dogs, the advice given here can be used for any age dog. Your dog might be younger or older than the adolescent stage of development, but he or she might still have some adolescent tendencies.

Whether you brought home your puppy at eight weeks and started training right away, or recently

brought home an adolescent dog who has had no prior training, more than likely you will experience some of the adolescent issues discussed in detail in this book. Prospective clients call and ask if it's too late to start training or to change what they've been doing. The answer—no matter your dog's age—is "No! It's never too late to get started or make changes." With that being said, it's also important to understand that training can be more challenging the longer you wait to get started because your dog has had a chance to develop bad habits. But it's never too late to start training or to retrain your dog!

Now is the time to put in the effort to get a well-behaved, well-trained dog who you can enjoy spending time with for the rest of his life. Training will take some effort and time now, but the benefits will be well worth the investment.

The training methods discussed in this book are the most effective, efficient, dog-friendly, and people-friendly methods available today. This book focuses on preventing unwanted behaviors through the use of management, proactively teaching your dog what you want him to do, and rewarding him for doing what you want. My goal is to assist you in helping your dog become the well-behaved, well-trained, happy dog you envisioned when you brought him home.

Sue Brown, MNM, CDBC, CPDT-KA, is a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants, a Certified Professional Dog Trainer through the Certification Council of Professional Dog Trainers, and a Professional Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. She is author of "Ask The Trainer", has written for the APDT Chronicle of the Dog and was a contributor to the book "The Association of Pet Dog Trainers Top Tips from Top Trainers". She writes regularly on her weblog in addition to her monthly newsletter.