

SoCal Dog Training Tips & Tricks



FREE SOLUTIONS:

This article reflects years of research from thousands of books, internet articles, and training sessions. Although these practices can help you with your dog issues, they do not all reflect the training practices of SoCal Dog Training's proprietary methods. Please visit our training philosophy page to discover our method of training.

PERSONALIZED TRAINING:

With so many training programs out there, it can become more and more difficult to get a solution that is tailored for your situation. We offer personalized training for whatever situation you might be facing with your puppy. The tips and tricks provided in the article are for general use, if you are looking for more specific help, please contact us today!



We frequently get specific questions from owners on behavioral issues that they are dealing with. Below is one of the most frequently asked questions we receive.

Help with a Dog Stealing

Question:

My dog is constantly stealing socks, paper, shoes, just about anything that isn't locked up. The barbeque was the final icing on the cake. What can I do to stop my kleptomaniac?

Answer:

For dogs and kids, a great way to get our attention is to break the rules and drive you crazy. After all negative attention is better than no attention. Did you know that some dog will bark obsessively as soon as the owner gets on the phone? Dogs and kids feel the vulnerability of their parents and their owners. As a child, I remember whenever my mom was on the phone; I would get into things or always have a question to ask. In reality, her being on the phone meant that she was not paying attention to the most important thing on earth, which of course was me. Besides I had learned that I could also do anything that I wanted as she couldn't do anything about it.

Your case reminds us of a similar dog we worked with last year. The family consisted of Mom, two sons, and a clever Golden Retriever Cassie. If the one Son, Jeffery was home she would only steal Jeffery's stuff and when the other son, George came home than she would steal only George's stuff. After all, Jeffery could care less if Cassie stole George's prized possessions. Once the objects were stolen, then the best game of catching me if you can begin. What more fun can a dog ask for?

The problem with both of our thieves is the simple lack of not meeting their three major needs. As stated in our previous article this is Physical, Mental and social. If either of our Bonnie and Clyde, had been exercised physically, been made to do some simple obedience; then we would want them to join our social pack.

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However; if you have not accomplished the prior two; then like thieves in our society, whom we lock away for our protection.

By establishing structures and the rules and regulation in which your dog must live with allows them to find out how to get your attention in a positive way. Teenagers might not admit it, but when they are given curfews or told that they can not go to this wild party; deep down they know that Mom and Dad care. They might not be happy, but it gives them a sense of belonging to a family. In other words a pack.

To help rehabilitate our convict we must also teach them what is their toys and what is not. As in getting them to stop chewing things, for stealing we need to get several sets of toys. These toys must be items that your dog enjoys chewing or carry around. Do not give them things that are similar to your own possessions. Dogs will not know the difference between your old shoe and a brand new one. An old sock tied in a knot as a toy leads them to think that they can steal them out of your laundry basket. Make your possessions very undesirable by spraying them with one of the chew deterrents on the market. Have your puppies toys around and if they go towards your items instantly clap your hands stepping forward into your dogs space and when the puppy stops immediately show them their toy and then praise.

Some dogs have the special interest in things that have a strong pungent aroma. In contrast to humans, dogs like things that have a strong scent. That is why they go out and find the clothes basket with the dirty socks and undergarments, or check out the cat's litter box or play and roll in dead fish. So all kinds of pleasant smelly things, are a dogs euphoria. So how to stop your dog from what is very natural. Spray your things with one of the bitter products on the market, and set your dog up. Leave the sock on the floor and when your dogs come to confiscate your sock, he will have a surprise.

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Now for our food thieves who can steal our dinner in the blink of an eye, You need to get your dogs to respect you. Because a food stealer gets instant gratification stealing and eating your food; all the corrections after the fact are irrelevant. While you are yelling at Rover, he is thinking marinated pork chops sure taste good and I wonder if you have any more. You will probably need to set up a burglar system. A trap with food laced with bitter apple and a video camera to monitor your thief. As soon as you see your pickpocket goes to steal, you suddenly appear and with some consequences. Whether it is clapping, shaking can, spraying water, ultrasonic or whatever will work, based on your dog's temperament.