

Advice on dogs, life and love



Dear Dog Lady,

My three-year-old Lab, Wrigley, has very bad ceasers [sic]. They last five minutes or more. Working with my vet, we have tried testing and medication, but I cannot afford the hundreds of dollars every month for this to continue. Is there somewhere I can take him? I have heard there are places that take animals like him to find cures. Any suggestions?
—Bryan

Bryan, you might first learn how to spell “seizures.” It’s important to have all the information about our dogs’ conditions just so we can share and swap information with people who might help us.

Your veterinarian is your best resource, but if you feel you can’t afford the care, you might explore holistic alternatives. Here’s a resource online—holisticdog.org—where you can explore the various remedies for seizures. Also, put Wrigley on a diet of healthy kibble and organic canned food. Solid Gold and Evangers make excellent food. These brands cost more than K-Mart kibble but they might help your pet.

Investigate. Ask other dog owners. Ask at dog stores. Surely, there might be a canine alternative-medicine practice in your area. Your dog is young. He didn’t ask to be sick and have seizures. You owe him the very best to keep him well.

Dear Dog Lady,

I have volunteered at a local shelter over the past two years. There is a dog there named James, a 50-pound beagle/harrier hound. He has had about four adoptions, which failed due to possessiveness problems. He would become attached to one person and growl or eventually attack the other.

I live with my husband and became attached to James through my visits. Eventually I took him into my home. He was here for 15 months and he became possessive of me and tried a number of times to attack my husband. Of course, I was extremely saddened by this outcome and had to return James to the shelter because it was becoming dangerous to my husband.

My question is how can I proceed in my future visits at the shelter? Do I not visit since it might confuse

James into thinking I have come back for him? Can I go there and take him for walks? I want to do what is in his best interest. He has adjusted back to shelter life after about six weeks.
—Jean

Jean, you should cut your ties with the shelter for now—so you can cut the tie to James. The dog has become accustomed to the shelter life he knew so well and Dog Lady fears it might be a wrench to his system to sense your familiar smells and ways.

Dog Lady is hesitant to scold since you obviously made a kind gesture in bringing James home. Yet, it might have been more productive to train him intensively during his stay with you. You put this fragile dog in a precarious situation where he was doomed to fail. You had your chance. Let’s hope James is given another one.

Dear Dog Lady,

I have a pedigreed longhaired dachshund named Autumn. I intend to breed her when my male dachshund, Kazi, is of suitable age. The problem is that my fiancé, who lives with us, has Max, an intact 45-pound male dog of unknown breed.

Every time Autumn is in season, we must confine her to a bedroom to keep Max from getting to her. She is miserable because she is confined. Max is miserable for the obvious reasons. I have begged my fiancé to get Max altered for everyone’s sanity, especially Max’s, but he always comes up with an excuse. He says that he wants to have “Max puppies” someday, or he comments on “doing that” to him. There are so many wonderful mixed breed dogs in shelters. I have tried to explain this to my fiancé to discourage him from wanting “Max puppies.”

I have also explained that it is kind to alter Max rather than allowing him to be miserable every time Autumn is in season. The cost is not an argument because I have made it clear that I would happily pay for it myself. Is there any advice that you can give? Am I being unreasonable to ask him to have Max altered?
—Linda

Linda, everyone in your household needs fixing. Your fiancé believes what’s good for Autumn is good for Max. And he would not be wrong. Your constant prodding to neuter Max while Autumn and Kazi hold onto their privates must rankle your guy and entrench him to seek “Max puppies.”

All mutts must be spayed or neutered. It’s the only conscientious course, considering the horrors of pet overpopulation. Men can be weird about the “big snip-snip,” but, in this environment, your fiancé has every right to stick up for Max’s manhood. When you live by example you will have the moral authority to demand he get his dog neutered.

Visit www.askdoglady.com to ask a question or make a comment.