

# Advice on dogs, life and love



Dear Dog Lady,

I'm thrilled about this new diet drug for dogs. I will admit Flopsy is fat, but I'm hoping this Slentrol will slim her down, because my cocker spaniel waddles. Is it easily available from my vet? I haven't taken her to the vet for a long time because he's always reminding me my dog needs to lose weight.  
—Kristin

*Kristin, whoa, slow down, girl. The full story about Slentrol has yet to be written.*

*Most likely Flopsy is fat because you over-feed her and do not exercise her enough. Slentrol won't change your behavior; only you can. Anyway, Slentrol is meant to be used in an overall program of healthy chow and exercise. You'll have to get off the couch whether you administer the drug or not. And there are side effects. Try diarrhea and vomiting, for starters. Why use Flopsy as a lab rat?*

*Dog Lady, alas, is not a vet nor does she play one on the pages of this magazine. Sure, go to your veterinarian and ask for the new drug. Dog Lady bets, if the vet is responsible, you will be sent home with another prescription to try first.*

Dear Dog Lady,

I have a ten-year-old poodle with an unusual quirk. I'm hoping you can shed some light on this behavior. From a seemingly relaxed position, Petey will jump off the couch or bed and do what we now call his "bull." His legs simulate a bull's posture before charging a matador. He gives little growling sounds and, after a moment or so, will settle down. He never charges at us but he looks so "bullish". Can you explain this?  
—Karen

*Karen, haven't you heard about the ancient order of poodle picadors? These fearless heroes will charge at couch cushions and bed pillows to ensure proper plumpness for their beloved humans.*

*Petey's posturing must be some sort of physical adjustment, the result of what happens when he wakes up suddenly and shifts position. Maybe he's*

*stretching. Whatever, he's giving you a little bit of bull. Enjoy this performance—until you have concerns about his health, which is when you should consult your veterinarian.*

Dear Dog Lady,

My dog Booboo, a Chihuahua, has recently been going into the dirty clothes pile and taking out my underwear and licking it. How do I get him to stop? Why exactly does he do this?  
—Sam

*Sam, you're the man in Booboo's world. Your soiled tights-whitey is the Holy Grail to a little Chihuahua. He misses you when you're gone and lapping up the essence of Sam is entirely understandable. You can stop him by making the effort to stow your dirty dainties in a Booboo-proof laundry bag hung high or a hamper closed tight. Also, you could leave out a more appropriate item—an old gym sock or a rag reeking of you—so Booboo can sniff and lick when he needs a Sam fix.*

Dear Dog Lady,

In the May issue of *Urban Animal*, someone asked your opinion of The Dog Whisperer [Cesar Millan]. Obviously you have a low opinion of him. You called him "the so-called Dog Whisperer" as if to say "he's not really one." You made a point to say he is a Mexican immigrant as if that was a bad thing. A political statement?

Yes, it's true his techniques are not new, but no one else makes them work like he does. As "dog people," I think we need to appreciate the fact that he is helping a lot of people learn to live with their dogs and not throwing them away for us rescuers to take care of. He is making a wonderful difference in the world, and, yes, getting rich in the process. That's the blessing God chose to give him. I don't see him as a money hungry celebrity. He truly seems interested in bettering the dog's life as well as the family's life. There are a lot of dog training shows around. No one can compare to how Millan teaches "people."

In my opinion, you sound jealous and racist.  
—Ida

*Ida, thank you for your feedback. Very sorry you read such toxic values as a bad opinion, racism, and money hunger into Dog Lady's presentation of Cesar Millan, the TV star of the National Geographic channel.*

*He's a controversial character and a compelling one. He does do good work and has rescued dogs condemned by their bad behavior, but his methods are not to be used by everyone, as Dog Lady tried to point out.*

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