

CHAPTER 11

Tips To Your Puppy's Education

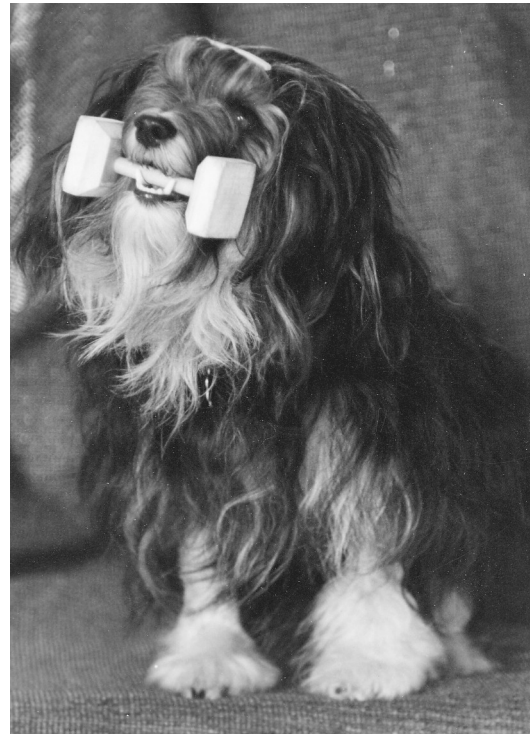
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Löwchen are a very old companion breed. They were bred for no other specific purpose and as a result have become a most agreeable pet. They do not need or have the qualities valued in working dogs, such as hunting or protection instinct. The Löwchen have a friendly nature, are adaptable and socially compatible. Löwchen have a joy for learning and great intelligence, making for a dog that is easily trained. Despite this, some owners have serious difficulties with the training of their Löwchen. This difficulty is usually due to the following reasons; there are no consequences for doing wrong and the owner has used an incorrect training method.

The Importance Of Training

The Löwchen is a most heart-warming, enchanting, little fur-ball who looks at you with a big innocent and wide-eyed expression. He seems to come from the world of stuffed animals rather than being a creature that descends from the wolf. How can one be angry at a sweet little doggie such as this? You are so taken with this puppy that you do not have the heart to displease it. So lovely is this little Löwchen that if you were strong enough to discipline this little innocent in public, people would frown at you and even remark how mean you are! So one begins a few halfhearted attempts towards training, all the while quibbling that the puppy is too small anyway and could not yet understand what one wants from him. Since the Löwchen still looks, even at five months like a stuffed animal, it is not surprising to find that people often have not even begun training. Five months is way too late to begin training since Löwchen puppies must begin training as soon as possible. If you start so late, the Löwchen

puppy has already trained and wrapped you around its little paw. The repertoire of these small comedians is wide, from inviting



Ch. Lambert's Maid Marian. Trained by Earl Marie Dingel. Photo Ms. Dingel.

glances, begging paws, to acting like a movie star. Most Löwchen can act as if they will die if you do not immediately feed them that wonderful tidbit on your fork, as you are about to pop it into your mouth. Others act as if they are lame and can't possibly go out when it is raining! Interestingly, if you give in and allow it to stay in the nice warm house, their lameness fades pretty quickly, but returns the instant you mention "time to go for a walk." Your Löwchen acts as if you are actually abusing it! There is a dog in Germany that has trained his owner so well that she holds an umbrella over the dog as they go for their walk on a rainy day, while she gets nice and wet! Many Löwchen

breeders have an almost inexhaustible number of such anecdotes!

The gist of these gladly told stories from breeders are sadly, always the result of the same cause, inconsistent and uncertain owners. These owners break their own rules



LCA Ch. Pepperland Miss Piggy doing the Bar Jump. Löwchen are highly trainable and will eventually become one of the top contending breeds in Obedience and agility competitions. Miss Piggy was trained by Earl Marie Dingel. Photo Ms. Dingel.

again and again. Their very smart Löwchen is a dog that knows how to use the weakness of its owner very well, or is an unhappy dog that does not understand its owner and so does everything so wrong, despite the fact that the dog is actually trying very hard to please. How can the dog know what the owner wants, if the owner does not know what the owner wants? This owner constantly gives this dog mixed signals.

Something the dog doesn't learn, it will never learn! It is said that if a dog is not trained as a puppy, that as a grown dog it cannot learn. The dog can learn at any time, but only if its owner has learned.

Therefore the first rule: The new owner should set boundaries before the puppy comes into the house.

The owner should be very clear in instructions to the dog concerning what is or is not allowed. This rule is important from the very first day and should be kept by all family-members. Look out for rude behavior like snarling, baring teeth or even biting.

Some owners may find this cute with a ten-week-old puppy, but in reality it is dangerous rather than cute. Don't forget that the puppy will reach an age very soon where this is definitely no longer cute. Those who think it is heartless to discipline a puppy for behaviors like these are the very people who complain the loudest to their breeders about their ill-mannered dog, certain that it is genetically predisposed to such nastiness.

In the end it is the dog that suffers most from the lack of education. A dog is not welcome in other people's homes if it repeatedly urinates on their expensive carpet. A dog is not welcome in public places if it barks or growls at everyone who walks by. A dog cannot go with its owner on excursions if it cannot walk with or without a leash. The end result of an untrained dog is a sad and very lonely animal which is confined alone at home while its family undertakes exciting adventures, which, had the dog been trained, he too could have participated in. It is a form of cruelty not to educate one's dog.

The Alpha Dog Fallacies

The idea that an untrained dog is the result of its being an alpha dog has thoroughly permeated our society, probably because it is preferable to blame the dog or breeder rather than an owner who has not taken control. It is important that people understand there are few true alpha dogs, but many pseudo-alpha dogs. Pseudo-alpha dogs are dogs that behave in certain ways, similar to what is popularly described as an alpha dog. Alpha dog is a term tossed around by people unknowledgeable in what it really means. These people, for the most part, have only read or been told methods of "correcting" this temperament and not really experienced it. When "training" fails, the failure is said by these people that the dog is too strong an alpha and so a reject, instead of the more likely scenario, that improper training methods were used, if any at all. The reality of this situation is that the dog is sadly misunderstood and improperly handled by the people intent on changing its personality. The saddest reality

is that if correctly trained, the dog would have come to be an ideal companion.

It is important to say here, if this scenario occurs to a Löwchen owner, it is best to seek out a qualified trainer who really understands the situation and can help. The owner must not merely read books and talk to people and try to fix the situation on their own. They will become confused without realizing it. They will pick and chose from the methods described in the books or that were told to them and try to apply them, often incorrectly. This can confuse the dog even further and create an ever- widening chasm of misunderstanding. If not extremely experienced in dog training, such an owner can miss or misread subtle signals the dog is sending, leading to frustration on both sides. Working with one trainer who is very qualified is the best thing to do to rectify the situation that has been inadvertently created. Remember the Löwchen is highly intelligent and can learn anything, including bad behavior. If a Löwchen has become incorrigible it is least likely it has done so because of genetics and being an alpha dog, and more likely because of owner mishandling.

Dogs are pack animals. They like to live in an established group arrangement with a strict position order. That is their natural way of life, with which they feel the happiest. Democracy and equal partnership is not natural to a dog. They must have a leader. That leader must be the owner. If people treat their dogs like they are people, while it seems nice, it does not work. In each house there can only be one leader and most dogs respect this. The true Alpha dog, born to be Alpha, is very rare. When Alpha dogs end up in the homes of weak owners, there is rarely a problem since the dog sorts things out in such a way that the owners do not even notice. The owners do its bidding without even realizing it.

The Alpha dog has a natural authority; they do not need to fight to get respect since they have it already due to their subtle mannerisms. This is an unspoken thing. Dogs understand naturally which of them is the Alpha and do not question this. There can be several Alpha dogs in a pack; even they have a pecking order. If an Alpha dog is placed in a home

where training is correctly practiced, they will not try to dominate since they recognize the order of the pack and respect the higher



One of the Burgwald litters out and socializing with their mother. There are toys with a variety of shapes, textures and sized available to the puppies to play with. Photo Felizitas Dylla.

authority. Alpha dogs rarely have to fight to dominate even in the wild, since they are automatically respected by the pack. The times that they do fight is when another, non-pack member Alpha dog comes on the scene and makes a challenge, or if the lead Alpha has lost its strength to lead the pack due to old age or injury.

The problem lies with the Beta dogs since they will want to assume control of the household if they perceive a lack of leadership. They, unlike the Alpha dog, lack the character to make a truly good leader. They always try to test their position in the household, unless it is very clear that there is a leader of the household. Beta dogs act out their dominance through force and show protective behavior. In nature, the Beta dogs are called to task by the Alpha dog when they are too dominant. They back down when called to task without fighting back since they recognize the Alpha dog's authority. If there is no perceived leader, the dog will argue back if another tries to take it to task. This happens whether the correction comes from a human or another dog, the corrector is not considered the authority. It is the owner's job to ensure that the Löwchen learns to consider him/her as the authority.

When a Beta dog ends up in a family that does not have a person the dog perceives to be the leader, there is no perceived Alpha that will enforce limits. The

dog reluctantly takes over as leader of the household. He will become stressed,



It is important to introduce your Löwchen puppy to all types of animals. Photo Felizitas Dylla.

unhappy, and nervous, just as people are when they find themselves in a position that they are not able to fulfill. Dogs in these situations dominate through aggression. They behave in an aggressive manner since there is no challenge to their authority. These could be considered the true problem dogs except that the real problem is not the dogs, but the people. These dogs desperately want a leader. It is the owner's job to learn how to be the leader. If owners do not learn what makes the dog consider them the leader, then they fail the dog. When this happens, the dog is invariably blamed for the owner's mistake. This dog wants security and safety from the owner. They need to know their position in the household. The owner must be able to provide the boundaries for this dog in a clear and understandable manner, as perceived by the dog. If they do not, in the end the dog will no doubt be put down or sent to a new home.

Housebreaking The Löwchen

While this section is written with the Löwchen puppy in mind, it can be applied to the older dog too.

Throughout the world, there is the idea that one must punish a puppy for puddles and stick its nose into any messes the puppy makes. This is totally wrong! No puppy will understand what you are doing. People think that it is punishment to force



Löwchen get along with all types of dogs, even those much larger than themselves. This is Ch. Pan Tau von Livland with Deutsche Dogge friend. Photo Felizitas Dylla

their noses into their mess, while dogs do not find this so. Dogs always sniff or lick elimination spots in order to find out information about other dogs. A pile or wet spot made by another dog tells if the dog is castrated or in season or not, if it is male or female, the list can go on infinitely over what the dog can learn. A dog is not inclined to smell its own mess since it has nothing to learn from it so the sticking of the nose into the mess is not punishment but confusing to the dog, since this is forcibly done. The force, often accompanied by scolding, indicates that smelling elimination is wrong, not that the elimination in the house is wrong.

Do not yell at a puppy if it goes accidentally in the house. A puppy understands all too well yelling or shaking. What a puppy cannot understand is why it is being yelled at it as it goes to the bathroom in the wrong place. If this happens, eventually the puppy thinks that the owner will always be mad when it goes to the bathroom. The logical consequence is that the dog will try to hide its going to the bathroom so that it will not be yelled at it.

Since the puppy thinks that it will be yelled at every time that it goes, even when taken outside, it will be afraid to go if the owner is standing there since that is what it has previously experienced. It cannot stop elimination and so will begin to hide the process of doing so, instead of going in front of the owner. In this situation, as soon as an owner goes inside with the puppy, the puppy will seek out a place where it cannot be seen and will try to do its business. The dog has been trained to go in the house since it has learned to try to go while you are not watching it. Breeders get calls from puppy buyers quite often relating that the puppy waits to go to the bathroom in the house.

The right way to train a dog is through positive reinforcement. Immediately as soon as the puppy wakes up and has eaten, it should be taken outside. If possible the owner should try initially to take the puppy out every two hours. The puppy should be watched closely and as soon as it goes to the bathroom, immediately at that instant, the owner must use the command word they have chosen to use that indicates to the dog that it should go to the bathroom. Which word is used is not important, but consistency with a word is. As soon as the puppy is done, it must be verbally rewarded. There is no way to overdo the praise. The puppy learns the command word because it has experienced positive reinforcement. Since all puppies like to be rewarded with praise, they will always try to act in such a way that they will again receive the lavish praise. They learn very quickly that the command means to go to the bathroom and that if they do so, they will be greatly praised.

If the puppy makes a mistake in the house, the owner ought to act as if it has not been noticed. If they see the puppy start to squat to go, they must **immediately** pick it up and go outside with it. They must drop everything to do so! The puppy will sometimes forget why it is outside and begin to walk around and sniff things. It may remember to go, but if it does not, then the owner can go back inside with the puppy and keep watch for the puppy to begin again. This is repeated until the puppy goes to the bathroom outside. If the



Löwchen puppies should be socialized at an early age with young children. Löwchen usually get along well with youngsters, as long as the children are also taught how to behave around dogs. Photo Felizitas Dylla.

puppy does not indicate it has to go in a short period of time, it should be taken out again anyway and it may decide to go at that time. When this happens the owner must immediately use the command word and then praise it. The puppy will quickly learn to go on command.

Once an owner is absolutely sure that the puppy is housebroken, the owner can then begin to tell it what it cannot do. If the puppy definitely understands that it must go out and do its business on command and willfully goes inside, then it can be disciplined. But, the owner must be **absolutely** certain that the puppy understands. This is best not rushed. The more consistent an owner is in training, the quicker the puppy will learn. The time period in which this can occur is extremely varied. Some puppies are not truly housebroken before six months at best.

If a puppy must be disciplined, it should not be shaken by its neck. The owner is not its mother, and the puppy knows it. It will think that the owner is trying to kill it. It is best for the owner to voice displeasure with stern reprobation. When the owner has yelled because the dog made a mess, the owner must make sure that the dog does go outside the next time it needs to go and then also receives the praise it so strongly desires when it does the job right. The puppy will begin to understand that it should not go in the house, since it



A blanket of kitties. This picture should prove that cats and dogs really do mix! This kind Löwchen is six-month-old Bumir Dame Oui. Photo Sonja Carlson.

really does want to please .It will not want to make this mistake again.

To help a puppy become clean during the night, the owner can use the puppy's natural instinct to try to not mess its own living quarters. They should use a crate that is lined with newspaper. On top of the newspaper layers should be strips of newspaper. That way if the puppy goes in the crate, it will not immediately sit in its mess, since the strips will cover it. Immediately before the owner goes to bed, and as soon as they get up (preferably before they go to the bathroom) the puppy should be taken out. The command and praise method as described above should be followed. They should keep the crate in their bedroom so that the puppy does not feel isolated or alone. It needs to hear breathing, living beings around it when it wakes up in the middle of the night, since if not, it could become panicked and make a mess. The puppy will instinctively try to keep clean as long as possible. Some puppies will try to tell their owners that they have to go out in the middle of the night, say at three in the morning. It is not a good idea to respond, since if the owner does, he may be getting up to take the dog out every night at three in the morning, for several years.

Aggression

Löwchen can be a little loudmouthed in certain situations. It sometimes seems as if they don't understand their small size and think they are as big as a Great Dane. If a

stranger or dog comes within their territory, the Löwchen will impudently bark and growl. They act as if they cannot fail in their audacious attack. If living in a pack, such small ruffians are taught quickly to behave by others in the pack. Some puppies are sharply disciplined by an adult pack member until they have learned that it is necessary to be restrained. Dogs are very consistent with the education of their children, while people unfortunately are not. Many owners find barking and growling funny and think their dogs are exhibiting unshakable courage, of which the owners are secretly very proud. Some quite unreasonable people even demand such behavior because to them it means that a good dog should be protective. This is wrong!

A good dog can and should guard its family and its territory, but it must be able to also recognize when to do so. A dog in a wild pack that cannot assess situations properly and reacts over-aggressively or unreasonably, is disowned or is killed by its pack because it brings all into danger. This is not very different from human behavior. Whoever does not teach their puppy appropriate social behavior sooner or later loses the control over the full-grown dog. When this happens, it is not long before the dog is given away or is even put to sleep because it has become too vicious and puts itself and or its family in constant danger. A puppy must learn absolutely correct behavior. A puppy becomes exactly what it is taught.

Therefore, Rule 2: Express yourself clearly in a manner that the dog understands. Do not expect it to understand the human language even if it looks so as it understands every word.

If a puppy growls at a visitor this is absolutely not funny, even if sometimes it is hard to suppress a laugh. As soon as the puppy has outgrown the puppy stage, the laughter stops quickly. When a puppy shows aggressive behavior, the owner must express very clearly that it has behaved incorrectly. They must stand very threatening, look it directly in the eye and with a very strong voice send the puppy away. Only if their posture and voice very clearly send the message of wrongdoing will

the puppy understand. If the owner stands or sounds uncertain, an ambiguous message is sent to the puppy. Also, once a puppy is sent away, he will look so sad. Owners can ruin the success of getting their message of wrongdoing across by following the puppy and consoling it. Humans understand this impulse, but for the puppy it is very confusing.

A frequent scenario that takes place when a puppy growls at a visitor is that the owner tries to solve the problem by taking the dog in her arms, petting it and calming it down by verbally reassuring it with soothing words, all the while clucking that the dog was wrong. The human visitor understands what the owner intends and is content with it, but a quite different message has reached the dog. Taking the dog in the arms and caressing it means physical praise. The friendly voice confirms that the dog has behaved exactly right and it will do it with the same way next time, if possibly even somewhat better. A little more ferocious perhaps! Without understanding the scenario, the owner has actually trained the dog to behave in a manner opposite to what was intended. The dog, thinking it has pleased the owner, will increasingly repeat its behavior until the desperate owner only can lock the dog up when strangers come.

It is right to stop each aggressive act against people right from the start. The owner, as pack leader, must decide whoever is or is not welcome. The owner must also decide whether the dog can keep its bone or its food or whether it is allowed to sit on a favorite place or not. A real alpha-animal and that is the owner, hopefully, tolerates no contradiction in such things!

People need give-and-take and tolerance in order to feel well in a group while a dog needs a plainly defined position. If the owner does justice in the role as leader, the dog will find its place in the hierarchy very contentedly. The dog feels all the better and more certain, the stronger its alpha person is. A person acting in the alpha role spares the dog the stress of having to adopt the leadership role.



Allow your Löwchen puppy to continue to interact with other dogs as it grows up. This will help the dog become a well-adjusted pet. Photo Felizitas Dylla

In order to get along with other animals, a puppy must interact with them. The owner need not do much more than allowing the puppy the opportunity to do so. They generally do not need to interfere with the interaction between the animals, unless the puppy is clearly in danger. Overanxious behavior, on the owner's part, when allowing the dog to mix with others, will make the pet unsure of itself.

Dealing With Timidity

Of course, not all Löwchen are small ruffians. Most are friendly and full of sunshine and almost train themselves. There is however, also the sensitive individual that is afraid of all strangers, people or dogs. The owners of such dogs are inclined to pamper and keep them away from alarming situations. In a doubtful situation, the dog is picked up, comforted and calmed. By now, the reader already knows, this is completely wrong. Keeping a Löwchen away from alarming situations does not teach him how to deal with them. Keeping the dog away from alarming situations by picking the Löwchen up and comforting it allows it to think that something dreadful is confronting them; therefore there is all the reason to be afraid. All puppies have the natural instinct to seek cover as soon as the adults sound the alarm. In nature, this response is vital. But,



Let your puppy explore. Photo Felizitas Dylla

since Löwchen puppies must live with people, this is a response that should not be encouraged. It is the owner's job to behave in a manner that indicates that all is well since the puppy will read from their behavior that there is no reason to be concerned.

All puppies, especially the fearful, must learn in slow steps to find their way around in their environment. A good breeder will have already begun a socialization program as soon as the puppies are sufficiently old to perceive their surroundings.

From the third week, the puppies receive daily new toys. They can range from ordinary household items to commercial dog toys. Puppies are encouraged to inspect, climb into, under or over their toys. They are encouraged to become confident through play. In the fifth to seventh week, the puppies are gradually allowed playtime in the house, often being allowed to play in different sections of the home. The puppies are vaccinated by this time and trips begin into the big world. In the winter, even with snow on the ground they are allowed out, if only for a few minutes. During the summer they are allowed to play outside until they are tired. After the recommended vaccinations are out of the way, puppies are taken on visits where they will meet other people, dogs and situations. When ever possible, it is important that the Löwchen meet small children while they themselves are puppies. During their puppy-hood, a wise breeder exposes their puppies to as many noises as possible. This even includes dropping the broom or pan lids loudly, so that the puppy understands, by seeing the

breeder's reaction, that there is nothing wrong.

After 10 weeks, most Löwchen are in their new homes. But no matter if they are with their new owners or still with their breeders, the leash training should begin. They should begin to learn about traffic, cars, walking around many people. Many breeders who show take their puppies to shows to get them used to loud crowds and lots of people. It is important that puppies be socialized between the sixth and sixteenth weeks since this is the phase in which the puppies learn the best! Breeders and owners must proceed with caution; this training must take place step by step. The trainer, either owner or breeder, should not ask for too much all at once. When exposing the puppy to new situations they should watch the puppy's reaction. When it is tired or has had enough, it should be allowed to go into its crate or where ever it goes to relax and recharge its battery.

Leash Training

Only too often one sees the sad picture of an unnerved owner pulling the stubborn and intimidated puppy on the leash, hoping that the puppy will give up its resistance. That is just as cruel as the forcible breaking in of horses in the days of the Wild West, and certainly does little to promote the trust of the dog in its teacher.

With the right tricks, leash breaking is one of the simplest lessons you will teach your puppy.

Leash training should begin in a quiet place, as far as possible from the next street, in a fenced-in garden, in a sufficiently big park or in the free field. If the puppy should startle, and try to duck from something, it will run in any direction in order to look for cover and won't keep an eye out for dangers such as cars. When starting, the collar and leash should be on the dog and allowed to drag on the ground. The owner walks a few feet away and calls the puppy. The over riding fear that the puppy has is that it will lose them, and it will rush to follow, even if it has this funny thing, that we know as the leash, dragging behind it. As soon as the puppy comes to the owner it should be rewarded with praise.

This process is repeated until the puppy does not notice the leash dragging. This training session should last from five to ten minutes at the start, once or twice a day.

As soon as the puppy follows willingly and no longer notices the leash, the owner can pick up the leash carefully. The owner should call the puppy to come. If it is undecided, the owner should offer the puppy a treat that it really likes. It will come quickly. If the puppy offers resistance, the owner should let go of the leash and practice further. This process should not be forced. The owner should not start pulling on the leash. The more patient they are, the more quickly it works out. The puppy will finally have learned to go with the leash, and not to be afraid of it! It is surprising how quickly the puppy has comprehended. The next step is teaching the puppy that the owner will guide it while the puppy is on the leash. When the owner is walking the owner must direct the puppy's attention to himself. The puppy will be able to notice, through the feel of the tightening of the leash that the owner is changing direction. In the beginning of leash breaking, the owner calls the puppy to get its attention. Then while it is watching begins to turn. If the puppy does not follow, they give a small jerk on the leash without saying anything. The owner does not want to speak while giving the correction since the puppy will associate the jerk with them and will not trust in them or the leash. It will think the jerk is a punishment instead of a call to attention. As the puppy learns to pay attention, it will begin to notice the feel of the leash, whether taut or loose, and will automatically adjust its own position correspondingly. If the puppy is properly paying attention, it will not be at the end of the leash, tugging and pulling its owner since it is too busy keeping an eye on the owner.

As soon as the puppy is walking willingly on the leash it can be allowed a longer leash, so that the puppy can bravely explore its surroundings. Once it is trained, the owner can use the retractable leashes,



When putting puppies up on elevated places always supervise them. Photo Felizitas Dylla

but not during training, since they allow the dogs to pull on the lead.

Off Lead Training.

As soon as the puppy becomes older, it gains more self-confidence and independence. Now it will try to see how far from the owner it is allowed to go. It will begin to test the boundaries to which it has become accustomed. This is the time that an owner must be careful how to handle the situation.

If calling the puppy and it does not come, they must not chase or follow it. If they do, the puppy will see this as an opportunity to go further, since the owner is right behind it. It does not want to lose contact, but as long as the owner follows, calling, it knows where they are and does not have to return until it is good and ready. What to do in this situation? The owner must turn and go the opposite way, or hide from the puppies view. It will be shocked that they are no longer there, and will desperately look for them. It will come quickly to reestablish contact. When it comes the owner should casually reward him for coming and continue on the way. The puppy has learned an important lesson, that it is his job to keep track of where the



You should confine your puppy at night near your bed. That way, if it wakes up in the middle of the night it is reassured by the sound of your breathing and it should go right back to sleep. This cute puppy has a doggie bed in the box along with toys to play with if bored. Boxes don't always work, since some Löwchen puppies are very agile and not easily confined unless in a crate.

owner is and that it can lose the owner if it does not maintain contact.

The owner should never, ever, yell at the dog, even if it does not come right away, when it returns. If done, the dog will associate the punishment, not with the act of disobedience of going away, but for returning. If the owner yells at the dog for doing what is wanted, the dog will not want to return again in the future since it will fear punishment.

Another important thing to note is that Löwchen should not be let outdoors alone, unless in a safe, enclosed yard. There are so many dangers waiting. They can wander from home and not be able to find their way back. Big dogs that could easily kill could attack the Löwchen. Owners should not fool themselves with thinking that their dog will recognize the dangers of the big dog. Löwchen love challenges, nothing is more pleasurable to them to dominate over a much larger dog! They will not back away from a fight and so can end up dead. Another danger is cars. Through the years many Löwchen have met their demise under wheels. This is a preventable death. The Löwchen are often so intent on what they see across the street, that they do not notice cars.

Another problem caused by allowing a Löwchen to go out loose on the streets, is that it can become too confident and begins to think it does not need the owner. This could, in some cases, lead to a situation where the dog begins to think it might like the leadership position in the household, and it will begin to challenge its owner.

Leaving Your Dog Alone

No dog stays alone gladly; this is instinctive since by nature dogs are pack animals. Being alone is something which must be learned. It is quite important is that the owner begins leaving the puppy alone from the first day on. Many owners make extra effort to make extra time for the new puppy in the first weeks with their new family. This is good for the adjustment of the puppy to its new home but has its drawbacks if the puppy is never left alone. The puppy does not understand that everyday life will necessitate that it will be alone, when the owners go to work, shop or leave the house for any reason. The puppy's first instinct is to come with their owner. But it must from the beginning become accustomed to everyday life.

To accustom the puppy to be alone, from the first day on it should be left for small periods of time. When the owner returns he/she should not make a big fuss over the puppy and act as if the separation is quite normal, which in fact, it is. If a big fuss is made the puppy will think that something out of the ordinary has happened and will be upset the next time it happens. Puppies and adult dogs like routine lives.

When the owner leaves and the puppy starts to howl and to scratch at the door, one of the most difficult parts of its education comes. The owner must not return to reassure the puppy otherwise the puppy is rewarded for its behavior and will do it again the next time it is alone. Many breeders recommend that the puppy be confined prior to leaving, either in a safe play area or in a crate. But what ever is done, the owner must not return to reassure the puppy since it will have won a disagreement that the owner did not even know existed. The puppy will repeat this

behavior again and again, to get its way. It is important to teach puppies to be alone early in their lives since everybody, for the most part, has neighbors. Even the most understanding, dog loving neighbor will not be able to put up with a barking dog all day.

There are some situations, such as in homes where there is always someone at home, where extra effort must be made to accustom the dog to being alone. Everyone must participate in this training and make effort to make sure the dog is left alone for some periods of time, until it becomes so accustomed. A dog, which cannot remain alone, turns into a big burden.

In Conclusion Of Training

After reading this, some may have become scared that dog training is much harder than anticipated. Some may now doubt they can handle this task. Be assured that anyone can train a dog. It is much easier than one thinks. This chapter was written to give new Löwchen owners some advice in hopes that mistakes can be avoided. Simple mistakes can lead to difficulties with Löwchen. With careful training few problems occur. Owners should not fear the process, but use it to get to know their dog's individual personality. Löwchen want to please their owners. Löwchen are intelligent. They understand even if their owner behaves clumsily and makes mistakes. But if proper training methods are employed, the owner and the Löwchen will have much enjoyment and success. The key to success in training the Löwchen is prevention. The owner must outthink the dog and anticipate normal behavior or problems and how to deal with them. The owner should not try to go it alone, if they have training problems. The owner should always remember that when in situations where they are unsure, the breeder wants to help. Make use of the breeder's experience. Hopefully they will have learned enough through their years in dogs to be useful.



Puppies love to chew things. Give your puppy a lot of toys to play with so that puppy does not make do with your furniture. Taking things into their mouths and chewing is normal for puppies; it is one that the puppy investigates the world around them. You must take care that the puppy does not take poisonous substances into their mouths while investigating. Photo Felizitas Dylla

Household Dangers

Löwchen puppies love to jump. They will jump from surfaces that are too high to handle. Never leave the puppy up on anything, be it the couch, your bed, or even a counter, unless someone is there and able to keep the puppy from jumping when it decides it needs to do something else. If the puppy is to sit with someone on an elevated surface, it should be picked up and put it back down on the ground when the person must get up and do something else. This is a hard and fast rule to adhere to, even if the puppy is napping nicely. The person may not want to disturb it. But if they don't take it off the couch, when the puppy wakes up it will jump down and this can be dangerous. Puppies do not have fully formed musculature, and their bones are not strong yet. They can stretch ligaments, break bones or even break their necks. Be careful with this breed since it is very athletic and likes to spring, whether up into the air or off something. Hands should always firmly hold on to a Löwchen puppy if it is not on the ground.

Care must be taken to not drop the puppy. If there are young children, they should be allowed to hold the puppy only when they are sitting down on the ground



During housebreaking be aware that puppies are easily distracted and may forget why they are outside, twigs and leaves are even interesting to puppies. Wait for the puppy to lose interest in the distractions and it will eventually settle down to getting the intended business at hand done.

and not on the couch or bed. Care must be taken that children do not drop the puppy on its head or will allow it to spring away from them. If a puppy begins to squirm, most children's inclination is to let go or hold even firmer to the point of hurting the puppy. The puppy, in most likelihood, will bite and then the child will drop the puppy, possibly injuring it. An adult should supervise when a small child interacts with the puppy.

Poisons

Many people think that dogs know by instinct what is poisonous and what is not. They most definitely do not. Puppies, like small children, take everything in their mouths. Owners should find out which plants in their household or garden are poisonous to dogs. Plants vary from region to region. It is important to get this information from the veterinarian or breeder as to which plants are poisonous. Puppies will test out anything that fits in their mouth, whether poisonous or not.

Also household cleansers must put away out of reach since puppies happily eat them too. Another common killer of dogs is anti-freeze. Anti-freeze has a sweet taste that appeals to dogs. Care should be taken that there is not an accidental anti-freeze spill

that a puppy or adult Löwchen could access. Look for even small drops if there is a possibility of a leak, since one drop can kill. If your driveway is part of the Löwchen's play area, awareness of this danger is crucial. Once a dog has lapped up anti-freeze, unless it is immediately taken to the veterinarian, its chances of survival are extremely low.

Another danger that many owners do not consider, is mouse and rat poison. These little poisons look so inviting to a dog, and taste good too. As with a child, care must be taken not to leave these things out where a dog can get to them. Even if they are behind barriers, a dog can find a way to get to them. Best to be out of reach totally.

Care with pesticides for plants and bugs should be taken. Some people place pesticide granules in their gardens; they make nifty little treats for Löwchen! Another danger to Löwchen can be chemical lawn treatments. These can cause allergic reactions, rashes and hives on dogs. In some cases these chemicals can lead to a systemic poisoning, or cancer due to continued exposure to these poisons.

Some things that people eat are poisonous to dogs! They are cocoa products, onions and avocado. These are the worst poisons, but there are others. The safest way to prevent poisoning from people food is to refrain from sharing food that would not be found in dog food. The safest treats to give are salad (not coleslaw), cucumbers, carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, apples, bananas, pears, melons, bread, meats, cheese and butter. Feed these treats in moderation, since too much can lead to obesity and a shortened life span.

Another danger not immediately obvious are mushrooms, algae and dirty waters. These can be very poisonous to your dog. Play areas and walks should be diligently monitored. One Löwchen owner in the Pacific Northwest, near Portland Oregon, USA, almost lost her dog to poisonous mushrooms growing outside her kennel runs. Her dog pulled mushroom caps into the pen and ate them. Fortunately the treating veterinarian recognized the symptoms immediately and was able to



reverse the toxins in the dog's system. This was still a touch and go situation, and also a very costly one for the owner.

There are also parts of the world where you must be able to protect your dog from poisonous insects and reptiles. Some spiders are poisonous and if they bite your Löwchen, the dog will begin to suffer respiratory difficulties. They often need to go to the veterinarian to be treated intravenously. Löwchen like to pick things up in their mouths, especially if they move. If you live in an area where poisonous frogs live, be sure that there are none out where your dog could lick or ingest one. The same goes for poisonous snakes.

All medicines should be kept out of reach of Löwchen, since they may try to play with the packaging, and once they have revealed the medicines, they may eat them too. Löwchen are very much like small children in many ways. They have a natural curiosity and do not hold back from trying new things.

If a Löwchen acts sick, lethargic or has vomited large amounts of stomach contents, it must be taken to the veterinarian right away, even if it is after office hours.

The owner should not wait to see if the ailment passes. If there is a possibility of poisoning every minute counts. The longer the delay, the more certain the dog's death. Owners must not hesitate to take aggressive action to save their dog. If their veterinarian does not want to open his office after hours, an alternative must be demanded. If the alternative is unwilling to see the dog, the owner must call their veterinarian again and demand that he see the dog immediately. Even in a false alarm, the owner will have relief that they insisted on the dog being seen. A dire emergency cannot wait. Owners may need to be proactive to save their dog's life.

In summary, the best protection is prevention. Löwchen can live long and happy lives if properly trained and protected. Much enjoyment with your little lion!



It is sure nice to have friends! Well-trained Löwchen are a joy to have around as these two big fellows think! Photo Felizitas Dylla



Bijou

Photo Verwaltung der Staatlichen Schlösser and Gärten Hessen.



Unbelievably this dog is identical in every way to Bijou who lived in the 16th century at the Weilburg Castle, in Germany. Photo Martina Fitz