
Subject: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 00:16:10 GMT
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Frelling Ratbags

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 00:30:09 GMT
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Argh.

1. I hate cancer. HATE.
2. I'd be mad about Mike, too. Actually, I *am* mad about Mike. (Not as mad as you are, but mad, nonetheless. I take companion animals Very Seriously.)

Argh.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Bryne](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 00:34:26 GMT
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Know how you feel on this one. My grandfather was diagnosed with his third round of cancer yesterday: metastasized from his last bout, meaning that it's almost certainly throughout his entire body, meaning he's got less than three years. He's only 65.

SIGH.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Diane in MN](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 08:39:30 GMT
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Damn cancer. Good luck to your friend; I hope this is an eminently treatable situation. ::crosses fingers and lights candle::

But I want to say something utterly naive and puerile here about how can you love a critter and not put in the basic time to train it, if it's the kind that needs training? [. . .] And basic

companion-animal training just isn't that hard. You just have to do it. And there's nothing wrong with Mike but its lack.

Of course this isn't naive and puerile, it's sensible and adult and proactive, and (sorry, Pollyanna) that's why lots of people fail to do it. And most of them are pretty lucky; their untrained dog may be a pest, but not a snappy one, or it's small enough that its bad behavior is "cute" and not threatening. Or they keep it outside behind a fence and don't worry about it. I agree with you that this is a depressing situation, but there is a bright side: better he go to a new home now, while he's young and more easily trainable, than stay where he's not getting what he needs and might end up in big trouble. You've probably thought of this already, but I'd suggest talking to his breeder for help in placing him.

I think what it does is give me, for about five seconds about three nights out of four, the illusion of having real dogs, you know, the kind that think food is terrific, the kind you can clicker-train because they respond to treats.

As I understand it you don't have to use food to clicker-train; it's a lot easier if you have a food-motivated dog, but you can click and praise or pet or give a toy, too. But everything's easier if they care about treats.

Oh yes, and Pegasus the Cow has just taken another dive into the ravine

Bad Pegasus! BEHAVE!

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [b_twin_1](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 08:59:34 GMT

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It has been an absolute frelling ratbag sod of a day.

:(And there are times when even chocolate struggles to overcome the blegh. I'll send some virtual stuff any way. And light a candle.

I look at my hellhounds' four little shiny eyes immediately staring back at me, hoping I will make an Interesting Gesture: a toy? Another piece of chicken?

Oh yes. Beady little eyes. And chicken. Well. Bestest thing ever really (as far as the pups are concerned).

But I want to say something utterly naive and puerile here about how can you love a critter and not put in the basic time to train it, if it's the kind that needs training?

I've asked myself the same question. Also in regard to parents and children.

Oh yes, and Pegasus the Cow has just taken another dive into the ravine
I've never trusted cows myself.

Now that pie looks very interesting.. and I.. errr... have all the ingredients as it happens. ;)

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [L.R.K.](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 09:11:25 GMT
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I'm so sorry about your rotten day - especially about the cancer, my mother has had it twice.

And about Mike, poor dear - I hope you won't have too much trouble finding a nice home for him.

And I like "clueless clodpole" - it's so perfectly descriptive of some people! (No, I don't understand first of all how someone can go online and "bare all" - I tend to think that anyone who can actually do that must be quite incredibly shallow - and then be surprised that there are actually people who would prefer their privacy!)

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Katherine](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 12:51:54 GMT
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How frustrating!

Oh, how I wish I a) lived closer and b) was allowed dogs in my apartment! I would take Mike in a heartbeat and train him up right. Dogs seem to automatically read me as the alpha and tend to do things for me when I ask them to, which makes their owners either mutter darkly to themselves, gape in astonishment, or beg me to dogsit for them.

Poor thing. I hope you'll find a wonderful place for him.

And many, many candles for all the other emotional turmoil roiling through your life right now. :(

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [Black Bear](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 13:30:57 GMT
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† Dogs, cats, horses, giraffes, poison dart frogs, whatever

My dart frogs would love it if I got a giraffe. Endless climbing potential! And they'd see them as kindred spirits--yellow with black spots, black with yellow spots... An ideal match.

†† I think poison dart frogs generally just hang out in their terrariums.

Generally, yes. I accidentally left the top off the other day, and neither of them made a break for it. But I'm not going to count on that behavior for future.

Courage on Pegasus! Despite appearances, the cow doesn't want to be in the ravine any more than you do, I'm sure... :)

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Mrs Redboots](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 14:06:02 GMT
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Oh dear, why do things happen in threes like that? Poor your friend, I do hope it's treatable.

Your recipe sounds interesting. But aren't dried cranberries sweeter than fresh because they have been sweetened?

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [karalianne](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 14:12:06 GMT
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Cancer sucks. I hope your friends are among those who recover.

I think people are often under the impression that having pets is much easier than it actually is. They are taken in by the cute and forget about the labour. My parents went to Angola for a month, and two weeks before they left, they got a two-month old puppy. I was house-sitting for the first two weeks, and when I came he knew "sit." While I was there, I think I got him mostly house trained, started teaching him to play fetch ("go get it" and "give"), and began his leash education. My younger brother took over for me last week, and I returned to my own home, which currently houses a cat and two guinea pigs (and a man, but he's completely untrainable - I've tried).

The cat we got from someone who had unwanted kittens; she was supposedly three months old,

but I think she was only one month, at most six weeks; her eyes and ears were open, and she could eat kibble, but she wasn't completely litter trained yet. She killed her first mouse when she was only a couple of months old - it was a toss-up as to which would win. :)

The guinea pigs, well, I took one in from a friend who was moving and couldn't keep the guinea pig (it was sad; she had to find homes for her dog and cat, too, and she's an animal person); the other I took in because the family who owned her didn't want her anymore. I actually haven't bought a guinea pig from the pet store since I got my second one, way back when I was 12. That's 20 years of getting guinea pigs from friends whose piggies had babies, from my junior high when piggies needed homes, from the Humane Society, and from people who simply didn't care about them anymore. Isabella and Guido are my eleventh and twelfth guinea pigs, respectively. (I might be addicted. Actually, I know I am; I intend to open a guinea pig rescue someday, and I plan to have a pet capybara or three once we're not living in the city any longer.)

Feral novels... I really need to gather my courage and start working on the two I outlined while I was pet-sitting (did I mention that my parents also have two geriatric cats, one of which is diabetic and the other of which has kidney failure?) - it's scary to think about, though I have good outlines and I know the stories and characters are strong! I'm sure you'll be able to pull Pegasus back in line! :)

I am planning to bake some pies this afternoon, but I shan't be making this recipe. I have lots of fresh fruit I picked up at the Farmer's Market yesterday, plus a huge rhubarb plant in my garden, so there will be peach-cherry pie, strawberry-rhubarb pie, and probably some blueberry tarts and some rhubarb tarts. (I believe in going all-out when baking - might as well make more than you need and freeze the excess for later.)

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Becky in VT](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 15:01:20 GMT
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Sad news all around! But THANK YOU for the recipe, it sounds amazing, I've written it all down and will try it this weekend!

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [AJLR](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 15:38:33 GMT
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Really sorry to hear about Daisy and co giving up on Mike. I hope that she finds a way to feel better about herself and the situation generally, and that Mike finds a home with a lovely,

focussed, puppy-aware family.

And thank you for the recipe. We could take more, if you need more ravine-oriented thinking time? (Though I'm sure the cow is making every effort to climb out, with your assistance. I hope and trust that she hasn't gone feral down there.) :)

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Stephanie](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 20:41:46 GMT
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Sorry that life is dumping on you fast and furious. Sometimes we get more than we can handle... It's difficult to focus on your job when you get mind-blowing upsetting news in your personal life - I am sure it's especially hard when so much of your job goes on in your mind. (most of my job goes on in the washing machine, or so it feels like lately). Best wishes that things ease up for you soon, and of course that your friends get well and have all the help they need.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [shalea](#) on Fri, 24 Jul 2009 22:41:34 GMT
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So very sorry. Cancer is an absolute frelling ratbag sod of a disease. And regarding Mikey, at least he will go to someone who will be able to handle him, where he will be much happier as a result.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Melissa Mead](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 00:29:27 GMT
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I'm sorry on all counts. Crud, what a day.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 00:46:15 GMT
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Eeep. Is *that* a Freudian slip. I meant mad as in crazy (I've now edited the entry to 'nuts') but the truth is . . . I AM mad as in angry. I'm very angry. [mmph] That's me putting a sock in it, before I say something I'll regret. :(

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 00:48:06 GMT
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Oh *glory*, I'm so sorry!

And while we're still half-on the subject of homeopathy . . . it's a very good support therapy while you go through the usual cancer treatments. Worth a look.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 00:52:34 GMT
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Diane in MN wrote on Fri, 24 July 2009 04:39Damn cancer. Good luck to your friend; I hope this is an eminently treatable situation. ::crosses fingers and lights candle::

***** Thank you. I've got so many candles going I light up the night sky. Cancer SUCKS.

But I want to say something utterly naive and puerile here about how can you love a critter and not put in the basic time to train it, if it's the kind that needs training? [. . .] And basic companion-animal training just isn't that hard. You just have to do it. And there's nothing wrong with Mike but its lack.

Of course this isn't naive and puerile, it's sensible and adult and proactive, and (sorry, Pollyanna) that's why lots of people fail to do it.

***** Yes. ARRRRRGH. And a lot of them live around here and gaily let their unguided missiles off lead.

And most of them are pretty lucky; their untrained dog may be a pest, but not a snappy one, or it's small enough that its bad behavior is "cute" and not threatening. Or they keep it outside behind a fence and don't worry about it. I agree with you that this is a depressing situation, but there is a bright side: better he go to a new home now, while he's young and more easily trainable, than stay where he's not getting what he needs and might end up in big trouble. You've probably thought of this already, but I'd suggest talking to his breeder for help in placing him.

***** The breeder is where I WANT to start if I can pry the phone # off Daisy and Roy, who appear to be going into General Denial. Let them go into General Denial AFTER they've told me what I need to know to get moving.

I think what it does is give me, for about five seconds about three nights out of four, the illusion of having real dogs, you know, the kind that think food is terrific, the kind you can clicker-train because they respond to treats.

As I understand it you don't have to use food to clicker-train; it's a lot easier if you have a food-motivated dog, but you can click and praise or pet or give a toy, too. But everything's easier if they care about treats.

***** I'm under the impression that they have to respond reliably to *something*, and they don't. They respond best to praise, and in that case, I'm sorry, but what's the point of the clicker?

Oh yes, and Pegasus the Cow has just taken another dive into the ravine

Bad Pegasus! BEHAVE!

***** Sigh. Thank you . . .

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 00:54:42 GMT
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Heavens. Good luck to your mum, who is obviously a fighter.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 00:55:48 GMT
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Not always, I think. I've scratched my head over ingredient lists that say 'cranberries'.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 00:57:24 GMT
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Yes, a dog is for life, not just for Christmas, as the bumper sticker says. Sigh.

Yes, I SHOULD have posted a fresh-fruit pie in July, but somehow they're too, uh, *sunny* for the mood I was in.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 00:58:27 GMT
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Oh dear! Snork! My job feels like it's mostly going round in a washing machine too right now!

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 00:59:23 GMT
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Gods I hope so. It's just . . . it will take really COMMITTED effort to reclaim him. He's reclaimable . . . but it won't be easy.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 01:49:21 GMT
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Robin wrote on Fri, 24 July 2009 20:46Eeep. Is *that* a Freudian slip. I meant mad as in crazy (I've now edited the entry to 'nuts') but the truth is . . . I AM mad as in angry. I'm very angry. [mmph] That's me putting a sock in it, before I say something I'll regret. :(

Hehe. I figure you have the right to be angry. And nuts.

But yeah, I totally get biting your tongue. Mine has some teeth marks, too. :)

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 01:58:48 GMT

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Sigh. Whimper. Think of the DOG, you know? It's the dog's LIFE.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [Ithilien](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 05:20:11 GMT

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Robin wrote on Fri, 24 July 2009 21:58Sigh. Whimper. Think of the DOG, you know? It's the dog's LIFE.

Oh, yes, I know. I have nightmares about being neglectful to animals. (Bizarrely, the last lot were lambs and piglets, which I've never had much to do with. And I was keeping them in DRAWERS!)

More candles for your friends. I've just heard that Diana Wynne Jones has lung cancer and I'm deeply saddened.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [Diane in MN](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 06:28:16 GMT

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Robin wrote on Fri, 24 July 2009 19:52

***** I'm under the impression that they have to respond reliably to *something*, and they don't. They respond best to praise, and in that case, I'm sorry, but what's the point of the clicker?

Yes . . . I don't clicker-train; it needs a lot of hands, and it's another thing you have to wean the dog from when you go into competition. But people use the clicker as a marker for the dog, like they would use YES! or GOOD JOB!, and I guess it's easier for them to time the click to the behavior than to time the praise word.

It's tough with dogs like sighthounds (and sighthound descendants, ha!) to get that consistent reliable response because they don't pay attention to you-only-you, they have the whole world to notice too. I have never succeeded in being the most interesting thing around to my dog. Have I told this story? When I was training Zinka, we were in a building separated from a county road by a parking lot. On the other side of the road was another parking lot, and then a small office building with a big window that fronted on the street. Zinka would get distracted by watching the people in the office building move around in front of the window. And I was the one who had the food.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [jmeadows](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 10:59:00 GMT
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Ithilien wrote on Sat, 25 July 2009 01:20Robin wrote on Fri, 24 July 2009 21:58Sigh. Whimper. Think of the DOG, you know? It's the dog's LIFE.

Oh, yes, I know. I have nightmares about being neglectful to animals. (Bizarrely, the last lot were lambs and piglets, which I've never had much to do with. And I was keeping them in DRAWERS!)

I have the same sorts of dreams! But mostly about ferrets. I look away for a second, and like that, one is missing. YEEP! Jeff has nightmares about Kippy getting out of the house. (She's declawed -- not my decision, sniff! -- and wouldn't be able to protect herself.)

Some people have nightmares about their kids getting into trouble. I have nightmares about my pets. :P

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [L.R.K.](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 12:04:28 GMT
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Ithilien wrote on Sat, 25 July 2009 07:20

More candles for your friends. I've just heard that Diana Wynne Jones has lung cancer and I'm deeply saddened.

Yes - I heard that too, and am worried and saddened; the only news about it I've seen is the fact itself - do you know more?

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 23:03:35 GMT
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LOL!! With reference to a response I made in another thread just now, Danes and sighthounds DEFINITELY share some genes.

Yes, that's it for me with clicker training too--I am a Bad Careless Owner and my guys tend to get trained TOGETHER and I've only GOT two hands, one per hellhound. But I do have a VOICE.

(Also with reference to other threads, perhaps I should say I do have a YELL. :)) And I can say GOOD BOY *really fast.* --IF they actually DID respond like, ahem, NORMAL dogs, I might think again. As it is . . . all I want them for is company. They only need to be trained enough to be pleasant to have around. (Although I haven't QUITE given up on the Spanish Walk now that Chaos will *finally* lift his feet to have his harness put on.)

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Sat, 25 Jul 2009 23:05:55 GMT
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It's the Small Dependent Creatures thing. Yes. I know. I never had children so I DON'T know, but I've talked to enough mums--of course it's different but it's also the SAME. If it's dependent on you, you have nightmares. . . .

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Ithilien](#) on Sun, 26 Jul 2009 01:33:31 GMT
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L.R.K. wrote on Sat, 25 July 2009 08:04Ithilien wrote on Sat, 25 July 2009 07:20

More candles for your friends. I've just heard that Diana Wynne Jones has lung cancer and I'm deeply saddened.

Yes - I heard that too, and am worried and saddened; the only news about it I've seen is the fact itself - do you know more?

Neil Gaiman reported on his blog yesterday that she'd been in surgery (although he didn't say that it was for the cancer, her fansite says that she's also had back problems). No news otherwise.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [abigailmm](#) on Sun, 26 Jul 2009 01:36:30 GMT
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Piglets and lambs in the dresser -- ;)

My recurring (but thankfully fairly rare) pet nightmares are of animals that I actually have had. Canaries neglected with no food and water, aquaria breaking and fish all over the floor.

Fortunately dreams are all they are. Though I actually have neglected several PLANTS to death.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [Alannaewyn](#) on Sun, 26 Jul 2009 02:27:42 GMT

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Boy, is that familiar. Newborn baby bunnies all over the bottom of the cage.....a familiar enough occurrence, even when--somehow--it wasn't simply because I hadn't prepped the nesting box on time. Innumerable dreams along those lines, even now that I no longer have rabbits. And lambing problems, and I'm not there.....yeah. There's a lot of material for dreams about messing up when you've been responsible for helpless dependents since you were about seven--and responsibility is very much a learning process.....

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [southdowner](#) on Sun, 26 Jul 2009 11:43:33 GMT

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Robin wrote on Fri, 24 July 2009 19:52

***** I'm under the impression that they have to respond reliably to *something*, and they don't. They respond best to praise, and in that case, I'm sorry, but what's the point of the clicker? Communication! Clickers cut through all that "blah blah blah Rover blah blah" which is what most dogs hear. (with thanks to that great dog cartoon :))

Diane in MN wrote on Sat, 25 July 2009 07:28

Yes . . . I don't clicker-train; it needs a lot of hands, Yes! I said this when I started riding horses, bell ringing and driving, but now I do them (mostly!) on auto pilot - even uncoordinated me LOL I find persistence works amazingly well, and I AM a determined so and so! (Ask Robin lol)

Quote:...and it's another thing you have to wean the dog from when you go into competition. The clicker is amazing for teaching new behaviours, and for improving lapsed or high quality behaviours, and can be dispensed with once behaviours are learned or are at a sufficient standard. I transfer the sound to a "zzzzip!" and use that in the ring (when we won Best of Breed at Crufts with Elsa, and a few years before when we won Best Bitch in Breed at Crufts with Daisy. Daisy wouldn't show, and we only made her up to Champion by using clicker training to bark and bounce on command :))

Quote:...But people use the clicker as a marker for the dog, like they would use YES! or GOOD JOB!, and I guess it's easier for them to time the click to the behavior than to time the praise word. Nooooo! It's actually harder because the clicker is SO specific that you have to be accurate; with praise, even single words, they last much longer than a click, so the dog has to work out what you were praising - the greater the praise the woolier the effect if you are asking the dog to work out

what it was doing. Praise will get you big gross behaviours, but for fine tuning clickers will do it every time.

It is also possible to choose which fine tuned behaviours you want and put them together, in any combination, and to change behaviours to smaller, bigger, off a different cue...

and for me the biggest bonus is that training is a game and that we are partners and my dogs think for themselves, but use that skill to try and please me - I trained dogs before clicker training but I never knew the exhilaration and partnership that I have now due to clicker training :)

And Robin will tell you that Mike couldn't have ignored me MORE when we first met, and is not AT ALL motivated by food, but I'm betting that by controlling the environment initially and then gradually increasing the level of distraction I would be able to train him with clickers.

With my bullies I have found the secret of training "untrainable" breeds is to be motivating, to prevent other motivations/bad habits developing, and to get in there early! b_twin_1 and I have been agreeing on this - weeks 4 to 8 are THE most important. I start training and playing with my puppies from birth and by 8 weeks they don't know that they're untrainable.

Mwahaha!

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [shalea](#) on Sun, 26 Jul 2009 19:30:25 GMT

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Robin wrote on Fri, 24 July 2009 20:59: Gods I hope so. It's just . . . it will take really COMMITTED effort to reclaim him. He's reclaimable . . . but it won't be easy.

He is still young. And he has good genes, from what you said about finding him. And the right person will be the one who will see what a fine dog he's going to be when that committed effort has been made.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [Robin](#) on Sun, 26 Jul 2009 22:48:37 GMT

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This is all fascinating. Thank you! :) In my next life I will be a DOG TRAINER . . . so long as I can find YOU again in my next life and you're STILL a dog trainer! :)

I guess the answer is that I've never tried for anything beyond 'gross' behaviours (snork!). The last time I seriously tried to train a dog was before clickers were if not invented at least before the hoi polloi had heard of them. My hellhounds are, as I keep saying, ONLY companions and ONLY have the training they need to be nice ones. Although since after about a YEAR Chaos has finally

figured out how to raise his front feet sequentially to have his harness put on (Darkness learnt so long ago he's BORED with the whole thing) I'm having fantasies of the Spanish Walk again. BUT what you say about exactness is VERY interesting because I'm sure this is some of Chaos' problem. Darkness just *caught on* but Chaos has obviously had a very hard time figuring out exactly WHAT gets him praised. I know this sounds like a doting idiot owner but it's just NOT that he's stupid! He is way too bright about stuff that concerns him! Like the way he leaps to his feet looking for action as soon as he hears Windows closing down! LOL!

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [southdowner](#) on Sun, 26 Jul 2009 23:46:58 GMT

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Ok It's on my "to do" list - teach Chaos via clicker training - how about yes and no? We could ask him questions - "do you like Diana Wynne Jones?" Chaos nods.

"Do you like [author name deleted by Pollyanna]?" Chaos shakes his head.

and there are "better" questions... but I'm sure you can think of them :d

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [Diane in MN](#) on Mon, 27 Jul 2009 04:42:41 GMT

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southdowner wrote on Sun, 26 July 2009 06:43

Nooooo! It's actually harder because the clicker is SO specific that you have to be accurate; with praise, even single words, they last much longer than a click, so the dog has to work out what you were praising - the greater the praise the woolier the effect if you are asking the dog to work out what it was doing. Praise will get you big gross behaviours, but for fine tuning clickers will do it every time. ... and for me the biggest bonus is that training is a game and that we are partners and my dogs think for themselves, but use that skill to try and please me - I trained dogs before clicker training but I never knew the exhilaration and partnership that I have now due to clicker training :)

This is very interesting and does make sense. Although those of us who qualify for the Klutz Klub might have problems with the specificity aspect. :) Thanks for the correction!

Quote:With my bullies I have found the secret of training "untrainable" breeds is to be motivating, to prevent other motivations/bad habits developing, and to get in there early! b_twin_1 and I have been agreeing on this - weeks 4 to 8 are THE most important. I start training and playing with my puppies from birth and by 8 weeks they don't know that they're untrainable.

Mwahaha!

I'm glad you put "untrainable" in quotes because I don't think there are any "untrainable" breeds--it's just that some require different approaches. Dead right about the puppies--they start learning how to learn from the get-go, and it's so much harder for them and their eventual owners if they don't have that foundation.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Mon, 27 Jul 2009 12:08:08 GMT
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You're on. :) But we have to train Darkness too--in the first place he's EASIER and in the second place he'd be jealous!

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Robin](#) on Mon, 27 Jul 2009 12:11:16 GMT
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Yes, absolutely agree about 'untrainable'--and about different approaches!!!! It's just like human kids in human schools! If you don't learn easily by the STANDARD method you're STUPID!
WRONG!

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [holmes44](#) on Mon, 27 Jul 2009 15:55:45 GMT
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i second that some people don't take enough time or put enough effort into teaching their pets or kids at school.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [Guest](#) on Mon, 27 Jul 2009 23:13:32 GMT
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I am so sorry about all your upsetting news, my family has had a bad history with cancer, too--I'm lighting a candle for both of your friends.

I'm also sorry to hear about Mike, though I agree with several previous posts that if there is

anything worse than people giving up on a dog because they won't do the work, it is people not giving a dog up and ruining his life because they won't do the work. There are some dogs that I know in this situation and the sheer waste of it makes me want to scream and rend my hair.

I can also commiserate with the special difficulty of training non-food-focused hounds. Especially when said hounds do not seem to manifest any particular inclination to defer to your wisdom and judgement in exciting situations. I still have flashbacks of our one and only group obedience class and trying to explain to the trainer "no really, it's not that he has a poor attention span, it's that he has a really good sense of object permanence-he won't forget that that fabulously alluring agility-practicing doberman is over there and momentarily distracting him with treats and toys and sharp tugs on the leash will only get him so excited that when, after two seconds, his attention snaps back toward the object of his desire, there will be no containing him".

The irony was that out of a class of mostly cocker spaniels, golden retrievers, german shepherds, etc., Otis the problem child was the only one who consistently managed a four minute down and a 'stand for exam' without breaking. If you could overlook occasional efforts to bolt out of the ring, he was an obedience star :)

Take heart about retraining Mike-nine months ago Otis was a completely untrained, completely unsocialized (to humans), 100+lb. juggernaut with nothing but a sweet disposition to recommend him. Yesterday, he attended the annual Grapehounds wine tour-a benefit in honor of several local Greyhound rescues held by the wineries of Cayuga Lake-and we were able to beam with pride as he patiently negotiated tasting rooms filled with dogs and people to a chorus of, "he's so well behaved !" It can be done.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags
Posted by [shalea](#) on Tue, 28 Jul 2009 03:12:41 GMT
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southdowner wrote on Sun, 26 July 2009 07:43...With my bullies I have found the secret of training "untrainable" breeds is to be motivating, to prevent other motivations/bad habits developing, and to get in there early!...

Have you seen the book When Pigs Fly: Training Success with Impossible Dogs? It's all about clicker training the hard to train breeds, and there's a lovely white bully on the cover leaping over what I suspect is an agility jump. Any opinions? It seems to be one of the better clicker books that I've read.

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [Diane in MN](#) on Tue, 28 Jul 2009 04:54:54 GMT

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stormgoddess wrote on Mon, 27 July 2009 18:13

Take heart about retraining Mike-nine months ago Otis was a completely untrained, completely unsocialized (to humans), 100+lb. juggernaut with nothing but a sweet disposition to recommend him. Yesterday, he attended the annual Grapehounds wine tour-a benefit in honor of several local Greyhound rescues held by the wineries of Cayuga Lake-and we were able to beam with pride as he patiently negotiated tasting rooms filled with dogs and people to a chorus of, "he's so well behaved !" It can be done.

Bravo you! Bravo Otis! And I am charmed by the idea of the Grapehounds tour. Was Dr. Frank's vineyard a part of it? Is it still the only vinifera grower in the Finger lakes area?

Subject: Re: Frelling Ratbags

Posted by [southdowner](#) on Tue, 28 Jul 2009 22:36:15 GMT

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shalea wrote on Tue, 28 July 2009 04:12Have you seen the book When Pigs Fly: Training Success with Impossible Dogs? It's all about clicker training the hard to train breeds, and there's a lovely white bully on the cover leaping over what I suspect is an agility jump. Any opinions? It seems to be one of the better clicker books that I've read.

yes! it's easy to read and clearly structured - and of course I originally bought it for the cover lol
