

Problem Behaviors: Recognition

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Problem Behaviors in Dogs:

- Are undesirable for humans
- May be normal for dogs
- May be abnormal for dogs

Problem Behaviors can be Behaviors that are Normal for Dogs



- Engaging in normal dog behaviors is important for dog welfare
- Normal dog behaviors (e.g., chewing) can be problematic for humans depending on the context (e.g., your favorite shoe versus a dog toy)
- It is important to provide opportunities for appropriate outlets for these behaviors



Normal Dog Behaviors can be Problematic

- Barking
- Begging
- Chewing
- Destructiveness
- Digging
- Escape
- Excessive, rowdy, rough play
- Inappropriate elimination
- Jumping on people
- Lack of recall
- Mounting
- Mouthing
- Over-excitement

Problem Behaviors can be Behaviors that are Abnormal for Dogs



- Aggression (towards people, dogs, or both)
- Anxiety (types include noise, confinement, and separation)
- Fearful behaviors (whining, panting, cowering)
- Stereotypies (repetitive behaviors without a clear goal such as pacing, spinning)


Abnormal Dog Behavior can Indicate:

- Boredom
- Distress
- Pain
- Poor welfare

Prevent, Recognize, and Address Problem Behaviors!

Problem behaviors that are abnormal such as fear can severely damage a dog's **psychological** and **physical welfare**

Problem behaviors are a leading cause for **relinquishment, euthanasia, and poor welfare outcomes**



Problem Behaviors can Damage the Dog-Human Relationship

*Behavioral euthanasia is the leading
cause of death in dogs

Potential outcomes:

- Relinquishment
- Abandonment
- Behavioral Euthanasia*
- Dog Bites
- Road Accidents
- Community Disputes
- Property Damage
- Injury
- Owner Distress and Guilt
- Less Secure Owner Attachment to their Dog



Learn More:

- [At-a-Glance Behavior Problems: Application](#)
- [At-a-Glance Behavior Problems: Intervention](#)
- [At-a-Glance Behavior Problems: Experts](#)
- [Behavioral Indicators of Lack of Socialization in the Dog](#)
- [Overpopulation or Too Many Unwanted Pets?
Perspective on Concepts and Management Approaches](#)