

## **Daily Doga *Inspirations for you and your dog***

### ***Mine, Yours, Ours – Ownership, Possessions, Sharing***

What do we really own forever? We are attached to a lot of possessions that may or may not make us feel good for awhile. We don't really own our dogs. They will be with us for as long as they can. Given their short lives, it is wise to be aware of being their best advocate and teacher.

We teach children how to deal with anger and conflict. Teach our dogs the same. We teach children what is theirs, and not, and how to share. We can teach most dogs this. We can't expect them to know what we don't teach them. Humans are not consistent, but we are structural and habitual. This is good news. Dogs are too. Integrate this into daily living and learning.

Oftentimes I am asked how many toys, which ones, what about the children's toys, and should I buy this new wobbling this or that? Sure, buy all that you want. I do, but I dole it out in manageable doses. Giving our dogs a knotted sweatshirt sleeve may be as exciting to them as a new bongo tug. It depends on your dog.

I can share what I know to be true from living with multiple dogs for a long time. To live and last in a family household, with respect for other's stuff, they need to be taught [Mine, Yours, Ours](#). I can't go next door, walk into my neighbor's house and take their iPad. I can buy something new every week, and have new gadgets, but do I need more? Does your dog need more toys? How long did they focus on the last one. Look inside ... what they have is fine as long as they enjoy it and it is safe.

Teaching dogs or children that this time or object (slippers), is "mine", and giving them something that is "yours" (toy, game) distinguishes the difference. Have you ever pulled out a shirt from storage and thought, "I really like this, and it still fits?" Dogs do too. Box their 100 toys, and rotate them. Watch in glee as they rediscover it. Save a favorite toy or together time for special life rewards. Like us celebrating with chocolate raspberry yogurt cake with whipped cream, a good glass of wine, or cup of coffee or tea.

Snuggling, playing, walking or sharing a carrot stick or popcorn is "our" time. Clarifying the difference between mine, yours and ours creates a balanced and respectful relationship. It lessens conflict and keeps the dog out of trouble. Dogs, and especially puppies, do not want conflict. They need to know what is mine, yours and ours. "Oh, I get it ... the Kong is mine, and the gloves are yours, unless I'm asked to carry them for you." Learn more, [Mine, Yours, Ours](#).