

## Compulsive Behavior in Dogs

### **The causes and treatments of a dog's compulsive behavior.**

CAUSES OF COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR (fly-biting, tail-chasing, light-chasing, circling, etc.)

Miscellaneous: For many cases of compulsive behavior, the cause is unknown.

Congenital/Inherited disorders: Predisposition in certain breeds for some behaviors (flank-sucking in Doberman Pinschers, spinning in Bull Terriers, compulsive licking in large breeds).

Behavioral: Attention-seeking, at least initially.

Irritation/Inflammation: May precipitate licking, tail-chasing, or other actions, which eventually become compulsive behaviors.

What to do: Compulsive behavior is not an emergency, but your dog still needs veterinary and/or behavioral care. Call your veterinarian during regular office hours to make an appointment for diagnosis and treatment, which may include referral to an animal behaviorist.

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