

Dogs Behaving Badly

Expert answers your questions about bad behavior in dogs.

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I don't know if this dog is getting enough exercise. A tired dog is a good dog. If this is a high-energy dog, a Shepherd-Chow cross, it would have a lot of energy to blow off. Who knows what you're feeding it? High-performance rations? This dog could be all dressed up and no place to go.

It's too much of a loose cannon. It wants this, it wants that. Benign obedience training and the use of a head halter might solve the problem. It's needy of attention, exercise, clear communication. It's chewing on things out of displacement and frustration. When it chews on things, it gets attention. Clearly, pick up spectacles and things lying about.

Put in a dog door. Let the dog come and go at will, then you don't have to open it. In the middle of the night, you shouldn't address the problem. It might be an appropriate time to utilize a crate. Acclimate it to the crate first, with a blanket and one or two things to do. Then when it wants to go out, you pick up a training lead, which you've cleverly attached, and pop the dog in the crate. The effect is the dog gets a time out. It wants time in with you but it's getting a time out. Doing this would increase the frequency of leaving you alone, increase good behavior and avoid the consequence it didn't want. It sounds like a sensitive dog. It's probably reasonably smart. It would learn this just isn't going to happen anymore.

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