



ELIMINATE DOG Loneliness

ACROSS THE NATION, THE DEMAND FOR DOG DAYCARE IS GROWING. THE MORE WE UNDERSTAND ABOUT OUR BELOVED CANINE COMPANIONS, THE HARDER IT IS TO LEAVE THEM HOME ALONE EVERY DAY WHILE WE ARE AT WORK AND PLAY. MANY PEOPLE WILL HAVE A DOG BEFORE THEY HAVE CHILDREN (OR INSTEAD OF CHILDREN) AND MANY WILL HAVE A DOG LONG AFTER THEIR CHILDREN HAVE LEFT HOME. A DOG IS LESS LIKELY TO BE SEEN AS "JUST A DOG" THAN AS A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY. WE LIKE TO THINK OF FIDO HAVING FUN RATHER THAN SITTING IN A CRATE OR TEARING UP THE HOUSE WHILE WE ARE GONE; AND, WHILE WE LOVE OUR DOGS, WE ALSO LIKE THE OCCASIONAL "NIGHT OFF" FROM PLAYING BALL OR GOING FOR A MILE-LONG WALK.

YOU CAN RELAX

IT CAN BE TAXING AT TIMES TO COME HOME AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK - AND AN OFTEN LENGTHY COMMUTE - ONLY TO FIND FIDO HYPER AND READY TO ROMP AND PLAY FOR AN HOUR WHEN ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS KICK OFF YOUR SHOES AND RELAX. OCCASIONAL TRIPS TO YOUR LOCAL CAMP MAY MEAN A NIGHT OR TWO OF REST AND RELAXATION WITH A DOG THAT IS MORE APT TO SNUGGLE THAN DROP A BALL AT YOUR FEET EVERY TEN SECONDS. OTHERS ARE USING DAYCARE AS A WAY TO FEEL BETTER ABOUT WORKING ALL DAY AND HAVING THE OCCASIONAL NIGHT OUT. LEAVE FIDO AT DAY CAMP WHILE YOU ARE AT WORK AND HE WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SLEEP AT HOME WHILE YOU GO OUT TO DINNER. IT IS TRUE THAT A TIRED DOG IS A WELL-BEHAVED DOG.

A BETTER BEHAVED DOG

HAVING A WELL-BEHAVED DOG AT HOME ISN'T THE ONLY REASON PEOPLE ARE CHOOSING DOG DAYCARE. AS TRAINING CLASSES AND "PUPPY PLAY TIMES" AT LOCAL PET STORES BECOME MORE POPULAR, THE IDEA OF A WELL-SOCIALIZED DOG HAS TAKEN HOLD AS WELL. IT IS A WONDERFUL THING TO TAKE YOUR DOG FOR A WALK AND NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HOW HE WILL BEHAVE WHEN YOU PASS ANOTHER DOG ALONG YOUR ROUTE. HAVING A DOG THAT IS HAPPY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND DOGS MAKES GOING FOR WALKS AND HAVING COMPANY IN YOUR HOME MUCH MORE ENJOYABLE... AND FUN! DOGS ARE SOCIAL ANIMALS BY NATURE AND, WHEN SOCIALIZED, ENJOY THE COMPANY OF OTHER DOGS. TAKING FIDO TO DAY CARE CAN HELP HIM STAY WELL-SOCIALIZED; SOCIALIZATION TO DOGS IS LIKE FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO US - IF IT ISN'T PRACTICED IT WILL BE FORGOTTEN.

BALANCE

THE OTHER TREND THAT IS REFLECTED IN THE GROWING DEMAND FOR DOG DAY CARE IS THE TREND TOWARDS ADOPTION OF DOGS FROM SHELTERS RATHER THAN PURCHASING THEM FROM PET STORES OR BREEDERS. OBVIOUSLY, JUST AS WITH PEOPLE, A DOG'S PAST CAN OFTEN AFFECT THEIR FUTURE. MANY DOGS THAT HAVE BEEN ABANDONED OR NEGLECTED END UP WITH SOME FORM OF SEPARATION ANXIETY WHICH CAN LEAD TO DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR. IF FIDO ISN'T AT HOME, HE CAN'T DESTROY YOUR HOME, BUT BENEFITS FROM DAILY DAY CARE VISITS CAN ADD UP. FOR MOST DOGS, TWO OR THREE VISITS A WEEK WILL KEEP THEM PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY STIMULATED ENOUGH THAT DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR IS GREATLY REDUCED IF NOT COMPLETELY ELIMINATED WHEN COUPLED WITH APPROPRIATE TOYS, TREATS, AND PROPER CRATE TRAINING AT HOME.