



# PET BEHAVIOR CONSULTATIONS

Tel: (781) 862-5060  
www.PetBehaviorProblems.com

## What's New at Pet Behavior Consultations

### Dear Friends and Colleagues;

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Leah Nettle to Pet Behavior Consultations! Dr. Nettle comes to us after earning her PhD in Biology from Binghamton University, where she studied the vocal communication in American Crows. She has worked closely with me at Pet Behavior Consultations since 2014, applying her knowledge of animal behavior and learning to the field of companion animal behavior. She also has experience as a veterinarian assistant. Both Dr. Nettle and I will continue to see appointments either in clients' homes or in our office. Both of us will also be handling telephone consults and web cases through [Petbehaviorproblems.com](http://Petbehaviorproblems.com). Thank you for referring your clients to us over the past years. Feel free to call us if you have any questions, need any help on a case or would like more information.

Amy Marder VMD CAAB



### Dr. Leah Nettle

Dr. Leah Nettle earned her Phd. in Biology from SUNY Binghamton University focusing on behavior, ecology and evolution. She studied the vocal communication of American Crows during breeding and feeding situations, deciphering the contexts and functions of two crow calls. Prior to Binghamton University, Dr. Nettle worked in a companion animal veterinary clinic as a veterinary assistant. Since 2014, she has worked with and learned from Dr. Amy Marder, CAAB, a leading expert in the fields of animal shelter and companion animal behavior, attending to a variety of cat and dog behavior problems at appointments in the clients homes and in the Lexington office. In her free time, Dr. Nettle loves yoga, cooking, hiking and spending time with her husband, dog and two cats.

### Dog Sports for your Reactive Dog

*By Dr. Leah Nettle*

Having a reactive dog often means that you avoid traditional dog sports, as many reactive dogs aren't appropriate for group training classes. If your dog barks, lunges and overall cannot focus around other dogs, your dog cannot learn effectively and the sport ends up not being fun for anyone! However, if you are looking for a fun way to engage your dog's mind and body and maybe looking to gain a few titles along the way, there are several options for titling and competing with a reactive dog. Some newer dog sports either work with dogs individually and/or you can compete with your dog remotely or virtually. Whether your dog loves sniffing, jumping, balancing or performing, there's a dog sport for them!

**Nosework:** In K9 nose work, also called scent work, you work with your dog's natural sniffing ability to find specific odors hidden in containers, indoors and outside and around a vehicle. Based on traditional working detection dogs, nose work is becoming a popular dog sport in the US and around the world. The NASCW and the UKC offer competitions and titles in nose work. K9 nose work is often a good option for reactive dogs as dogs (and their handlers) work one at a time while the other dogs in a group class or at a trial are crated or otherwise separated from other dogs and handlers. In NACSW nose work events, reactive dogs wear red bandanas so that other participants know to give them extra space. Before registering for group nose work class near you, make sure that your instructor understands your dog's needs and that the instructor and other participants are prepared to keep a comfortable distance from your dog. Aside from group classes, you can take online classes (see below), private lessons (see below) or train at home on your own. Hide some treats around your house- watch your dog's nose work and tail wag! Visit [www.nacsw.net](http://www.nacsw.net) and [www.ukcdogs.com/nosework](http://www.ukcdogs.com/nosework) for more information.

**Dog Parkour:** Is your dog bouncing off the walls? Dog parkour, also called urban agility or barkour, focuses on training your dog to move through their physical environment in creative ways. You teach your dog to jump, climb, crawl and balance safely on and through objects in your surroundings. Run by the International Dog Parkour Association, you can title your dog in five levels (training level through championship) of parkour, with each title detailing which activities your dog must perform and on which type of obstacle. Title applications are submitted in video form, so your dog does not need to interact with other dogs or people. While there are group classes and workshops available in select locations, you can take dog parkour classes online (see virtual training classes below) or train your dog in your neighborhood, backyard or home. You don't need any special equipment for dog parkour, besides a safe harness for your dog and a creative eye for obstacles in your environment. For more information, visit [dogparkour.org](http://dogparkour.org). *Continue*



**Trick Dog:** Does your dog love learning know tricks? You and your dog can earn a trick dog certificate by performing tricks in front of a witness of your choosing (even a family member!), or earn an official trick dog title by performing tricks in front of a Certified Trick Dog Instructor or Canine Good Citizen evaluator. Originally only offered through Do More With Your Dog!, the AKC also now offers trick dog titles and is currently grandfathering in titles from Do More With Your Dog!. Both organizations offer titles at varying levels, where your dog is required to perform an increasing number of tricks at higher difficulty levels. Like Dog Parkour, you can find group and online trick dog classes and workshops. However, you can learn how to train almost all the tricks required for the trick dog titles in the series of dog trick books by Kyra Sundance. For more information on trick dog titles, finding instructors, registering for online classes and buying Kyra Sundance's books, visit [domorewithyourdog.com](http://domorewithyourdog.com). Visit [www.akc.org/about-trick-dog](http://www.akc.org/about-trick-dog) to learn more about the AKC Trick Dog titles.

**Virtual training classes:** Not only are online classes great for reactive dogs, because you can do them from the comfort of your own home, they are also great for people who don't live near or can't get to dog training facilities. Aside from nose work, parkour and trick dog classes, you can find classes on other dog sports like agility, obedience and even flying disk! Fenzi Dog Sports academy ([fenzidogsportsacademy.com](http://fenzidogsportsacademy.com)) is one of the larger virtual dogs training websites. Fenzi Dog Sports Academy offers a variety of classes six times a year. You can opt to learn remotely by watching videos and reading course material or opt to participate in the class by submitting questions and/or videos of your dog to your course instructor. [Daisypeel.com](http://Daisypeel.com) and [karenpryoracademy.com](http://karenpryoracademy.com) also offer some virtual dog

**Private lessons:** Private lessons may also be an option for your reactive dog. Many training facilities offer private training sessions on a variety of dog sports for just you and your dog. Make sure to discuss with your trainer first about your dog's needs and comfort level. Have fun! Having a reactive dog doesn't mean you must forego dog sports while you are working through your dog's reactivity. Dog sports can be a great way to work your dog's mind, burn off a busy dog's energy and create a bonding experience for you both.

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## Pet Behavior Problems .com



We offer web and phone consultations through our website [www.PetBehaviorProblems.com](http://www.PetBehaviorProblems.com). Animal behavior problems are common and one the biggest reasons that people give up their animals or treat them harshly. By treating behavior problems we can enhance the relationship between a person and their companion animal and prevent further damage. The web enables us to help people that do not have access to veterinary behaviorists. For people who are not able to use the web, we also provide the same services by telephone. Of course we would rather fly to every one of you to help you, but unfortunately THAT would be impossible.



**Partners For Life Dog Training & Pet Behavior Consultations**  
We also offer dog training classes with Suzanne Flaherty at Partners for Life Dog Training. Partners for Life Dog Training offers training classes that improve the relationship between you and your best friend. Our training is force-free and we have small class sizes, so that more attention is devoted to you and your dog!

**We offer:**

- Early learning for Puppies
- Good Manners
- Good Manners II

**Regular class times:**

- Saturday 9 am & 10 am
- Tuesday evening 6 pm & 7 pm
- Sunday 11 am & 12 pm
- Wednesday Good Manners II 7 pm

**Registration:**

Visit our website to learn more about our upcoming classes and to register your dog or puppy: [www.PetBehaviorProblems.com/obedie.htm](http://www.PetBehaviorProblems.com/obedie.htm).

**Suzanne Flaherty:** Professional member APDT, Behavior College Mentor, AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator. 15 years working with people and their canine companions at Partners for Life Dog Training.



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