



## Poooper Monthly

### NO! The Most Useless Word in the Canine Vocabulary

This one word will hold you back when dealing with dogs. And they don't even know what it means! But what they do know is the sounds it makes when coming out of your mouth means that you are not happy.

So why beat your head against this linguistic wall? Get rid of the word from your vocabulary and see the results!

You could argue the word 'no' is wholly appropriate as a marker to correct undesired behaviours, but what people fail to realize is that by issuing the word 'no', they have not only uttered a word, but their body language will have changed. When dealing with a creature as perceptive as a dog, these non-verbal communications will be noted, remembered and disliked!

Many dogs have already learned that the word 'no' is something to be ignored. Especially if it is something they hear all the time. It is just white noise and it is connected to something negative. So how do we get around using this ugly, ugly word?

**Positive Reinforcement:** This will not draw attention to the shortcomings of a dog but give hearty consent to desired behaviours. Many people believe that dogs need to know what they are doing wrong. This just complicates things. Let them know what they are doing right!

**Pick Your Battles:** If you do find yourself in a situation where you must use the word 'no' be sure you are in a position to enforce it. If your dog is about to do something you know you can't stop, saying nothing is better than saying 'no'. If you say 'no' to something he or she is debating on doing and they decide not to do it, here is your chance to use Positive Reinforcement for their good behaviour. Praise them and show them that listening to you is a good thing!

To conclude, we all fall into the 'no' trap. We tend to say it loud and harsh and we repeat it over and over. This is not teaching your dog anything. We need to build a trusting relationship. If we raise our voice, our dog fears us and it will make it that much harder to train and get the desired behaviour from our beloved family members. For more training advice, contact Roland. He is a professional dog trainer for [www.CanineCorrection.com](http://www.CanineCorrection.com)!

### POOOH BUSTERS

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#### Did you know...

- ☺ ...that a 1-year-old dog is as physically active as a 15-year-old human?
- ☺ ...that dogs have an incredible internal clock? They know when you are due home from work, when it's dinner time and when it's time to go to bed.
- ☺ ...if you brush your dog 3 times a week in the Spring, you'll have a summer free from shedding?
- ☺ ...dogs become loyal not because you feed them, but because of the companionship you give them?

#### Poooper of the Month

Poooh Busters is proud to present Alabama as February's Poooper of the Month!



Get your dog featured as Poooper of the Month in 2009!

Email your dog's pictures and bios to Roland at [info@pooohbusters.com](mailto:info@pooohbusters.com)

### Happy Valentine's!

We all love our pets. They add happiness and some unpredictability to our lives. I personally couldn't imagine my life without some sort of pet in my home. So why not give back a little this Valentine's? You don't need to buy your dog

a card or candy, or sparkly jewellery. All they want from you to show them that you love them is some attention, kindness and a fun day out of the house.



So this year, take them for a walk around neighbourhood or take them for a ride in the car to visit family. They just want to be a part of our lives and to be included in the things that families do.

Happy Valentine's 2009!