

Training Problems or Behaviour Problem?



**Maggie's
Rescue**

Training problems are socially unacceptable behaviour and are seen as problematic by dog owners and the community. Such behaviours may include: digging up gardens, jumping on people, barking (in some cases), and pulling on leashes.

These behaviours often occur due to:

- A lack of training
- Inappropriate training
- A lack of understanding of the behavioural needs of animals



Force-free trainers or training clubs can help solve training problems.

What happens during a mental health disorder or anxiety problem?

- The emotional/danger centre of the brain is predominantly switched on more than 'normal'
- Threats being real or imagined
- The animal is not 'consciously' or rationally thinking, i.e. the thinking centre is not working well

Seek help if the behaviour becomes:

- Abnormal or irrational
- Disruptive to the household
- Detrimental to the health and welfare of the pet, the owner and the community

Examples may include:

- Separation distress
- Aggression towards people, dogs, other animals or certain objects
- Excessive barking
- Noise and thunderstorm phobias
- Fearful behaviour
- Compulsive behaviours, e.g. tail-chasing, flank sucking, and shadow chasing



Mental health problems cannot be solved solely by training - a veterinary behaviour consult is generally required alongside the treatment of the medical anxiety disorder, combined with a behaviour modification program.