



There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats.

Albert Schweitzer
French physician & philosopher

YOU & YOUR

Speaking Your Dog's Language

By MICHAEL McDONOUGH

Dogs are animals, who, without proper training, can soil your house, destroy your belongings, bark excessively, dig, fight other dogs or perhaps even bite you.

Nearly all behavior problems are perfectly normal but are just not appropriate in a domestic setting. For example, a dog may eliminate on the carpet instead of

outside, bark all night long instead of just when a stranger is prowling around outside, or chew furniture or shoes instead of his own toys.

The key to solving these types of problems is effective communication with your pet. But how?

We must first understand dogs learn by experience. If the experience is good, they will repeat the activity. If the experience is bad, they won't.

This is where a system of rewards and reprimands come into play. First, our interpretation of a reward or reprimand may be entirely different from the dog's interpretation. What we may think is a reprimand, may actually be a reward to the dog. For example, your dog is barking incessantly. What do you do? Probably yell at him to stop? Why doesn't he stop? You think you are

reprimanding him. He thinks, "Great my owner is barking with me!"

The second reason is timing. If your training isn't working then your timing is probably off. Effective corrections should be given as the bad behavior is happening, not after the fact.

For example, your dog gets away from you and won't come back. You call and call but he ignores you, preferring to play with that other dog. Finally, he comes to you and your first reaction is to shout "Bad dog!"

What was the activity immediately preceding the reprimand? His coming to you! Unfortunately you just scolded him for following through. Next time it will take even longer to get him.

Many times we unintentionally reward or reprimand our dog. Without even knowing it, we are shaping our dog's

behavior and teaching him bad habits. Dogs are always learning. It is up to us to become aware of how our actions affect our dogs.

Contributed courtesy of Back to Basics Dog Training Academy, serving Uxbridge, Stouffville, Neumark and surrounding areas. For more information call 852-1286.



PUPPY CLASSES

- Shape your puppies future from an early age with private training sessions in your own home.
- Motivational Training Techniques.
- Consultations available for all aspects of puppy training.
- Aggression Prevention.
- Puppy play groups beginning in the fall.

Louise Tackaberry
905-294-2196



Second Hand Smoke Affects All Members Of The Family

Tips To Help You Quit



- Exercise! Take your dog out for a walk.
- Spend 20 minutes playing with or grooming your pet.
- Simply petting your dog or cat can reduce anxiety.

This ad sponsored by the Committee For A Smoke-Free Uxbridge

Flyball Dog Racing Coming To Town

Flyball dog racing is coming to town. The Stouffville Flea Market will be hosting a competition March 15 and 16 and the event promises to be exciting and will showcase the talents of some well-trained dogs, says Paula Perini, a local trainer. The sport is a lightning fast relay competition which sees teams of four dogs take turns jumping over a hurdle, catching a tennis ball then sprinting to the finish line. Fractions of a second are crucial with the four-part relay taking place in 20 seconds or less. Perini's team, made up of four border collies and nine humans who serve as handlers, line coaches and general support staff, started out three years ago in 41st place and is currently ranked second in North America. Plans are to be world champions in the upcoming year.



- Orange & white male
- 2 years old
- Gentle & affectionate

To adopt, call the Uxbridge/Scugog Animal Shelter 985-9547

Kindly sponsored by:

McDonald's Uxbridge



You and Your Pet returns in January. Happy, healthy holidays to all!

groomingdale's PET GROOMING SALON

PROFESSIONAL GROOMING FOR ALL BREEDS OF DOGS & CATS OFFERING A FULL RANGE OF GROOMING SERVICES



CARING FOR YOUR PET IS OUR NUMBER 1 PRIORITY
Veterinarian recommended

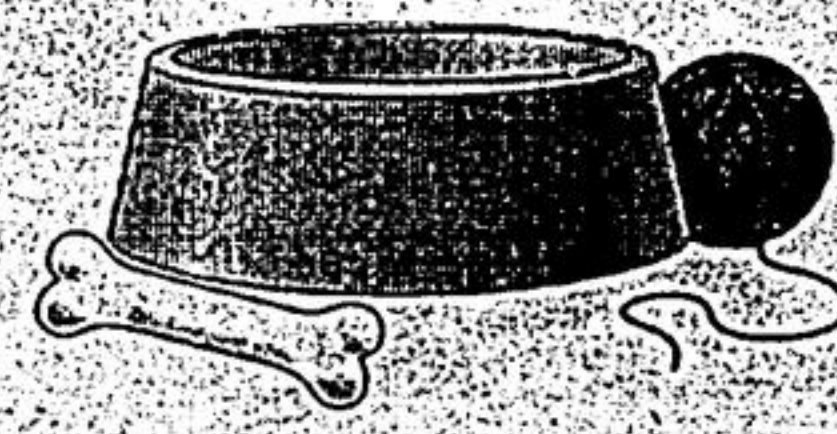
905-472-2323

1 MINTLEAF GATE - MARKHAM
(3 BLKS. E. OF MAIN ST. MARKHAM AT 16TH AVE)

Booking now for Christmas



When your "best friend" is gone...



... services in the community can help.

- Personalized Memorials • Pet Markers
- Custom Design • Home Appointments

Uxbridge Memorial Company

Call collect 852-3472 ~ Res. (705) 228-1046
108 Brock St. W., Uxbridge ~ David & Lori Tomkinson

UXBRIDGE VETERINARY CLINIC

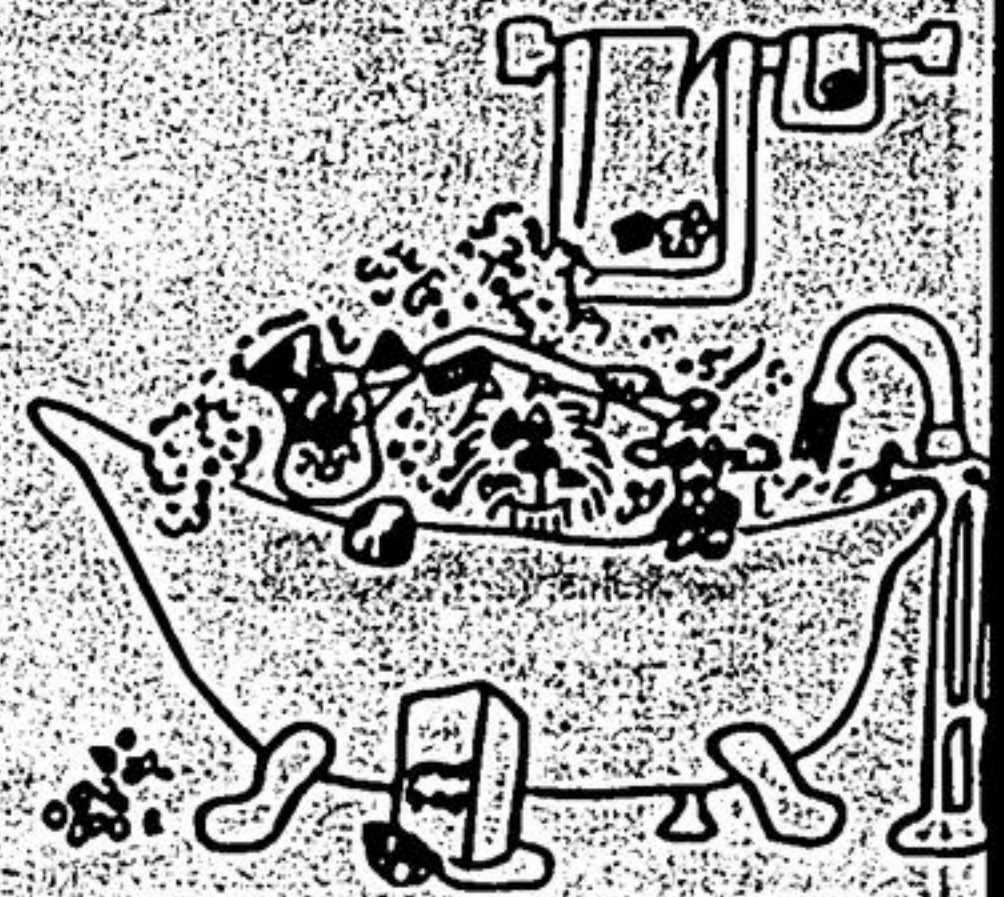
Dr. Grant Elliott, D.V.M. • Dr. Fred Cotie D.V.M.
Dr. Wayne Cole, D.V.M. Dr. Shawn Tucker, D.V.M.

- Large & Small Animals
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Serving the community for 30 Years

120 MAIN ST. N., UXBRIDGE
852-3319

POOCHES

ALL BREED DOG GROOMING



10% off for Seniors

Book Now for Christmas

Beverly Holliss

33 The Bridle Trail Unionville 475-3711