

Parking Lot Puppies

by Valerie Broadway

This is a cautionary tale for those who get or give away parking lot puppies.

Recently, I heard about the story of a young puppy who at only 9 weeks old had experienced more trauma than most dogs do in a lifetime. The story began on a January day in the parking lot of a local shopping center. A man was giving away a litter of puppies to anybody who would take one. With no parent present, a seventeen-year-old girl walked away with one of the pups; a tiny six to seven-week-old, female, Pug mix. When she got home her father would not allow the pup inside the house, so the puppy lived alone in the girl's car for two weeks.

When the girl had to go out of town for a school trip she asked her grandmother if she would keep the puppy while she was gone. Grandmother said yes, but she had to stay in the barn. The puppy was placed in the barn and the girl left, realizing this was not a good situation. The girl asked a friend if she could come to get the puppy and hold it until she returned from the trip. When the friend arrived to pick up the puppy the grandmother's dog, who was tied out near the barn, broke its tether and bit the young lady and attacked the puppy.

The puppy suffered severe injuries consisting of puncture wounds on her body and deep lacerations on the abdomen and a rear leg. There was talk of euthanizing the puppy, but there were people who arranged to pay the substantial vet bills. The pup underwent two surgeries to repair her broken body. She was then posted on social media in search of a permanent home. The post caught the attention of a volunteer with



Chatham Animal Rescue and Education (CARE) who offered to foster the puppy.

Upon entering foster care the puppy was still recovering and wearing a cone to keep her from tearing out stitches. She needed time to rest and recover from her injuries. The puppy was named Nala meaning "beloved." Nala now has two other young foster puppies in the home to play and learn social skills with. Nala is showing signs of separation anxiety, likely from being removed from the litter too young, along with the time she spent alone in the car. Thankfully, Nala's foster home is experienced in puppy-raising and can help her work through this issue.

Nala's foster mom, Laura, wishes people weren't allowed to give away puppies in parking lots. She says, "The reality is puppies will find better homes if they go to the (animal) shelter or a rescue group. Shelters and rescue groups allow access to other resources for spay and neuter and vaccinations.



Most importantly, puppies wouldn't risk going through the trauma as this one did."

Through a series of miracles, Nala's story has a happy ending. Laura and CARE will see to it that she has a wonderful life. Nala will be available for adoption in mid-March when she will be around four months old. Laura would like to see her placed in a home with a fenced yard and a friendly, playful companion dog. For more information about Nala and other pets available for adoption go to CARE's website at www.chathamanimalrescue.org.

As exemplified in Nala's story, the parking lot puppy scenario is high risk for the puppies. People who really care about the future of their puppies would never consider finding homes for them this way. For most people, it is usually an impulse decision to take a parking lot puppy, but there are some things to keep in mind. More likely than not, these puppies and their mothers have

The Canine Coach

BY VALERIE BROADWAY



been deprived of basic healthcare. They are likely to be behind on vaccinations and often are infested with parasites, sick, or incubating a serious disease, such as the Parvovirus. These "free" puppies will likely cost the new owner a lot of money right away and when puppies are severely ill, even with vet care, they may not survive.

Something else to keep in mind is, giving away free puppies is like ringing the dinner bell for dogfighting rings or demented animal abusers. The people giving puppies away may try to convince themselves that all the puppies are going to loving homes and will live long happy lives. Unfortunately, it is likely that at least some of the puppies will end up in less than desirable situations.

There are low-cost options for spaying and neutering of dogs and cats in Chatham County. Chatham County Animal Services can be reached at 919-542-7203, www.chathamnc.org/animalservices, and Chatham Animal Rescue and Education at 919-542-5757, www.chathamanimalrescue.org. Both organizations offer spay/neuter/vaccination vouchers based on household income. The out-of-pocket expense is only \$20 per pet. CARE routinely offers specials where dog and cat spays/neuters are free.

Valerie Broadway, the Canine Coach, is a dog trainer and behavioral specialist. For more information, call her at 919.542.4726 or visit www.caninecoachingservices.com



Ollie is a rescued black and white Shih Tzu that turned his passion for helping other pets into a popular advice column. Ask Ollie questions by emailing him at chathamcountyline@gmail.com

DEAR OLLIE,

I am a spoiled-rotten Bichon Frise.

I cry and whine daily like a 2 year-old child. I whine out of jealousy, like when I try to spoil mom's cuddle-sessions with my sisters. I whine for attention, like when I need a boost on the couch (even though I miraculously manage to hop up there myself when I have to), or when mom's ignoring me when she's engaged in her tv show or a book. I whine when I want my bones or when I'm tired and ready to go to bed. I'll whine and bark to my granny in anticipation of mom coming home from work every night. I'm even whining right now as mom types this for me!

Now, some of my whine's are helpful, like when I whine to go outside and go potty. But generally speaking, I just use my whining to get my way and NOW.

Ollie, how can I stop being so annoyingly spoiled and attached to mom while still getting my needs met and remaining as cute as ever?

Sincerely,
Abby the Whiner

DEAR ABBY,

Well, you certainly are a cute dog because the Bichon Frise is always cute.

What is not attractive or cute and certainly not endearing to your human, is this horrible whining. Your human has spoiled a perfectly good dog. You are whining to communicate that you need attention NOW and your human is always responding to it. The human is at fault here. I bet the human cuddles or picks you up when you whine. In fact, the whining for attention cycle can only be broken if the human is serious about breaking this obnoxious cycle. The only way to break your whining habit is for your human to pay absolutely no attention to you when you whine for attention.

Let me explain the facts. First, it takes 21 days to change a behavior so have your human look at a calendar and begin counting. Secondly, you exist in a three second world. There are only three seconds from the whine (the stimulus) to the attention (response) for us to work with this. Your human must ignore you completely when you whine. This means no yelling, no eye contact, no praise, no cuddling, no picking up etc. From this moment on, when



you whine you are 100 percent invisible. What I mean is that your very cute self does not exist. Unless..... you are whining so your human takes you outside to potty. We do not want to extinguish that behavior because it is positive. The negative behavior has to go but your human must take the lead. I know that you can do it and when you do, you will not only be cute, you will be adorable.

Ollie

"Love is a four legged word."

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Wake-Up Wednesday

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