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## For Pet Parents and Pet Professionals

Animal Behavior Associates Newsletter

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### Dear Suzanne,

We hope you've had a good month and are enjoying the weather in your part of the world. We've been busy this month not only with our business, but with helping launch a new endeavor by a group of applied animal behaviorist colleagues. Read more under our "What's New" section, and visit a new website we had a hand in creating - [CertifiedAnimalBehaviorist.com](http://CertifiedAnimalBehaviorist.com)  
We'd love your feedback!

Best,  
Suzanne and Dan

### **Dog Piece:** **Canines and Crowds**



station at Gothic (really nothing more

We spent the 4th of July with our friend Kathy in Gunnison in southwestern Colorado. After running a 9 mile race from the biological experiment

### • **Cat Piece:** **Redirected Aggression**

We've seen several cases this month of cats with a long history of living together peaceably, suddenly fighting. The most common reason for this pattern is redirected aggression. Both of our cases can be attributed to one or both cats being startled or frightened by other cats they saw outside, and directing that aggression to each other, because they were prevented from attacking



than a few log cabins) on the way to down to Crested Butte, we stayed to watch the town's parade. The little mountain ski town was jammed with people - we've never seen it so crowded in the 15 or so years we've been going there for the summer holiday. People were sitting on the curbs while others trying to shop were trying to pass by them.

We saw all kinds of dogs - large and small, puppies and adults. The dogs were having to cope with the jostling crowds, hot weather, and the loud music and voices coming over the P.A. system. Not an easy set of circumstances for any dog. Some dogs seemed to handle this difficult situation better than others. One very cute chocolate Labrador puppy was sprawled on a step leading into a store, which at least minimized his chances of being stepped on. Although he appeared quite relaxed, we're not so sure that he wasn't just so overwhelmed he'd just "tuned out".

The worst thing we saw was a little girl, about 7 years old, who was clearly frustrated with her small fuzzy puppy and lifted the dog all the way up off the ground by the leash and collar to get the dog over to where her family was sitting. We spoke up!

While we are strong proponents of socialization, we also become quite frustrated when we see dogs at events that can't be enjoyable for them. When we see dogs panting and hot without any water, becoming grumpy with each other as they are forced together because of the crowded conditions, we think these dogs are not having pleasant socialization experiences but instead are just learning to dislike crowds, other dogs and noises.

We encourage pet parents who take their dogs with them to summer activities and outings to plan ahead for their dogs' needs. Dogs need water, a shady place to rest, a zone of "personal safety" where people won't step on

the outdoor cats.

Unfortunately for cat owners, just one of these encounters can have relatively long-lasting effects on their cats' relationships. One of our clients attempted to re-introduce her cats after separating them for 3 days without success. It's not uncommon for these problems to require several months to resolve.

The most important first step is to separate the cats in order to prevent more fights. Don't make the dangerous assumption that the cats will "forget" and things will be fine the next time they see each other. Some cats can be fine if both ignore each other, but if one starts to initiate play, the other now mistrusts these intentions and becomes defensively threatening or aggressive.

These kinds of problems are likely more prevalent this time of year because there are more free roaming cats. Cat owners would be wise to keep an eye out and take steps to deter the presence of free roaming cats near their homes. In communities with cat leash laws, animal control officers can issue citations or provide safe, humane cat traps. If you set a trap, it is your responsibility to check it several times a day. Leaving a cat in a trap without food or water for longer than several hours is cruel, and depending on weather conditions cats can succumb quickly.

Another approach, especially if you suspect the presence of outdoor cats, is to be proactive and take steps to block your cats' outside view. You might keep drapes or shutters closed, put carpet runners, point-side up, in windowsills to discourage your cats from sitting there, or place cardboard, foil or decorative covers on the lower third of your windows.

Working with these problems is not that different from how a new cat should initially be introduced to the household. It's important to prevent the cats from seeing one another, and only allow them to hear and smell one another while using food, toys and/or petting to keep the cats calm and happy. Details of these procedures can be found in our presentation and audio CD

them or fall into them, and direct supervision by a responsible adult. Dogs should not be left tied up outside unsupervised while people shop or eat.

Pet parents should also carefully consider whether their dogs belong at these events. Might the dog be happier and safer left at home for a few hours in an air conditioned house or shady back yard with a food- filled toy? That was our conclusion when we decided to leave our Irish setter Coral at Kathy's house. While she definitely would have enjoyed the run, she would have hated the crowds and noise. Instead, later in the day we took Coral and our Dalmatian Ashley to a large open space for a romp. We were all happy with that choice!

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## July Special

With the professional projects and networking we've undertaken over the last few months, we've become even more convinced of the value of taking a wellness approach to pet behavior. Behavior wellness includes being proactive, regularly monitoring your pet's behavioral health, systematically encouraging healthy behaviors and meeting your pet's behavior needs. Preventing your problems is so much better for people, pets and the community than trying to resolve ones that have been a long time in the making. To help pet professionals incorporate behavior wellness into their businesses, we are offering our Wellness Packages at a special price -

Regular Price \$36.45

Package Price \$28.95

**Incorporating Behavioral Wellness into your  
[Grooming Business](#)**

and

**Incorporating Behavioral Wellness**

program [Helping Cats Co-Exist](#)

If you allow your cat outside, be aware that not only is this dangerous for your cat, but you could also be wrecking havoc on the relationships of your neighbors' indoor cats. There is no reason to allow cats to roam. Cats can enjoy outside time by being put in an [outdoor cat enclosure](#) or taken for walks. For leash walks, we recommend the [Cat Walking Jacket](#) . Or put your cat in a [cat stroller](#) for a stroll around the neighborhood.

- **Our Piece:  
Why are Cats and Dogs Different?**

Suzanne recently did a workshop on cat behavior for a large company in the pet industry. One of her themes in that presentation was that cats are not small dogs. The reasons why cats and dogs are different could be topics for a small book, but we thought we would explore just a few of them in this month's article.



**1. Domestication history.** Most authorities believe cats were domesticated for religious as well as utilitarian reasons. In early mythology, cats were associated with female deities including Diana, Goddess of the moon and Bastet, the Goddess of fertility. Later on in their history, the presence of cats was desirable because they preyed on the rodents that infested Egyptian grain stores. In the middle ages, cats were thought to be evil, and the "familiars" of witches and were severely persecuted.

Although it's been popular to believe that dogs were domesticated as cooperative hunting partners, Dr. Ray Coppinger has raised considerable doubt about this idea. Instead, dogs may have been domesticated initially for companionship and their utilitarian functions exploited only later.

**2. Social organization.** Wolves, from which dogs are descended, have a complex group

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structure, which persists in dogs in somewhat modified form. Dogs are clearly adapted to group living and establishing social hierarchies.

Cats, by contrast, are descended from the solitary, nocturnal and reclusive African wildcat. Individuals of this species only come together for mating, but otherwise are capable of existing and raising young on their own.

Domestic cats typically only live in groups when forced to by humans, or when they find a concentrated food resource such as a garbage dump. Cats do not form strict social hierarchies in these groups that are comparable to the structure of a pack.

This is an important factor in explaining why cats do not defer or acquiesce to people in the same way dogs do.

**3. Communication differences.** Dogs have complex communication and signaling capabilities, primarily through body postures and vocalizations, that help them keep peace in their social group and avoid conflict.

The goal of communication not only for the cat's ancestor, but still to a large extent for many domestic cats, is to help individuals avoid one another. Scent marking is an important communication channel for cats, in the form of urine spraying and facial rubbing.

Cats may have a much more difficult time communicating with each other and avoiding conflict when they live in groups.

If cats are somewhat mystifying to you, we recommend our CD and audio program on [What Cats Want: Creating a Cat Friendly Environment](#). And if your cats aren't getting along, try our [Helping Cats Co-Exist](#) program.

- **What's New:**  
**Another Evvy Book Award!**

We are proud to announce that the updated version of our [Help! I'm Barking and I](#)



[Can't Be Quiet](#) book won an EVVY award for excellence in self- publishing from the [Colorado Independent Publishers Association](#). Dan and Suzanne are receiving the award from M.C and local radio personality Mr. Dom Testa. [Our Raising A Behaviorally Healthy Puppy book](#) won a first place EVVY last year. To celebrate, we are offering a 20% discount if you purchase both books by July 31st. Use promo code: 249338 in our shopping cart. You must purchase both books in the same order. Discount does not apply to other items purchased in the same order. We will adjust your total as necessary.

We've spent considerable time this month working with colleagues to create a new website – [CertifiedAnimalBehaviorist.com](#) to educate pet parents and pet professionals about certified applied animal behaviorists (CAABs). As part of this educational effort, we've also created a new brochure about CAABs, that we will be personalizing with an insert about Animal Behavior Associates. You can view the CAAB brochure here: [CAAB BROCHURE](#)

Both Dan and Suzanne have been serving as expert witnesses in several dog bite lawsuits, one of which is a fatality. It just reminds us of how important it is for dog owners to work hard to prevent aggression problems through socialization, neutering, supervision and seeking help immediately if their dogs display any threatening or aggressive behaviors.

We have also contracted with an expert in webinar management to investigate the feasibility of ABA offering regular webinars, both live and recorded. We'll update you as we progress.

For those of you who remember our article in the [April issue](#), about our dogs Ashley and Coral and their increased grumpiness toward our cat Buffett, you'll be happy to know after a few more rough weeks, their relationship seems to be improving and hopefully is on its way back to normal.

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Watch our August ezine for our new fall telecourse dates.

