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WHY DOGS MAKE MISTAKES: FROM A DOG'S PERSPECTIVE

Being a pet dog is not easy. I know because I have been there. Imagine if you had been suddenly taken from your home and away from the only family you have ever known. Your mommy dog had provided ever thing you needed; warmth, nourishment, baths, companionship, friends in the form of siblings, instruction, and discipline. Then one day these humans, who walk on two feet and who are so much taller than I, come by to pick me up, admire and cuddle me.

Then the next thing I know my doggie family is gone and I am alone with these humans. They don't smell, sound, look or act like my mommy. I am thrust into a world I don't understand. Sometimes these humans are great to live with, giving you delicious food, fun interaction and a nice bed. Then at other times they seem angry, loud, mean and sometimes nasty and you can't for the life of you know why they are upset. I express all the right body language; head down, ears flat, lowered body, tucked tail, etc. but they don't seem to get it. Dogs and humans seem to have a communication breakdown. Loud voices, a swat or a rush out the door to the outside means what? You want me to relieve out here, okay, but I didn't know or forgot and just had to go... so, I went.

Learning the rules in this human family isn't easy. Sometimes they send mixed messages. Everything is okay one moment, and not okay the next. Sometimes it even depends on the human. Sometimes I just can't seem to do anything right, but I keep trying. What are my alternatives? I have none. Hopefully I will get the idea soon or I might be totally abandoned in this strange world of humans in charge. I wish I understood their language. I watch and listen and look and try to figure things out. There seems to be a name they call me with a happy voice, I like a happy voice and come running. A deep low sound usually means stop what you are doing immediately and that's tough when I am on to a wonderful scent or just saw my buddy across the street.

Human manners and doggie manners seem to be very different, too. During introductions I thought I was doing the right things; jumping up, smelling their shoes, going for their crotch, licking their face. What was so wrong? Now that I am a little older I try to control those impulses, but it is so difficult when they scream in that high pitched voice of delight. I want to show them how happy I am that they came to see me. They did come to see me after all, right?

Now please don't get the impression that dogs are so terribly downtrodden, we are not. We are opportunists, and will try to boss our humans around, if they let us. Humans can be push- overs for adoring looks, sweet doggie faces, and sad eyes that seem to say "feed



me, I am starving to death.” God sure knew what he was doing when he made dog – floppy ears, bright attentive eyes, soft fur, and wagging tail. What a cute package!

Doggies may seem at times to almost possess human qualities, actions or emotions. But remember we are not. We can't be mad, vindictive or evil, though we may get bored, stubborn and depressed at times. Why? Because our world revolves around you, the human in charge. If you come home tired after a long day at work, we want playtime attention since we have been napping all day. And if you come home tired after a long day at work and the house is a wreck or there is a mess on the carpet, we still want playtime attention because after all our napping, we got bored or had to relieve ourselves.

Another area that gets us doggies in real trouble with a human family is chewing. We dogs just gotta chew. We are, of course, called “canines” so we must give them a regular workout. Better provide us with good chew toys or your sofa and chair will begin to look irresistible. Have you ever witnessed a dog with a bone? Yep, it is some kind of dog heaven.

Age and illness can also cause us to make mistakes in our human family environment. In the wild this would spell disaster for us. So, our tendency is to hide any weakness. You are the intellectual one – human in charge. Try to find out a reason for our blunder. It may be time to visit the vet or a change of diet.

Doggies have no concept of time passing. Was the human gone 5 minutes or 5 hours? Who knows? We don't live as long as a human, so every day is precious and we want to spend it with you. We are masters of routine that revolve around meals, walks or treat times. If a filled bone is offered at 2:30pm a couple of days in succession, I will expect it again and give you “the stare” to remind you.

Our life is simple, it simply needs you, the human in charge, to understand us, enjoy quality time in play, training and daily walks with us. Dogs need attention, so if a human can't make that kind of commitment, I suggest get a cat.

The End

Composed by anonymous dog

Translated by very smart human

Typed on a computer by a human, since dogs don't spell very well