



Paul Sheinberg: Pawsitive Paul's Dog Training

Paul Sheinberg, owner of Pawsitive Paul's Dog Training, poses with his Australian Shepherd, Jeda. Sheinberg holds classes at Good Doggie Daycare in Baltimore and has appeared numerous times on Fox's Good Day Baltimore.

Photo courtesy of Mark Peters/markpetersphotography.com

Technology Is For the Dogs, or Is It?

by Paul Sheinberg
Community contributor

The New Year is right around the corner, which means it's time for resolutions. It is so much easier to keep those tough resolutions with a companion struggling alongside you, and there is no one better to include than your dog.

There are many ways for you and your pet to stick to your goals, especially with the overwhelming amount of pet gadgets available to meet your every need.

For instance, a popular resolution is to exercise more and lose weight. Those who want to tackle this task can take the always old-fashioned approach and go for a walk with the family pet.

For the technology-minded, futuristic pet owner, there is another option. Pet lovers can now purchase a treadmill made specifically for dogs for \$499 at dogpacer.com.

Indoor exercise not your thing? Interestingly enough, there is

an iPhone application, WoofTrax, that keeps track of how many miles people walk with their dogs. The application's creators donate money to a shelter of the application user's choice, too. It's free, so it seems to be a win-win situation.

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Whether you walk your dog outside with a leash like the dog owners of the past, or with a fancy state-of-the-art dog treadmill, keep track of those miles. Personally, I'd rather walk my dogs outside where they can see other dogs, but the doggy treadmill does have its merits.

Say you're off to work and your dog is lounging away waiting for your return. Your pet isn't going to use the treadmill while you're away, so how do you make sure your dog doesn't just sleep for seven hours straight?

My mother bought us the Pet Roomba, available at irobot.com, which is basically a vacuum cleaner in the shape of a Frisbee that glides around a house and cleans the floor.

The Pet Roomba glides around, and when it gently bumps a barrier like a wall or a chair, it maneuvers around it. There's also an added benefit to it that isn't advertised or published anywhere. When the Pet Roomba first nudged my sleeping dog, Jeda, she woke up and begrudgingly moved to the other side of the living room. Twenty minutes later, the Pet Roomba reached that part of the room and nudged her again, getting my lazy dog to get up and move again.

The Pet Roomba is doing my job for me, making sure Jeda moves around throughout the day and doesn't let her get too complacent. When dogs sleep throughout the day, they are often ready to play when their owners get home from work. Since the Pet Roomba nudges the dog every so often, they'll be a lot less hyper when their owners return. They'll still be ready to play, but not with the typical "play with me now" mentality.

Another interesting gadget is a doggy translator, specifically the Takara Tomy Bowlingual Voice Dog Translator. The translator's goal is to find out what a dog really wants when he or she makes noise.

I'd like to think we know, for the most part, what our dog wants. This translator was first available in Japan and has slowly made its way over to the states. The translation from dog to Japanese to English definitely raised some challenges.

For a while "woof" meant "much joy would be had if my belly was filled with what is currently in front of me."

Now, after a few adjustments, "woof" simply means "food for my belly."

About the author

Paul Sheinberg is owner of Pawsitive Paul's Dog Training, based in Mt. Washington. Sheinberg holds regular classes at Good Doggie Daycare in Baltimore, and has appeared numerous times on Fox's Good Day Baltimore, taking viewers calls and demonstrating various pet behaviors.



Paul Sheinberg, dog trainer and owner of Pawsitive Paul's Dog Training, plays with his dog, Jeda, in Mt. Washington.

Photo courtesy of Mark Peters/markpetersphotography.com



Paul Sheinberg, a Mt. Washington native and owner of Pawsitive Paul's Dog Training, poses with his canine companion, Jeda.

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Sheinberg is a certified dog trainer and offers both group classes and private sessions in Baltimore City and most of Baltimore county. For more information, visit pawsitivepaul.com.

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