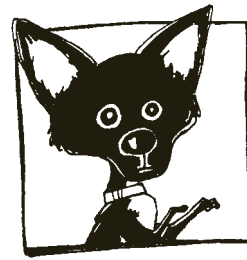


This column was formerly known as Canine Questions, and prior to that, Ask the Trainer. About a year ago, the "author" adopted a little dog named Baby Roo from Rescue Village. Roo, a Chihuahua/Rat Terrier mix, was born with a birth defect and has no front paws. Amazingly, this hasn't slowed her down a bit. Now, she has become a spokesdog for all the other "scratch 'n dent" animals that come to Rescue Village looking for a second chance. Recently, Roo presented a compelling argument that this column should become hers. So, from now on please send your questions to Roo. She's a bit of a know-it-all about dogs, cats, rabbits, you name it. So test her! The editor will do her best to capture and translate Roo's wisdom. The editor might also add her two cents when Roo is felt to be a little off track. In the meantime, you just gotta LOVE THE ROO!!!

If you're having a problem with your cat or dog, call the Rescue Village HelpLine at 440.338.4819, ext. 13 or send an e-mail to askthetrainer@geaugahumane.org. We'll help you solve your problem or refer you to someone who can. The most frequently asked questions will find their way into the Rescue Village Reporter's Ask the Trainer column or onto Q104's Ask the Trainer radio segment that can be heard on Sunday's Wilde & Fee Morning Show during the 8 o'clock hour.

ask Roo!



My dog, Molly, is absolutely terrified of going to the vet... I can't even get her through the door without doing an acrobatic routine. Is there anything I can do to make our visits less eventful?

OK, now let's think about this. Every time you humans take us dogs, cats, rabbits, whatever, to the vet, we get plopped down on a REALLY COLD metal table, and poked, prodded, stuck with needles, and introduced to a particularly nasty thing you call a thermometer. That one in the coat with the stethoscope [editor's note: your caring, veterinarian] always seems to find something new to do to us... and let's face it, it's just NO FUN! But, being the canine Karnack, I'll bet I can give you a few ideas that might change Molly's mind at least a little.

Since Molly is afraid to even go through the door, talk to Dr. Dread [editor's note: your extremely kind, caring, veterinarian. Already, the editor is having second thoughts about Roo taking the column] about taking Molly to the office when things are quiet and when she doesn't have an appointment. Then, as it appears Ms. Tubby Butt [editor's note: your beloved dog, Molly] loves her food, use GREAT treats to lure her through the door and then feed her, feed her, feed her while she's inside. Dr. Thermometer [Roo's note: better?] will probably have something to say about Molly's figure. WHATEVER! She probably does need to take off a few pounds, but for now, the focus needs to be on getting her to think your vet's office is a wonderful, fun place. Let her play and meet people, and keep everything light-hearted and relaxed. Just HAVE FUN, then, GO HOME!

It may take a few trips like this before she decides it's not all a big trick. Yeah, we're A LOT smarter than you think! So, if you're considerate of Dr. Thermometer's busy schedule, hopefully, he or she will be able to accommodate Molly's special needs. In the long run, it'll make life easier for everyone.

For pets that are fine going into the building, but become a mess once they get into the torture chamber... [editor's note: exam room], just ask your vet to give treats and spend time getting to know your pet. Most will do this anyway, but don't hesitate to ask if things are feeling a little rushed. You can also give a treat after every poke, prod and stick. It might help take some of the sting away and make your pal forget Dr. Dread's brutal assault [editor's note: your veterinarian's kind, professional, compassionate, experienced care]

Oh, and just a note about cats and rabbits and other little critters. Because it's REALLY stressful for them, too, PLEASE take them in a secure, travel cage. The old putting 'em in a laundry basket and covering 'em up with a towel trick is not a safe means of transport, especially if someone like me ends up sitting next to you while we're waiting to see Dr. Dread. OKAY, OKAY, our wonderful veterinarian who helps to keep us healthy and happy. You know, I hate to admit it, but mine's a pretty good guy!

Now, LOVE THE ROOOOOO!!!!!!

