What Is Behavioural Wellness In Dogs?

When we talk about behavioural wellness many people struggle to understand exactly what it is. A dog that is behaviourally well is a pleasure to have around. They can be trusted to act appropriately in any given situation and are given more freedom as a result of this.

Below we have outlined exactly what constitutes behavioural wellness for dogs.

- **Friendliness with people**
  A well-socialised dog will be relaxed and friendly around people regardless of age, gender, race, physical ability and appearance.

- **Friendliness with other dogs**
  A well socialised dog will be comfortable around friendly dogs of all ages and sizes. This includes dogs outside your circle of family & close friends.

- **Accepting of normal handling techniques**
  Your dog should accept all normal handling techniques without incident. You should be able to groom, bathe, clip nails, clean ears, examine teeth, pet your dog anywhere on the body without adverse reactions.

- **Inhibited bite**
  A dog with good bite inhibition does not use humans as chew toys. They have learned to inhibit their bite and treat human skin gently.

- **Food guarding**
  Your dog should not be possessive around food. Your dog should also happily accept being touched or petted while eating.

- **Object or toy guarding**
  Your dog should happily relinquish objects or toys to you when requested.

- **Location guarding**
  Your dog should happily give up his place on the couch or bed when requested. Your dog should never growl, snap or refuse to budge when required to move.

- **Separation anxiety**
  Your dog should tolerate being separated from you for short or long periods without becoming anxious or panicked.

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- **Greetings**
  Your dog, while happy to see you, should not be frantic in his greeting behaviour. Frantic greetings are a sign of stress, not happiness.

- **Jumping up**
  Your dog should not jump all over you and your visitors. He should remain calm when greeting.

- **Barking**
  Your dog should bark appropriately. While alerting you to the presence of someone or something is acceptable, he should cease barking when instructed.

- **Play**
  Your dog should play appropriately. When playing with you or other dogs your dog should immediately respond to requests such as 'Sit', 'Drop' or 'Come'.

- **Walking on lead**
  Your dog should walk politely on lead, frequently checking in with you. While showing an interest in other dogs or people passing by is acceptable, your dog should not pull you toward them, barking and/or whining.

- **Respect for space**
  Your dog should respect your personal space and not attempt to barge through doorways and gates or up and down stairs ahead of you.

- **Training**
  Your dog should respond reliably to the following cues at an absolute minimum - Sit, Drop, Stay, Come and Heel.

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