

[Train My Dog:](#) Can two intact male dogs live together? | [The Blitzen Bulletin:](#) August & September 2021

[Products For My Dog:](#) Harness Recommendations

[Just For Fun:](#) October 2021 Pics

[Calendar:](#) Classes and Events



To access the digital version of this issue, along with links to content, please visit: www.thelightofdog.com/Nov2021

TRAIN MY DOG

Can two intact male dogs live together?



You have probably at some point heard that two intact male dogs cannot live together. They won't get along. They will fight. They will both try to be the *alpha*.

Will intact males dogs fight? Possibly.

Neutered male dogs might also fight. Or spayed females. Or unspayed females. If there is more than one dog, there is the potential for dogs to fight.

But does having two intact dogs mean you are likely to have fights? Not necessarily. There are plenty of other contributing factors to consider. Ages of both dogs. Breeds of both dogs. Temperament of both dogs. Behavior issues with one or both dogs.

If you want to minimize the chance of two household dogs fighting with each other, you should consider the statistics for such things. Neutering is just one of those. But that one factor by itself won't tell you the risks.

At the time of this writing, we have Zooka and Blitzen. Zooka is an intact male Vizsla, two-and-a-half years old. Blitzen is an intact male Vizsla, one-and-a-half years old. They have lived together since Blitzen was around eight months of age and for the past ten months.

Have they fought? No. There has, to this point, never been a fight.

Have they *thought* about fighting? Yes.

They have had plenty of tense moments. One gets upset about something, stiffens and growls. The other gets worried and also tenses up. Possibly even growls back, though normally, Blitzen is the one who does the growling.

We have lived our entire lives with dogs, been in business with The Light of Dog since 2003, and currently live on a farm with our dogs. We want to positively impact the lives of our dogs in the six major areas of their lives: (1) choosing our next dog; (2) providing quality, holistic-based healthcare; (3) positive reinforcement-based training; (4) high quality nutrition sourced humanely through organic and regenerative agricultural standards; (5) environmentally responsible, non-toxic products; and, (6) enjoying life and sharing our adventures with them. Through our business, we create content, services and products consistent with our standards in these areas. Our goal is to live life to the fullest with our dogs and aim to inspire others to do the same. This is a monthly magazine published digitally and in print by The Light of Dog. Please subscribe your email to receive these digitally at TheLightofDog.com



TRAIN MY DOG

NEW PUPPY? HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

STEP 1
Review our guide **PREPPING FOR A PUPPY:**
TheLightofDog.com/PreppingForPuppy

STEP 2
Our number one request when it comes to puppies is **HOW TO HANDLE NIPPING.** Review this video and handout on puppy nipping to help you get on the right track: TheLightofDog.com/PuppyNipping

STEP 3
Develop your **SOCIALIZATION** plan. Puppies need socialization - with people and other puppies - **BUT IT NEEDS TO BE DONE CORRECTLY!** See our schedule for Puppy Recess Socialization sessions: TheLightofDog.com/Schedule

STEP 4
TRAINING...THE SOONER YOU START, THE BETTER! Schedule your training, either with Private In-Home Training or at Puppy Preschool Class...see our schedule here: TheLightofDog.com/Schedule

STEP 5
Or, START NOW WITH OUR ONLINE TRAINING MODULE, which covers a complete class with videos and handouts and is accessible anytime on any device with lifetime access: TheLightofDog.com/OnlineTraining

COLD WEATHER TIPS FOR YOUR DOG

DOGS LESS TOLERANT OF COLD | **DOGS MORE TOLERANT OF COLD**

COLD WEATHER TIPS

WATCH FOR COLD INTOLERANCE SIGNALS

- SHIVERING
- TAIL TUCKED BETWEEN THE LEGS
- WHINING OR ANXIOUS
- RELUCTANCE TO MOVE
- LIFTING PAWS
- SNOW/ICE BUILDUP IN PAW PADS OR COAT

www.TheLightofDog.com

Get our infographics at www.thelightofdog.com/infographics/

In some cases, they manage to diffuse it themselves. In some cases, one of the humans in the household steps in and redirects them both to other places to cool down.

Would I trust that they will never escalate to a fight? No, not at this point in time. The potential is there. But clearly neither one really wants to fight. If one of them actually wanted to fight, there would have been a fight or several by now.

Sometimes they get themselves in a situation they are not sure how to get

out of. So far, we have helped them out of those situations. Having an adult human step in to calm things down is important. Someone who can remain calm and remind them that escalation is not the only way out of that tense moment.

So, that brings up the other piece of the puzzle that we did not mention earlier. What's that other factor? The humans.

One big factor that can help to prevent fights from becoming an issue is how the humans handle everything.

We have rules in place. We have structure and routines that help prevent problems.

Many dog fights happen over resources. No, it's NOT typically one dog trying to be the *alpha*. It's one dog trying to guard something they consider to be a valuable resource. A bone. Food. A food bowl. A toy. A bed. A person. A doorway (access to it). That does not mean they are trying to be the *alpha* dog and control everything.

Some dogs are willing to fight over valuable resources. And your dog could decide anything is a valuable resource. Including you. (By the way, that's not protecting you. That's keeping you all to himself.)

We have rules in place to prevent many of those problems.

To access the digital version of this issue, along with links to content, please visit:
www.thelightofdog.com/Nov2021

TheLightofDog.com | contactus@thelightofdog.com
 720-279-4663 | 1494 S. Perry Park Rd., Sedalia, CO 80135
 Copyright © The Light of Dog, LLC.
 We have been in business since 2003



TRAIN MY DOG

Meal time? We separate dogs for meals until everyone is well enough trained in the routine that they mind their own business. No one is ever allowed to approach or attempt to take the other's meal.

Bones or other items to chew? Our rules are clear that you give the other dog their space and do not harass or try to take their chew item away.

Doorways? We require everyone to wait to be released through the door. Rules in place prevent them from making their own.

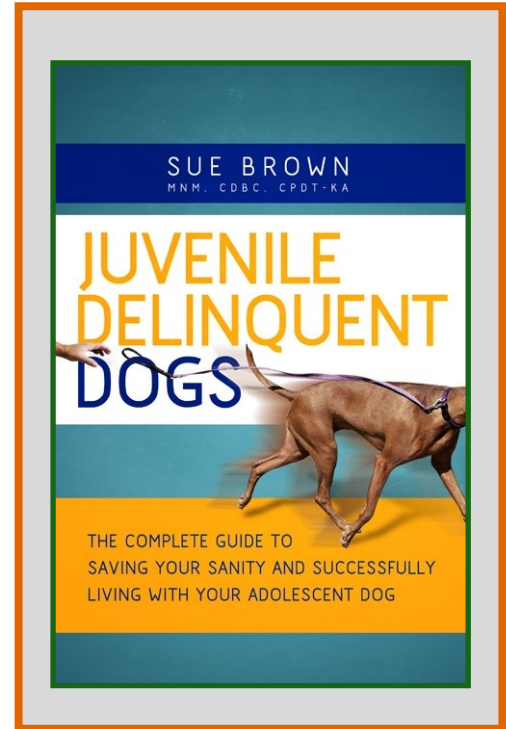
Furniture privileges? Only if you share and mind your manners. If not, you will be removed.

Will the rules and structure always prevent fights? No, there are some dogs who will fight anyway. But the proper planning and training can prevent a lot of problems from starting in the first place.

Can two intact male dogs live together peacefully? Yes. But you need to know your dogs well. And you should be doing everything you can to prevent potential problem areas from becoming a problem at all. And know how to address things if you begin to see issues developing.

Are there some intact male dogs who just cannot live peacefully together no matter how hard you try? Yes.

Neutering is just one factor to consider. There are plenty of other factors that you must take into account as well.



See our training videos at
www.thelightofdog.com/videos/

RESOURCE GUIDE

HOW TO MAKE HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES FOR YOUR DOG

Get this resource guide at
www.thelightofdog.com/HealthyFoodChoices



TRAIN MY DOG

The Blitzen Bulletin: August & September 2021

Blitzen's eighth and ninth months with us, August and September 2021, saw some successes and some struggles.

We had a vet appointment for Blitzen in early August. Because of his handling issues, we have to give him meds before being handled at the vet.

The first attempted vet appointment, we gave him the meds at home before going. Once there, we were supposed to give him additional meds in the van before going in. We could not give him the additional meds. He got very growly and snappy, and we had to cancel the appointment.

Getting through the appointment is only part of the goal. The other is making sure it is as low stress as possible. And the better the experience he has, the easier it will be the next time. At this stage, our main goal is ensuring vet visits get EASIER. And that he is less stressed and better able to handle them.



The added difficulty with Blitzen is that once he gets upset about something, he holds a grudge. And it can last for quite a while. Since I had put his harness on him to go to the vet, for the next two days, I could not get his harness on him. Any attempts to harness him resulted in growling and snapping and would have led to a bite if I pursued it further.

Since the last time I had harnessed him, we went to the vet (remember, we never actually made it IN to the vet's office), he was certain that he was not going to let that happen again. And in his mind, putting on the harness was the first step of that. Even though normally I harness him up for our morning walks which he loves.

By the third day, I could finally get his harness on again.

Because he gets so upset and maintains that for quite some time, we are careful not to push things farther when he does get upset. The goal is to never escalate. If he gets upset, we focus on de-escalating the situation.

Our goal is to build trust and help him overcome his fears of these things, so forcing it will not be productive in the long run.

A couple of weeks later, we attempted it again. This time, we gave oral meds two to three hours before we were to head to our appointment. We also had the meds that would be inserted into his gums so that we could give those be-

To access the digital version of this issue, along with links to content, please visit:
www.thelightofdog.com/Nov2021





TRAIN MY DOG



Who is The Light of Dog?

The "Kids"

Zooka (Vizsla) joined us in July 2019.

Blitzen (Vizsla) joined us in January 2021.

Wife & Husband

Sue Brown, behavior consultant, dog trainer and writer extraordinaire and Ed Soehnel, dog products and farm manager.

fore we departed as well (instead of in the van at the vet's office like we tried the last time.)

I had practiced with the syringe for the prior two weeks. He adapted and did very well getting chicken broth through the syringe. When it was time for the actual meds, I was to give one syringe into each side of his gums. First one went well. He would not allow me to do the 2nd one once he realized I was no longer using chicken broth.

He then would also not allow us to put on a collar or harness and leash him up. So once again we had to cancel our appointment.

We have a follow up appointment with the Behavior vets to develop a better plan for him. But we could not get an appointment until late November, so vet visits are on hold for Blitzen for now.

Aside from the vet visit challenges, the rest of August and September had some good things!

We were able to get out for some more hikes, which Blitzen normally does very well at. He sometimes gets overexcited and will bark at people or dogs we pass by. But for the most part, we hike on trails that are fairly quiet and he loves exploring.

We also had a couple of day trips without the dogs and he did quite well with someone else stopping in and taking care of the dogs for the day.

His training has been going well. I have not been putting in as much time with training sessions as I want to, since work has been so busy. But when we do, he does well. We have added in some new things.

One thing we have worked on is going "Around" that Zooka does well. Previously, he has worked on "around momma" which is starting in heel position, going around me and back to heel position. We are now going Around other objects. Like a tree or the table on the deck. He is doing very well!

Blitzen continues to do very well with the visiting dogs who board with us. He is always super pumped up at first and struggles with controlling his enthusiasm. But once he settles in, he loves playing with everyone. And he's good at giving space to the other dogs when they do not want to play.

One day, I was teaching my Sunday classes at our place and was up in our fenced outdoor training space. I look up and see Blitzen trotting up to the outdoor space all by his lonesome and with nothing on. Apparently, the door from the house did not get latched tight and Ed lost a dog. Thank goodness that Blitzen came trotting right up to me. I leashed





TRAIN MY DOG

him up and walked him back to the house.

This was a door we normally do not go out, so he has not practiced waiting at that door like he does the others. Fortunately, he came right to me and we got him back in the house quickly.

In late September, we made our annual trip to Snow Mountain Ranch for our getaway. This was Blitzen's first trip with us. We rent a cabin and stay for a few nights. We hike during the day, hang out and relax at the cabin and just take a bit of time away from home to take a break.

Blitzen loved the hiking and hanging out all day. He loves to snuggle with his momma and he loves exploring on the trails.

But Blitzen also does best with routine and structure, so how he would handle being in a different place, we were not sure. Nighttime, especially was different. There was not enough room to set up his pen in the bedroom so he had to sleep in the living room area in his pen. He struggled a bit the first night but then settled in and did well.

So other than the attempted vet visits, Blitzen did pretty well for these two months. Definitely still lots of work to do, but he has certainly made a lot of progress in many areas since he first came to us.

DOG TRAINING OFFERED IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

We have GROUP CLASSES at our indoor/outdoor facility on our farm, with plenty of space to spread out.

ONLINE LIVE STREAMING classes, and SELF-PACED VIDEO-BASED training through our Online Dog Training Course.

Our PRIVATE TRAININGS can be done in-home, outside, in public dog-friendly locations, at our facility/farm, online via phone or video conferencing and through email.

The complete checklist for evaluating dog boarding, dog kennel and pet sitting options



Since our personal and professional lives revolve around dogs, we spend a lot more time thinking about dogs than most people do. And we have very high expectations for how our own dogs are cared for. So, we wanted to lay out in detail our basic premise: How would we want someone else to care for our own dogs?

Get our checklist here: www.thelightofdog.com/BoardingChecklist

To access the digital version of this issue, along with links to content, please visit: www.thelightofdog.com/Nov2021





PRODUCTS FOR MY DOG

Harness recommendations



What equipment is best to use for walking your dog?

Well, the short answer is, it depends!

In part, it depends on your preferences. But mostly it depends on your dog and what will work best and make the most sense for them.

Some people prefer collars of some sort. And there are several different types.

Some people prefer harnesses.

Some prefer other options such as head collars.

For our own dogs, we use harnesses. I rarely ever use a collar on my own dogs. But there are times when it makes sense to do so.

I never use choke chains, prong collars or shock collars on my dogs or my client dogs. But I have plenty of clients who come to me currently using those products.





PRODUCTS FOR MY DOG

My goal, ultimately, is to help my clients train their dogs well enough that it does not and should not matter what we use. If your dog has great leash manners and is under good control (with verbal cues and hand signals) then the product you have on your dog is far less relevant.

I generally prefer harnesses so that we are not putting pressure on our dogs necks/throats. I have had clients whose prior dogs have had serious damage done to their throats from the use of certain collars.

On our property, our dogs are typically off leash and we have lots of scrub oak that they run through when looking for bunnies, exploring smells, etc. And I normally do not want a collar on my dog in the case it gets snagged on a branch.

If a harness gets snagged, I have far less concern about a dog getting strangled. They might get stuck, but I can crawl in there and get them loose. If a collar snags and starts to strangle them, I have a far more concerning and urgent situation on my hands.

For those clients whose dogs are big pullers and find it difficult to walk their dogs before we are able to develop better leash manners, I sometimes recommend a front-clip harness.

For my own dogs, I use a back clip harness.

For the dogs really difficult to control, sometimes a head halter makes sense. Not always, but sometimes.

Generally speaking, I like the harnesses that have both a front clip and a back clip option so that we have some flexibility in how we use it.

When it comes to harnesses, I also want to make sure they fit properly and do not impede the natural shoulder movement of the dogs. Not all harnesses take that into careful consideration.

A few of the harness options for front and back clip options that I recommend include:

- Ruffwear – they have several styles, only some of them have front and back clip options.
- Embark – they have a few styles, again you have to look to find which one has the front clip option. (I currently use an Embark for Blitzen).
- Freedom No Pull Harness

Links to find the above harnesses are on our website at <https://thelightofdog.com/harness-recommendations/>

There are others out there, but these are the ones my clients and I have generally used and liked.

To access the digital version of this issue, along with links to content, please visit:
www.thelightofdog.com/Nov2021





JUST FOR FUN



Please see last month's photos from the digital version of this issue

CALENDAR

Upcoming Classes in Highlands Ranch: Saturday classes are outdoors at various locations, typically in close proximity to Santa Fe and C-470.

- **Juvenile Delinquents Class:** Tuesdays 6:00 pm, new classes Spring/Summer 2022
- **Polite Pooches in Public:** Saturdays 4:00 pm, new classes Spring//Summer 2022

Upcoming Classes at The Light of Dog Farm

- **Puppy Preschool:** Sundays 1:15 pm, rolling enrollment, join any time space is available!
- **Basic Training:** Sundays, 2:30 pm; new classes start 11/21 & 1/9/22
- **Juvenile Delinquents:** Sundays 3:45 pm, new classes start 11/21 & 1/9/22
- **Intermediate Training:** Sundays 9:30 am, new class will start 1/9/22
- **Dog Parkour:** Sundays, 10:45 am, new classes will be held spring 2022
- **Fun & Games Class:** Sundays, 12:00 pm, new class starts 1/30/22

To access the digital version of this issue, along with links to content, please visit:
www.thelightofdog.com/Nov2021



NOVEMBER 2021 MINI-ISSUE

Find this content and our
full magazine online at
www.thelightofdog.com/Nov21



THE LIGHT OF DOG

CONTENT POSTED THIS MONTH



**CAN TWO INTACT MALE
DOGS LIVE TOGETHER?**



**THE BLITZEN BULLETIN: AUGUST &
SEPTEMBER 2021**



HARNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

DOG TRAINING OFFERED IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

We have GROUP CLASSES at our indoor/
outdoor facility on our farm, with plenty of space
to spread out.

ONLINE LIVE STREAMING classes, and
SELF-PACED VIDEO-BASED training through
our Online Dog Training Course.

Our PRIVATE TRAININGS can be done in-home,
outside, in public dog-friendly locations, at our
facility/farm, online via phone or video conferenc-
ing and through email.

To access the digital version of this issue, along with links to content, please visit:
www.thelightofdog.com/Nov2021



Who is The Light of Dog? The "Kids"

Zooka (Vizsla) joined us in July 2019.
Blitzen (Vizsla) joined us in January 2021.

Wife & Husband

Sue Brown, behavior consultant, dog trainer and writer
extraordinaire and Ed Soehnel, dog products and farm manager.



JUST FOR FUN



Please see last month's photos from the digital version of this issue

CALENDAR

Upcoming Classes in Highlands Ranch: Saturday classes are outdoors at various locations, typically in close proximity to Santa Fe and C-470.

- **Juvenile Delinquents Class:** Tuesdays 6:00 pm, new classes Spring/Summer 2022
- **Polite Pooches in Public:** Saturdays 4:00 pm, new classes Spring//Summer 2022

Upcoming Classes at The Light of Dog Farm

- **Puppy Preschool:** Sundays 1:15 pm, rolling enrollment, join any time space is available!
- **Basic Training:** Sundays, 2:30 pm; new classes start 11/21 & 1/9/22
- **Juvenile Delinquents:** Sundays 3:45 pm, new classes start 11/21 & 1/9/22
- **Intermediate Training:** Sundays 9:30 am, new class will start 1/9/22
- **Dog Parkour:** Sundays, 10:45 am, new classes will be held spring 2022
- **Fun & Games Class:** Sundays, 12:00 pm, new class starts 1/30/22

To access the digital version of this issue, along with links to content, please visit:
www.thelightofdog.com/Nov2021

