

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

Manjaro APBT kennel.

South Africa.

My Website www.pitbullsa.co.za

My E mail "manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za"

My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"

My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"

My mobile +27827838280.

Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.

OCD compulsive disorders.

OCD or compulsive disorders.

Not really, but they do get compulsive behaviors.

What is the difference?

Obsessive compulsive behaviors include obsessive thoughts, which don't apply to dogs since we can't know what they are thinking.

Instead, in dogs, these disorders are called compulsive disorders.

Looking at what compulsive disorders can be described as.

Compulsive disorders (like obsessive compulsive disorder, OCD) occur in "some" dogs.

These behaviors are mostly exaggerations of normal dog behaviors.

They are exhibited for longer than expected periods of time, are repeated out of context, and in situations in which they would be considered abnormal.

What causes compulsive disorders in dogs?

Compulsive disorders could be caused by genetics, conflict, stress and/or frustration.

With each stressful event that “some” dogs encounter, there is a release of neurotransmitters involved with the stress response.

When a dog gets frustrated or gets stressed up, the dog vents the stress on an object – a behavior such as chasing its tail or holding a toy in their mouth in order to relieve that stress. If this particular behaviour actually reduces the neurotransmitters involved with the stressful event, the dog is likely to perform that behavior again when stressed up. For “some” dogs, this behavior becomes ritualized and repetitive because of the intense reward that is associated —reduction of the physiologic feeling of stress or frustration.

This behavior “can take over the dog’s life” replacing normal sleep and feeding habits. It can cause injury to the dog as the impulse to perform the particular behavior becomes stronger and stronger. Dogs that chase their tails often end up mutilating the tail requiring amputation, while dogs that suck on themselves frequently do cause serious skin infections.

Attention given to your dog’s compulsive disorder could be like pouring fuel on a fire.

Sometimes, what appears to be a compulsive behavior is actually an attention seeking behavior.

Even behaviors which start as a frustration related behaviors can be rewarded inadvertently when owners pay attention to the dog when they performs the behavior.

For example, if an owner yells *no!*, that is still regarded by the dog as attention and can perpetuate the behavior.

If you think that your dog exhibits a behavior for your attention, try the following tests. First, videotape your dog when you are not home to see if and when the behavior occurs in your absence. Next, try walking out of the room the next time that your dog performs the behavior. If the dog does not perform the behavior in your absence, your attention or presence is most probably a part of the problem.

Some dogs could be hereditarily predisposed to certain compulsive behaviors.

Some dog breeds and or dogs are predisposed hereditarily to certain compulsive behaviors.

For example, terrier dogs and German Shepherds are commonly seen for tail chasing.

Labrador Retrievers exhibit oral compulsive behaviors such as "pica", {see article about pica on this website} whereby the dog is driven to pick up any object and eat it.

Doberman Pinschers are well known for flank sucking, whereby the dog holds and sucks on the skin of the flank for long periods.

The best way to know if your dog is predisposed to a certain type of behavior is to speak to your veterinarian about your breed's genetic predisposition. Then, if possible, speak to the owner of your dog's parents to learn of their behavior.