

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

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Rule out medical problems first.

Underlying medical problems or other physical situations often create conditions that irritate dogs and can cause them to react with behavior that looks compulsive to dog parents.

A dog with allergies, environmental allergies, parasites, a skin condition or pain will lick or bite the affected area constantly.

(See various related articles about these problems on this website).

In addition to specific irritations, medical conditions that can affect your dog's behavior include epilepsy, head injuries, bacterial or viral infections, and poor vision.

In all of these situations, the underlying medical problem must be treated by a veterinarian before behavioral treatment will help.

Medications may help.

Always consult with your veterinarian or a board-certified veterinary behaviorist or herbalist before giving your dog any type of medication for a behavior problem.

In some cases, it can be helpful to use medication in addition to training and enrichment.

If your dog is so anxious or stressed by whatever upsets them that their compulsive behavior cannot be stopped or redirected, or if they shows improvement for a time but then seems to stop improving, medication might be needed to make your treatment plan effective.

Medications may also be necessary for dogs who have been engaging in compulsive behavior for a long time.

If your veterinarian prescribes a medication for your dog's compulsive behavior, be prepared to give it to your dog every day.

Keep in mind that it may take a few weeks or longer before you see changes.

Realize the APBT is an active working dog and as such you need to keep them busy and in good metal and body shape ... do this with positive training, exercise and conditioning - but make it fun and what your dog will look forward to.

Effective ways to spice up your dog's life with physical and mental exercise

{See articles on training conditioning and enriching your dog's life on this website}.