



Scotties Need Room and a View

(Guest)
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The Scottie's constant impulse to hunt, to guard, and to inquire furnishes the incentive for most of his exercise. His days indoors are filled with trips to the window, which gives him his view of the outside world. Again and again he may sniff and peer at the crack under the door, whence some intruder, whether mouse or man, might threaten his private household world. Such obligations, plus the necessity for overseeing and protecting whomever may be indoors with him, keep him moving spryly over well-worn trails between kitchen, study, and bedroom. He gives the impression of being very importantly occupied on urgent business. As a consequence of the Scottie's own nature, he may be depended upon to exercise himself, whether his customary quarters are indoors or out. Give him room—with a view of his own—and he will find occupation and exercise.

Because of his small dimensions and short legs, a Scottie does not require great space in which to exercise. On the other hand, because of his sturdiness and his well-muscled frame, he can cover a great deal of ground with little fatigue. He is equally at home in an apartment or on a farm. He can live in a very warm climate quite comfortably, provided his owner will have his

coat adjusted by plucking to its coolest length and thickness. He likes a cold winter and rarely shivers when outside in bitter weather, if his owner has left him a full vigorous coat. Of course, in neither instance would an intelligent owner leave him long exposed to hot bright sunshine, or tired and cold. Physiologically, the Scottie can accommodate a wide variety of living circumstances if his owner will help him by keeping his coat in suitable condition and his living quarters well protected from drafts and the extremes of the climate.

Some Scottie owners use them as rabbit dogs and claim certain superiorities to all other hunting breeds for this type of game. The Scottie may not keep the fastest pace, but he can be counted upon for a steady endurance, a good nose, and tenacity in the hunt. The great majority of Scotties, however, should and do have their outdoor exercise on the leash or within an enclosure under which they cannot dig and over which they cannot climb.

No one should have a Scottie who is not prepared to protect him, both by training and equipment, from the fatal combination of terrier enthusiasm and modern traffic. If the Scottie spies a rabbit or a bird hopping at a little distance, his native response will be to reach that rabbit or bird in the shortest possible time. He does not weigh the hazards or even look for them. Nor does he have a long-range view from atop his short legs. The owner must supply either a leash or fence to stop his single-minded plunges into danger. Restraint by lead should be accompanied by restraint by voice "No—No!" until that day when Scottie arrives at impulse control and recognizes the spoken "No!" with the same regard as the firm hand on the lead. In very few instances should a young Scottie, however disciplined to the control of his master's commands, be allowed outside without a fence or continuously



watchful supervision. In the fullness of his years, he may incorporate the boundaries of his world within his own mind and observe property lines meticulously. Until that time he should never be left entirely to the dictates of his own volatile impulses.

The psychological climate in which a Scottie lives is even more important than the variations of physical climate and space. Only those who enjoy living with independent and rugged individuals should attempt to share their lives and homes with a Scottie. He is no conformist. He has his own opinion on every situation or else sets immediately about the business of forming one. He rarely asks advice by running to his master imploring with paws and eyes for guidance in a new situation. He makes up his own mind; if the situation is not to his liking, he usually decides to leave it for a destination of his own. If he has established a habit or even a choice in action he does not abandon it because he believes "master knows best." He will listen to reason, yield to compulsion, and accept a substitute way of behaving, but all this will be something more than instantaneous in time of accomplishment.

Because Scotties establish certain routines in living, with fixed activities and hours, it is inadvisable to introduce an active child into the daily schedule of an older dog, unless he has had a previous prolonged experience with active children. Such a Scottie may be actively unhappy if he is taken from the companionship of children. He may even try to run away to schoolyards or any place where he can find children congregated, no matter how fond he may be of his adult human companions at home. On the other hand, it is well that children have learned not to cause small animals pain and confusion before living with a Scottie. From the Scottie a child can learn respect for and pleasure in an opinion different from his own, as well as enjoy the deep privilege and responsibility of being completely loved by another living creature.

Every Scottie should be well-trained to the leash. There is great variation in the way in which individual Scotties accommodate themselves to this enforced partnership with human beings. Some puppies at eight weeks, when adorned with a light collar and leash, follow their owners with pleasure, yielding gacefully to the slightest suggesting from the master's hand at the end of the line. Another may fight the collar, scratch his neck fiercely, rubbing himself against any object in trying to remove it. A tug on the leash stirs his fighting impulses, and he may throw himself, buck, and try to run backwards. With the first, it is well not to impose upon his good nature by presuming that he will always be so gracious. Instead praise him highly—a Scottie loves such recognition—and lead him only a few times back and forth. Next day one may try it again for a little longer still acknowledging his agreement by praise. It is obvious that no tiny puppy should be asked to follow very far. If he is overtired from an excess of leading, he may become much less agreeable when tried again.

As for that other Scottie character, when he is about three months old one might give him a light collar to wear. While his appreciation may be slight, he finally gets used to his neck being encircled and endures it. Let him run beside his trainer, up and down a room, while stimulating the game by jingling the bell in a very hard rubber ball. Throw it out for him a little distance after he has shown aptitude in walking beside you. Then, after he has had opportunity to appreciate this kind of romping for several days put the leash on his collar, holding it firmly but not tightly; "a half-ounce pressure," one successful trainer of Scotties says. Let the trainer jingle the ball and walk as before. Probably, he will go a little way, only half realizing his restraint. When he looks prepared to balk, jingle the bell and throw it out a little way. Then let him get it by relaxing the leash. There will come a moment, however, when he becomes

sure that this activity has a motive contrary to his freedom. Then he again may fight the restraint fiercely. He should not be allowed to pull the trainer, but rather should only reach the end of his leash, where he may sit down panting, red-eyed, and shaken. The trainer might well sit down, too, and roll the ball about a little, calmly and contemplatively. Let his interest in it be spontaneous. Presently you should tug a little on the leash. If he takes as many as two steps forward, let him have the ball to chew and comment unstintingly on his success.

Outdoors on the leash he should trot smartly beside his master when asked. A tug on the leash should remind him of his obligations, no matter how tempting the scents or distracting the scene. He should never be permitted to scramble ahead of his master, pulling and panting while he claws the ground desperately in a vain attempt to catch up with a cat or compel a change of pace. The first time this happens, the trainer should pull him to a complete stop, saying "No!" with both leash and voice. Start again, and when he scrambles past, say "No!" once more, and stop. If he persists, halt his progress by a sharp, definite jerk on the leash, and scold him strongly and briefly. When he does adapt himself to his master's pace, let him be praised again by voice and light pats in front of his tail.

When the Scottie shows signs of nervousness, uncertainty or unrestrainable impulses to pull, it is well to have a low-spoken repeated phrase by which to advise him: "Steady, steady, Mac!" or similar admonition helps him attain composure.

For training purposes, commands should be by repetition of the same words and in a deliberately chosen tone of voice, suiting the sort and urgency of the situation.

If a Scottie has learned the meaning of "No!," to come when called, to walk well and happily on the leash, and to have good house manners, he has accomplished his basic education.

