

Arizona Daily Star

Opinion

Letters to the editor

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Drugs can help behavior disorders

Re: the May 7 column "Prozac for pooches a depressing thought."

There is a great deal of misconception when it comes to pets and antidepressants. Still, Jonah Goldberg does make some good points. But why does he perceive correcting an orthopedic problem as returning his dog to health, while correcting a behavioral problem constitutes changing a normal dog?

After all, some orthopedic problems require only rest or physical therapy while some require surgery and medications. Likewise, some behavioral problems heal with training techniques alone while others involve malfunctioning neurotransmitters that only medication can address.

Not all behavioral problems are determined by environment. Some pets can benefit from the proper use of medication. In such cases, medication does not make a normal dog less "doggy." Instead, it helps relieve the suffering of a dog with a serious problem.

Behavior medication can be abused or used improperly. But it can also be a blessing when used appropriately.

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