

## **Proper Leadership:**

Being a good leader to your pet involves positive body language and voice control. You must consistently project a calm assertive energy with your canine if he/she is to listen and focus. No yelling or using a soft voice or yanking in the leash. You must project a medium voice tone assertively when giving commands. Training your best friend involves you, your family, and your dog. Everyone must be on the same page always. If your canine senses that you are feeling fearful, frustrated, angry, you will lose their trust

Commands & Cues are to be clearly communicated. Rules Boundaries and Limitations are to be enforced. In other words- Follow thru when giving commands each time. It is very important share to this with friends and family when they are visiting your home during the training.

Learn to converse with your dog the way another dog speaks to him using body language and good eye contact. Always look your dog in the eyes when giving commands. Connection is the language of energy. It is the cornerstone of the life long bond between you and your dog.

Setting boundaries is essential to ensure that your best friend grows into a well-balanced canine that has a clear understanding of rules, boundaries and limitations. By training and conditioning your companion early- he will respect limits, take on new challenges in the form of games and new tasks and respond to verbal commands. You are actually helping his/her brain develop to its fullest potential.

A puppy does not come into this life wanting to be a leader. They look for leadership and guidance. A puppy looks for a kind yet firm hand that show him the right ways to things and rewards her with a nice touch, a smile, an acceptance into the home.

A good leader doesn't project emotional or nervous energy, so neither should you. In the wild, the pack leader uses calm-assertive energy to influence how the dog interacts with his/her surroundings. She enforces

these laws in a quiet way, as is the case when a mother picks up a puppy the scruff of the neck if he strays outside the den.

## **Training**

Training your dog is essential. It establishes lines of communication so that you can understand each other. It builds a strong bond between you and your companion. And it gives your dog confidence.

Confidence is very important. A confident dog is relaxed, alert, happy and secure. He's not trying to control you or the environment he finds himself living in. Instead he knows that he can rely on you to protect him & meet his needs- not merely his physical need to be fed and exercised, but also his very real need for stimulation, affection and play.

Training is not about imposing types of behavior on your dog that alien to his nature. It's not about making your dog fearful or breaking his will. It's giving him the tools to live in your world. A trained dog is not only better behaved, he's safer and happier.

## **Rewards**

Giving your dog a reward when he does what you ask will motivate him to do it again. We all need motivation. Food treats work well with most dogs.

Rewards such as squeaky toys, tennis balls, petting, praise, exercise and play to a dog vary the motivators that you use in training, so they won't become boring.

Food and toys are primary rewards to a dog because they are things that dogs really want. Playtime and a walk are powerful rewards for good behavior.

Always give praise to your dog. This adds value to what you are giving and makes him learn faster.

## **Timing**

Timing is everything! Communicating with your dog effectively relies on perfect timing. You must deliver your feedback within one second of the behavior.

Split-second timing is important for another reason. You are teaching the dog to take action immediately and not to hesitate when a command is given.

## **Consistency**

Consistency is very important when it comes to teaching your dog to function in this strange domestic world that they live in. Dogs see black and white while we humans have a lot of gray areas.

Consistency is also essential in training. Everyone in the household should use the same commands and gestures including pet sitters.

## **Essential Tips**

Training is for life.

One to two sessions of between five and eight minutes a day are recommended for training. Keep sessions short and fun.

Only give a signal once. If you have to repeat the cue word wait 10 seconds before repeating. No conversation in between.

Vary your body positions. Your dog should respond when you are sitting, crouching, or standing, not just when you are standing and facing him.

Start close and then move farther away. Increase the distance between you and your dog.

Be patient and accept your dog's failure- It's three steps forward and one step back.

Train your dog in a quiet environment at home. Once your dog is responding well, move to a stimulating environment. This is called – varying the picture.

Training should be as much fun as playing and needs to be solid.



## **Training your Best Friend**

### **Basic Obedience- Level one- Subjects Covered**

#### **Handling Skills**

**Mastering the walk**

**Proper walking etiquette**

**Sit**

**Wait**

**Come**

**Down**

**Stay**

**Sit/Wait /Release**

**Sit/Wait/ Release for meals**

**Sit/Release/ Distance**

**Down /Duration/ Release**

**Down/Release /Distance**

**Proper Socialization**

**Meet & Greet**

**Leave it- Take your nose way from an object**

**Off- No Jumping**

**Door Manners -Going in and out of doors**

**Wait/ Release at car**

**Handling your dog- Getting your dogs used to being touched**

**Proper walking etiquette**

**Proper Toys**

**Quiet time**

**Safety precautions**

**Children & dogs**

**Socialization**

**Behavior Issues Covered:**

**Jumping**

**Chewing**

**Mouthing**

**Pulling on leash**

**Barking**

**Not coming when called**



## **Basic Obedience Level 2- Subjects Covered**

**Fading food as a lure**

**Hand signals**

**Leash walking**

**Advanced Recall**

**Food manners (leave it, drop it)**

**Loose Lead Walking with 6 foot lead & 20 foot lead**

**Advanced training on stay, recall, down/ distance walking, with 20 foot lead**

**Turns & Pivots**

**Heel on lead with all turns and loose leash.**

**Fast, Slow, Normal pace Heelwork.**

**Automatic Sit- hand signal**

**Stand with hand signal.**

**Drop from Heel.**

**Stays – Sit, Drop, walk, drop, stand, walk, sit. Walk, drop**

**Stand for Examination.**



**Recall on 15 to 20 ft. Lead**

**Finish to heel.**

**Left about Pivot Turn-Teaching your dog right and left turns**

**Advanced training on Come when called**

**Stay and Wait**

**Leave it & Take it**

**Impulse Control and settle**

**Go to your place**

**Targeting**

**Confidence building exercises –**

**Settling Down at home, while conversing with neighbors, etc.**

**Off your furniture, counters, pot roast, socks, trash during walks, squirrels, etc.**

**Gentle- Take an object into mouth**

**Drop it- release an object from mouth**

**Up- Getting up from a down position (You will clap hands & say up up)**

## **House Manners:**

We set the room up to look like a home environment to create real life scenario in a few of our classes to work on issues such as whining & begging for food at the dinner table. We cover behavior issues such as – jumping on guests, counter surfing, jumping on furniture and much more. You will have so much fun during our six weeks of advanced training, but more importantly, we aim to give you a further understanding of learning theory so that you may better train your dog.

We teach advanced life skills. The course is also designed to fine tune any problem areas you may still have with your dog. We focus more on leash work, distance work and continuing to improve their basic life skills and manners. -



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## Keys to successful Training Your Dog

- **Respect the dog** – dogs are amazing beings, they are intelligent, extremely social with a complex range of emotions. They are not objects to be programmed. They are not slaves, nor are they employees. In the best case, they are our partners, friends and allies. We should be the same to them.
- **Create motivation to do something rather than to avoid something** – Training should primarily be about getting the dog to things, not simply avoid punishment. The quickest fix isn't always the best fix. It's worth it to take a bit more time to build a desire to work.
- **Be clear** – A dog who doesn't understand what is expected cannot consistently achieve those expectations. Good teachers do everything they can to ensure their students understand. As trainers, it's vital that we be good teachers.
- **Be consistent (but not rigid)** – Consistency goes along with clarity, but a good teacher knows when insistence on absolutes will discourage a student. Often, it's better to treat genuine effort as success.
- **Always do what's best for the dog** – Ultimately every great trainer is in the business to help dogs. To do this, it is essential that we understand the dog we are looking at. Canned responses are nice, but knowing when they aren't the answer is essential.
- **Failure to create consistent results reflects on the trainer, not the dog** – It's a poor teacher who blames the student for failure to learn. Motivation is part of the teacher's job.

- **Be joyful** – The best trainers I have ever seen all love their work and it is evident when you see them with a dog. Never train a dog when you are angry, frustrated or upset.
- **Never stop learning** – Perfection is a goal we can never reach, but the best trainers are always trying anyway.

### **On Force, Punishment and Compulsion:**

At Training Your Best Friend, we do not believe or condone punitive harsh handling with dogs. We never want a dog doing something primarily because they are afraid of not doing it. We want the dog to work from a desire to achieve; to love training and love working with their handler.

Our approach is to first teach the dog what is expected and build motivation to meet those expectations. At the same time, you must understand that your dog has emotional, physical and mental needs that must be fulfilled. It is up to you as their parents to fulfill those needs