

Training as the Foundation for Good Behavior in dogs

Dogs are training constantly over the course of their entire lives just as humans start learning the day we are born and continue until our minds are physically incapable. If owners get involved in their pet's development and learning process, the chances of having a well behaved dog is greatly improved.

This concept of manners for dogs is of course a function of how well we perceive that our pets are fitting into the human environment on our terms. Dog owners need to assert themselves and set reasonable expectations for existence in our family 'packs'. If not, the dogs are left to make up their own rules which commonly will not coincide with our human schedules, habits, needs and desires.

Socialization with other living beings and desensitization to other sights, smells and sounds in our world is only a part of what dogs need in our care in addition to exercise, food, water and shelter. We need a way to communicate with them in order to establish what is desired versus unacceptable behavior to us.

Obedience training is the key to developing a means of clear, consistent and effective communication. This type of canine and handler education confirms a bond between dog and owner based on mutual trust, respect and affection for the benefit of both. Simply training the dog is not enough, every owner needs to follow up and participate in the process in an ongoing fashion in order for obedience and good behavior to become a way of life.

If you don't know how to go about training a dog yourself there are many ways to get professional help with training and different trainers employ a variety of methods to achieve desired results. There are advantages and disadvantages for any one philosophy. Shop around and ask for a demonstration of a trainer's techniques and results to make sure you can achieve your goals in a manner that you are comfortable with. Be wary of trainers that quickly bad mouth the methods of others; they typically are less informed than professionals that are willing to educate you on the differences of one way or another.

Consider taking group classes, private lessons, have a professional train your dog in your home or board your dog in their care for a more intensive education. While some methods may be more effective than others, in the end training of almost any kind is better than none at all.