

# It's A Dog's World™

## K - 9 A C A D E M Y , I n c .

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## TRAINING TIPS

### INTRODUCTION

To have the dog of your dreams, there are three essential stages to developing a well-behaved pet. First, obedience training is the foundation. Without a solid foundation in obedience, your dog will not understand discipline, what you are trying to communicate to him or what is expected of him. Second, confinement conditioning teaches your dog or **conditions** your dog how to behave properly by confining him to certain areas that you deem appropriate. Third, you must wait for nature to take its course and allow your dog to mature. If you have done the first two stages well, you will have a well-mannered pet in no time!

### FOLLOWING IN KENNEL TRAINING, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Your dog has been through basic conditioning for three or four weeks in the kennel.
- Your dog will not automatically work for you. Dogs only work out of the relationship that they have with their owner. This means that you must work on developing your relationship and communication with your dog. This is the second half of the training process.
- Dogs can be location specific learners. So, you must work with your dog at home in order for your dog to understand that the training that took place at our campus carries over at your home.
- **Your dog is not off collar trained regardless of the training course that your dog went through. When asking your dog to complete a behavior, please have the appropriate collar on the dog so that you may administer correction when needed.**
- Even if you had your dog off leash trained, **DO NOT** ask your dog to perform **ANY** command without the leash and collar properly on the dog. This means do not ask your dog to walk with you, to sit, to lay down, to come or to stay in a particular area without the leash on to administer a correction if needed. It is important that your dog receive consistent positive or negative reinforcement within two seconds of you commanding your dog.
- Your dog will never perform for you properly if you don't devote some of your **time, effort** and most importantly **consistency** to the maintenance of the training of your dog. Keep in mind that this will be much easier with a dog that

has the foundation of the obedience training. You just need to ***maintain*** your dogs training.

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## **YOUR DOG HAS LEARNED THE FOLLOWING OBEDIENCE COMMANDS:**

- HEEL** Start with your dog in the sitting position at the *left* side of your body. Hold the leash in your *right* hand, with the loop over your right thumb. Half the leash and hold this portion draped over your right hand. The part of the leash that is connected to the collar should come out from the bottom of your hand, near your pinky finger. In a command tone, say, “Fido, heel,” and begin walking, starting off on your *left* foot. If he doesn’t comply within the count of two seconds, issue a correction and say “No”. If he does comply, praise. When you come to stop, your dog will automatically sit. Again, if your dog does not comply within two seconds, issue a correction. Work on changing pace and direction. Hand signal: Tap left left with left hand, while stepping off with your left foot.
- SIT** Command your dog to “sit” while simultaneously giving the hand signal. You can hold the leash in either hand, just as long as you are able to administer a correction immediately. You should half the leash, and then half it again. If your dog does not respond within two seconds, give a correction in an upward motion. Remember, “whenever the head goes up, the bottom goes down!” Hand signal: Start with your right arm straight down at your side with your palm facing outward. Next, bend your arm at the elbow, bringing your palm up towards your shoulder. Keep your wrist nice and straight. This hand signal is similar to the action of throwing a bowling ball.
- Down** Command your dog to “down” while simultaneously giving the hand signal. Give your dog two seconds to complete the command. If your dog refuses to do the command, *correct by stepping down on the leash*. Your foot should fall about 6-12” above the bolt snap. If you step too far back on the leash, keep your foot on the leash while you pull up the slack with your hands. This should act like a pulley system and bring your dog’s head closer to the ground. Remain in this position until your dog complies by lying down. Sooner or later, your dog will get tired of being in this position and submit. Hand signal: Take your right hand, with palm facing the ground, and push your hand towards the ground.
- Recall** This is also known as the “come” command. Your dog can be in any position when you ask for this command. Give the hand signal with your right hand as you hold the leash with your left. As you know by now, your dog must comply by the count of two. If he does not, give a correction towards your body. Your dog is expected to come immediately to you and sit in front of you. It is important that you keep the slack out of the leash (without pulling) as your dog comes to you.

Hand signal: Start with your right arm straight out from your side. Next, bending at the elbow, bring your right hand into your chest.

**Stay** When your dog is in either a sit or down position, simply give the hand signal and command your dog to “stay”. Your dog must stay in that position. If your dog breaks the sit stay, correct upwards and say, “No”. Likewise, if your dog breaks the down stay, correct by stepping on the leash with your foot and say, “No”.

**Release Word** The purpose of the release word is to break the dog free from a command. Whenever your dog is finished with a command, give the release word, “come”, “let’s go” or “heel” command. If you have not given your dog one of these four options, your dog is not free to break the command.

## **CONFINEMENT CONDITIONING**

Remember from earlier, that confinement conditioning is the second stage of the three stage process. Through confinement, you will teach your dog how to behave appropriately when left alone in the back yard or home. Be patient! Unfortunately, this process takes time to develop a dog that will behave properly unattended. It does not happen overnight. Actually, at this point, we are waiting for maturity to kick in to see the final results of a mature, well behaved dog!

Confinement conditioning begins with the use of a crate, dog run and/or puppy proofed room. The crate is usually used in the house or car and the dog run is used in the back yard. Again, both are for the dog to be in when you can not supervise him. Your dog is not to be in either area 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The idea behind confinement conditioning is that, in order for a dog to learn, he must receive either praise or correction immediately after a behavior or act is committed. But, if you are at work all day and your dog is left alone in the back yard to chew up the hose, air conditioning wires and dig holes to China, there will be no way to correct him (unless you use booby traps) and thereby teach him that a certain behavior is wrong....unless you quit your job! But then how are you going to support this ever-growing costly pet! We don’t expect you to quit your job. Instead, use the dog run. The idea is that instead of allowing your dog total access to the back yard, you give him a small space that is his. While he is under direct supervision in the rest of the yard, slowly but surely, he will earn the right to come out into the yard unattended. Ultimately, you will find yourself using the crate and dog run for convenience rather than necessity.

***Before you say this just isn't for me***, take a look at the advantages of each:

#### CRATE

- Housebreaking
- Travel bed for in the car, hotel room, dog shows, camping, etc.
- When used in the house, you will find that shedding or dirt stays in one spot.
- When company comes over, you can use the crate to keep the two separate from each other.
- If it is 110° outside or pouring rain, your dog can stay in the house comfortably.
- When you are busy and cannot directly supervise your puppy from chewing up your plants and shoes, you can keep him in the crate in the house with you.
- Contrary to what you may believe, dogs are den animals and grow to love it!

#### DOG RUNS

- Allows you to keep the dog away from objects that he may destroy or hurt himself on while you are away.
- Gives him a cement surface to go potty on, making it easy to clean and keeps the brown spots from ruining your beautifully manicured lawn.
- Gives him a cement surface to stay on preventing him from getting muddy or dirty during the day, thereby making it more enjoyable to allow him to live in the house.
- Gives you peace of mind knowing that he has not escaped or been stolen out of your back yard.
- Allows your gardeners, pool man, gasman, or construction workers access to your yard without you having to worry if they secured the gate properly before leaving the yard.
- Allows you to separate your dog from guests or children when you have a party, etc.

#### SOME TAKE HOME TIPS

Pets suffer stress and they have had a very busy and exciting time while away from home. We do everything we can to keep them healthy, clean, safe, and content. You can relieve your pet's stress by following these tips:

- **DON'T** feed your pet for a few hours after returning home.
- **DON'T** play with your pet rigorously for a few hours after returning home.
- **DON'T** allow your pet to drink an excessive amount of water. Try a bowl of ice cubes!
- **WHY?** They will be over-excited upon seeing you and returning home.

Excessive drinking and/or eating can cause digestive stress (vomiting and diarrhea) during this exciting time. Let them rest if they will.

- **DO** as little as possible to excite your pet; give them plenty of love and attention.
- **DO** watch for symptoms of illness for 10 days after returning home.

- **WHY?** Air-borne virus is a possibility.

Please let us know immediately if a problem occurs. Our main concern is to protect your animal in every possible way.

## **CONCLUSION**

Remember from earlier, that the third and final step to getting a well-trained dog is maturity. Maturity is what ties everything together. Raising a dog is much akin to raising a child. You must work and work with your child for years until they grow up and mature. The same is true with your dog. Always keep in mind that to get a well-trained dog, it takes time, dedication and diligence.

At this point, you are to work with your dog every day practicing obedience commands until your dog is conditioned. Conditioning in combination with maturity enables you to be able to enjoy your dog more. Eventually, your dog will know how to respond automatically and behave appropriately at all times! Now go out and have some fun with your dog!!

You and your dog trainer should have a follow up lesson in about a week. That lesson will discuss correcting problem behaviors, and working on the place and wait command. We suggest that you make a list of questions that may arise during this week to go over with your trainer at your next lesson.