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IN KENNEL TRAINING

LESSON ONE

Now, that your dog is home, we are going to start working out any kinks in problem behaviors that your dog may be displaying as well as teaching three new behaviors: the place command, door crashing, and boundary control. Remember, that dogs are location specific learners and at this point they are wrongly under the assumption that they are required to be good students at the kennel, but can act like “dogs” at home. Armed with the information from this lesson, your dog is going to be in for a big surprise! He or she is going to learn that the same rules that applied at the kennel, also apply at home. You are to become the authoritarian figure in the household! The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to implement booby traps, interrupters, and proper management of your dog while you are home or away.

MANAGEMENT

The key to getting a well-behaved dog is to manage your dog properly. If you allow your dog to have full reign of the backyard while you are at work, chances are your dog will not receive a correction when chewing on the hose or the air conditioning wires around the A/C unit. The only way to truly prevent your dog from doing these bad behaviors and to give you peace of mind is to confine your dog during the day while you are gone. Usually, a dog run is the best tool to use for this purpose. There are several benefits to using a dog run. They are as follows:

- Allows you to keep the dog away from objects that he may destroy or hurt himself on while you are away.
- Gives him or her 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 or her a cement surface to stay on preventing your dog from getting muddy or dirty during the day, thereby making it more enjoyable to allow him or her to live in the house.
- Gives you peace of mind knowing that he or she has not escaped or been stolen out of your backyard.
- 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 guest or children when have a party, etc.

So, during the day while you are gone you may want to use your dog run. While you are home or sleeping, you may want to use the dog crate. You are not forced to use these. They are just suggestions that have been successful for many dog owners.

In addition to the dog run, there are five options that you can use while your dog is in the house.

1. **Keep your eyes on him.** Whenever your new puppy is in the house, it is important that you keep a watchful eye on him or her at all times. Look for signs of pre-elimination. Pre-elimination are signals that your dog may send out that he or she is looking for a spot to go potty. Typically, your dog will pace, turn around in circles while sniffing the ground. If you see any of these signs, immediately take your dog outside. Wait 5 minutes for him or her to go potty while you boringly say, “Go potty”. Keep some treats with you so that when your dog does go potty, you can give him or her a treat and say, “Good go potty”. If you follow this consistently, you can

eventually get your dog to go potty on command. If your dog doesn't go potty, bring him or her back inside and watch carefully.

2. **Body tether.** If you are unable to watch your dog closely, you may choose to body tether him or her. For instance, while you are picking up around the house, put your dog's leash on and tie the leash around your waist or belt loop. This will keep your dog with you at all times while you are working.
3. **Fixed tether.** If you are relaxing watching television, you may choose to do a fixed tether. Buy light line and bolt snaps from *Wal-Mart* or *Target* (you can find it in the camping or hunting section). Cut the light line into small 4' pieces. Burn the ends to keep it from fraying. Attach the bolt snaps. You may need to treat the light line in a no chew solution like vinegar and hot pepper to keep your dog from chewing through it. You may also use chain leashes for a fixed tether. Place these fixed tethers throughout the house. Tie them around unmovable, heavy objects like coffee table, posts, etc. While you are watching TV, or working at your desk attach your dog to the fixed tether. This way you can have your dog with you, but he or she is limited to the area that they can explore. Most dogs do not like to go potty in their immediate area (with the exception of pet store or pound puppies). Do not make the fixed tether so long that he or she can go potty and get far enough away from it to be comfortable.
4. **Crate.** A crate is one of the best options in getting your dog potty trained. They have many uses that can become invaluable later on. Remember that dogs are den – oriented animals. Unlike humans, they like confined areas to sleep in. At first, to get your new puppy used to the crate and to keep him or her from going potty in the middle of the night, crate him or her. You may need to remove the crate from your bedroom at first if your dog is keeping you awake at night with his or her crying. Once your dog is used to the crate, bring the crate back into the bedroom. Dogs are pack oriented and see you as an extension of their pack. They like to sleep with their pack. To eliminate any future frustration consider finding a spot for your dog to sleep in the bedroom at night. Puppies that are four months and older can start holding their bladder and bowels throughout the night. There should be no reason to have to wake up in the middle of the night to let your dog to go potty. Crates have many great uses. Before you say this just isn't for me consider these points. If it is a 110° or raining, you can leave the dog in the house while you run errands. If you intend to travel, your dog can ride safely in the car in the crate. Crates confine hair and dirt from your dog to one area. If your dog ever gets hurt or needs surgery, your vet may tell you that he or she needs to be confined to one area. If your dog is already used to the crate, there is no additional stress for dog staying in the crate. When you are busy and cannot directly supervise your puppy from going potty, you can keep him or her in the crate in the house with you. When using the crate, keep in mind that your dog can be in the crate 12 hours during a 24-hour period of time. This means that after sleeping in the crate all night, your dog can be in the crate 4 hours during the day.
5. **Puppy proofed room.** The least desirable option is to use a puppy-proofed room like a bathroom, kitchen or laundry room. Usually, these rooms are not carpeted. Make the area small enough that the dog would not be comfortable to go potty. Remove any objects that the dog may decide to chew on or get into. The problem with this option is that you usually cannot make the area small enough and the dog will get into trouble by finding things to chew on like wall plaster. However, a puppy-proofed room is a good option to use once your dog is a little older and understands housebreaking. You can use the puppy-proofed room to get your dog used to being in the house unattended. It works even better if you can install a doggy door that leads to the outside from this room. Professionals can install doggy doors into walls, windows, or just about anything. This way, your dog has the choice to be inside or out. As your dog is successful, you can open up this room to a slightly larger area like your bedroom and then keep opening up portions of your house until your dog has full access to the house while you are away.

If you use these methods of management consistently, you will have a well-behaved pet in no time! The key is not to give your dog so many options. By choosing when and where your dog will be, you limit the possibilities of your dog making a mistake!

PROBLEM SOLVING

There are eight needs to be aware of when raising a dog. If you don't meet your dog's needs successfully, your dog may act out in an inappropriate or destructive manner. Keep in mind that dogs will use their paws or their mouth to release boredom or frustration. If you meet all these needs successfully, your dog's frustration or boredom level will be eliminated. Your dog's needs consists of:

1. **Altering.** With pet overpopulation an ever-continuing problem, please give every consideration to spaying or neutering your pets. By altering your dog, you may eliminate potential health problems. A male dog up to 5 miles away can smell a bitch in season, without wind. By altering your male, you will prevent the need for him to escape from the yard. Spaying or neutering does not make dogs fat, overfeeding does. Don't have your dog have a litter just so your children can experience birth, show them a video. But, if you feel the need to breed your dog, please make sure that your pet goes through the suggested tests to prevent producing dogs with heritable diseases. If you are going to breed, make it a point to better the breed. Breed for temperament, health, and conformation.
2. **Nutrition.** Feed your dog a healthy diet. Steer clear of grocery store dog food brands. Most are filled with fillers that cause your dog to have bowel movements than necessary. You can find a quality dog food in any pet store or feed store. If your dog is being fed a nutritious diet, your dog will be more focused and alert. It is similar to sending your child to school without a good breakfast. They will not be attentive and do well in class.
3. **Leadership.** Provide your dog with strong and fair leadership. Dogs are pack animals. In the pack there is the alpha figure all the way down to the omega. If you are not the alpha figure to your dog, your dog will feel the need to take that position. Your dog will be much happier and well-adjusted if you step up to the plate and take the alpha position!
4. **Health.** Good health speaks for itself. Your dog will have a hard time learning if he or she is experiencing an ear infection or has intestinal worms. Be sure to look into the heritable problems that run in your dog's breed and have your vet check for them. For example, large dogs tend to have hip and elbow dysplasia, while small dogs can have knee problems. Most new puppies have intestinal worms. There are new products on the market that are one pill for numerous purposes. Sentinel can prevent your dog from hookworms, tapeworms, round worms, heart worms, and be a flea birth control pill and more. Have your new puppy's stool checked for coccidia or giardia. Keep your dog up to date on vaccines. It is suggested that your dog goes through a series of Distemper, Parvo, Para influenza, Hepatitis, Lepto, and Corona shots. It is mandatory that your dog receive a Rabies vaccine at four months of age. You must get your dog's license with the city animal control at this time as well. You may want to consider having your dog vaccinated for Bordetella and Lyme disease as well. Talk to your vet about these vaccines.
5. **Exercise.** Again, you may see destructive behaviors due to boredom. If your dog has an excess of pent up energy, he or she may release it by chewing up the hose, garden or other objects. Most dogs need thirty minutes of cardiovascular exercise three to five times a week.
6. **Companionship.** As we said before, dogs are pack animals and see you as an extension of their pack. They need to be able to spend time with you as much as possible. A dog should not be your lawn ornament. If you are going to own a dog, he or she should be as much a part of the family as possible. And please don't use the excuse that your dog is too big to come into the house. If you can come into the house, I think your dog can too. The best way to fulfill some of your dog's companionship needs is to have your dog sleep inside at night. This will also prevent your dog from

barking unnecessarily at night and keeping you and the neighbors awake. Also, the best protection is to have your dog in the house with you. If you hired a personal bodyguard, would you keep him outside in the backyard or outside your bedroom door? Which area of protection would make the most sense? Your dog will be much more effective as a protector and deterrent if he or she is in the house with you.

7. **Consistency.** As with children, learning is best when praise and correction is applied fairly and consistently. Dogs tend to be a creature of habit and love to have a schedule!
8. **Socialization.** You need to socialize your dog from a young age. Many cities now have off leash dog parks that you can take your dog to socialize with other canines. Try to expose your dog to a number of different elements as soon as possible. Try taking your dog with you on your next visit to the beach, Santa Monica Promenade, or Starbucks. Allow people to pet your new puppy. This will make your dog more predictable to different situations.

There are four strategies that you can use to solve any behavioral problem that your dog may display. They are:

1. **Shapers.** Shapers are anything that you can use that works with the dog's natural senses of taste, touch and smell to correct or prevent your dog from doing a bad behavior. Good examples of a taste shaper are: peppers, vinegar, alum, bitter apple, Ben Gay, Listerine, Chili Oil, Tabasco Sauce, Vicks, and more. To test a taste shaper, apply the solution on one of your dog's favorite toys. If he avoids the toy, you know that it will work on other objects as well. No chew solutions work well on items like houseplants. Good examples of a smell shaper are: dog's own defecation, gun dog training scents like Raccoon anal glands or Coyote Urine, Vinegar, store bought repellants. Smell shapers can work well at keeping your dog from entering garden areas. Good examples of touch shapers are: chain link fence, chicken wire, aluminum foil, double – sided tape, or wax paper. Touch shapers such as chicken wire can be used in a hole that your dog has been digging in. Double sided tape works well at keeping your dog from jumping up on furniture.
2. **Reprimands that obviously come from you.** Muzzle grabs, scruff shakes, and cheek grabs are all corrections that your dog received from his mother as a puppy.
3. **Interrupters.** Interrupters should appear to be coming from God, but actually you are administering the correction. Examples of interrupters are: shake can, air horn, dust cleaner, water bottle, motion detectors, ultrasonic devices, alarm systems, whistle, and more. Shake cans, air horns and squirt bottles can work well for jumping problems. Personal alarms and motion detectors can work well for a dog that is getting into the trash or jumping on furniture.
4. **Booby traps.** Some booby traps you need to reset and some reset themselves. Examples of booby traps are balloons filled with water that explode when a dog starts digging, shake cans that fall from above when the dog steals the remote control or your shoe, or a personal alarm placed strategically inside a shoe. You can also buy a scat mat or fido shock to correct a dog that is getting on furniture or getting into the garden.

PLACE COMMAND

The place command is designed to have your dog to stay in one area for up to two hours at a time. While your dog is in the place command, he or she can get up, turn around, lie back down, chew on toys, or do just about anything, but leave the area. You can use bedding, old comforters, towels, sheets, rugs or even the crate to designate the place command. Just make sure that the area is big enough for your dog to lie comfortably on and not come off of it easily. Most people like to use an old comforter or doggie bed to designate the "place" because it is easy to take along on trips and to friend's homes, etc. Have the "place" be in a centralized location like the den or TV area, so that you may be comfortable while you are working with your dog.

You are to start off by having some treats so that you may reward your dog. Command your dog, "PLACE" while pointing to the area. Make sure the leash and collar is on your dog. When your dog gets into the area, say, "Good Place" and give him or her a treat. Immediately release your

dog with the release word. Keep repeating this at least five times. Now, start having your dog stay in the “place” longer periods of time by giving “milking” the treats out. Give a treat and then two second later give another treat and so on, until your dog has been there for at least ten seconds. Then, have your dog stay in the area for twenty seconds, then thirty and so on. Build your dog up to two hours! Once your dog has worked up to five minutes you can start moving the time span along much faster. If your dog makes a mistake, give a correction and place him or her back into the area. If your dog makes another mistake, go ahead and put him or her outside, in the dog run or in the crate. You are going to be teaching your dog that if they want to be in the house, they must be in the “place” command.

Once you have built up to two hours, start backing slightly further away from the area and command your dog to “place” from a greater distance. If you need to, lead your dog to the area. However, try to stop leading your dog as soon as you can. You may also set some treats in the area for your dog to find on their own once they have successfully done the place command. Or you can try tossing a treat to the area from where you are standing, trying to get your dog to go to the area on his or her own. Once you are able to get your dog to go to the area on his or her own from that distance, move back a little further. The goal is to be able to be in any area of the home and tell your dog to do the place command. Your dog should run to the area on command without you leading him or her there.

The more consistent you are about having your dog do the place command every time he or she comes into the home, the more likely that your dog will automatically come in and lay down and thereby behave!

DOOR CRASHING

Door crashing is meant to teach your dog to not go in or out any door without first hearing it's release word. Dogs do not assume that just because you worked on the front door with him or her, that they must respect the side gates, back door, etc. You must work on every door that you want your dog to stop at.

STAGE 1: Start by walking toward the door, while you are repeating, “Do you want to go?” This is not a command that your dog has learned. It is important to **not** command your dog to stay or to heel at the door. Right as you get to the door, do a body block and give your dog a treat. You can say, “Good boy/girl!” Repeat this at least five times. Now, start trying to take a step back, slowly. If your dog remains on the other side of the door jam, give a treat and praise. Continue until you are at the end of your six -foot leash. If your dog puts one toenail on the door jam, give a correction. You may correct your dog by jerking back on the leash or by stomping your feet in front of the dog.

STAGE 2: Go back to the beginning of stage one. Do the body block, but now start to gently tug on the leash while you praise and give a treat. Steadily increase the pressure of your tug until you are pulling fairly hard. **DO NOT JERK THE LEASH!** Now continue the same process as in stage one until you can tug fairly hard at the end of the six-foot leash.

STAGE 3: Now, start eliminating the body block. Try to keep your back to your dog while you keep at least one eye on him or her. If you need to, you may correct your dog with a shake can, air horn, squirt bottle, dust off remover, etc.

STAGE 4: Your goal is to be able to run out the door, with your dog stopping you! Once you are able to achieve this, start getting more creative about setting your dog up. This means you can put your dog on a long line that has been pre-measured and is tied out to a sturdy object. Leave the room and go to an area where you can see if your dog attempts to go out the door. Again, you can get creative. Have a helper put your dog on the leash, while you are already hiding in a secure location on the other side of the door. If your dog attempts to go through the door, give him or her a double “whammy” and correct with your shake can, etc.

BOUNDARY CONTROL

Boundary control is designed to teach your dog to stay within the confines of your front yard. It is easiest to teach if you have clear and distinct boundaries of your area such as grass to cement, curbs, etc. Teach boundary control in the same manner as door crashing. The only difference is

that you are going to have to zigzag in and out through your property line in order for your dog to understand where the boundaries are located. Keep in mind that it may take a long time to develop good boundary control training in your dog. If you have a dog that has been able to leave the yard successfully, you may never be able to get your dog completely boundary trained. Also, some breeds are easier to teach boundaries to than others. You may have to except that this is one of your dog's weaknesses and you may never be able to trust your dog completely in the front yard off of a leash. In addition, if you don't have undivided respect from your dog in obedience training, your dog will not respect your wishes of you keeping him or her in your yard. In order to have good results, your dog has to know that what you say goes! If you find that your dog fits into the above category, you may decide to invest in Invisible Fence. Invisible Fence will install under ground wiring that will correct your dog through a collar and transmitter if your dog oversteps his or her boundaries. We also must take this time to point out that there are leash laws and it is strongly suggested that you keep your dog on the leash at all times if in doubt.

HOMEWORK

Work on the place command, door crashing and boundary control a little every day. Never allow your dog to go through a door or boundary without first hearing the release word. You are still only working with your dog on the six-foot leash. Continue working your dog around as many distractions as possible to prepare for the next lesson. **Remember to have fun!**