

Lesson Plan: "To change your dog's emotional state."

One of the Authors I read concerning dog training is Brenda Aloff. The premise of being able to change a dog's emotional state is fascinating to me as a trainer. In her book Aggression In Dogs, Practical Management, Prevention & Behavior Modification is one I have in my library .

I promote the development of a communication system with the dog. By following a structured teaching practice, we can teach our dog's to learn Patterns of Behavior to direct and redirect the dog so your dog voluntarily offers behaviors. We train so that we can redirect the dog from a negative behavior and direct them to a positive behavior to be rewarded if offered.

By using Classical Conditioning, the dog acquires the foundation behaviors. We start with the sit down focus behaviors. Make them known behaviors (one positive behavior voluntarily offered). We use Operant Conditioning to teach Patterns of Behavior. By forming a known behavior pattern such as sit to down to focus we develop a pattern to redirect the dog from negative behavior to a behavior to be rewarded.

The continual teaching of Patterns of Behavior gives the dog more complex behaviors to be offered. We learn to manipulate and influence the environment to produce rewarded behaviors. A redirect exercise is used to shape a behavior of calm from a behavior of overjoyed excitement or fearful aggression. Thus effectively changing your dog's emotional state.

Aggression In Dogs- Practical Management, Prevention & Behavior Modification;  
Brenda Aloff, 2002, Funcraft, Inc Collierville TN