

# THE INNER DOG



POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS

Check your ego at the door! Ego, what a funny little word, it has such a huge effect on people.

When working with animals you cannot have an "ego". Animals know and can feel the kind of love and energy your putting off and when ego gets involved nothing will go right because then, you're making it about yourself and how your dog looks to others and how obedient (UGG I hate that word) he or she is.

Positive Reinforcement training is "training with your heart" so that the lines of communication stay open and loving; this is how we all learn the best.

Stop and think about it, how great would you be at your job if someone was always yelling and telling you NO, NO that is not how you do it, but never stopped and took the time to show you what they wanted. Well my guess is you would quit that job and probably have a few choice words for your boss. Just because you're a human and you think differently than your dog, does not give you the right to DOMINATE, or INTIMIDATE your pet into doing what you want. This world wants everything NOW and given the technology we have everything is at a touch of a button and happens fast!!

SLOW DOWN PEOPLE! If you are blessed enough to live with animals as I am we need to realize that dogs and humans alike thrive on love and kindness and consistency. Don't get caught in the "I want it right now trap" you're going to do what I say right now. Instead, why don't you pause for a moment look at your dog and actually try and figure out WHY the behavior is happening in the first place. Again, this takes time, it means you have to take EGO out of it and really try to understand you pet. This is not about control and commands rather, companionship and cues.

Our dogs are the most wonderful loving creatures who shower us with unconditional love each day and I feel it's only fair we give them more of our time. They cannot be an afterthought; they cannot be last on the list of things in the family order. Be grateful for your pets and show them that you are grateful by spending time with them and really getting to know their world and how they think.

Involve the entire family in continuing your education about your canine family member and read about what makes a dog tick. Remember, when communicating with your dog speak with your heart, be a kind, and consistent, the learning will astound you.

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