

# THE INNER DOG



POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS

## HOW WE TEACH

1. ***A dog is a living, breathing sentient being just like us, with good and bad days, enjoyments, frustrations, aggravations, short attention spans, etc.***
2. **Force Free, Fear Free, Pain Free, Science Based, Trust Building, Positive Reinforcement teaching** is the gateway to a partnership. **It has been proven time again in numerous studies to be the most effective, longest lasting and the most reliable form of training**
3. You **MUST** create positive rapport that Builds **TRUST** so that you can **TEACH** skills that **CHANGE** behaviors so you can **ENJOY** your dog
4. Your dog's life should be **Eat, Sleep & Play**
5. You **MUST** understand how dogs communicate in order for you to communicate with them.
6. Your dog's inability to understand what you're asking of him leads to him not doing what you ask
7. Your dog isn't being stubborn, rebellious or defiant; **your dog's value system is very different than yours.**
8. **What goes down the lead comes up the lead-** your dog reacts to your every emotion, especially when on the leash.
9. Always remember, ***"What is the truth as your dog sees it?"***
10. Ask yourself this: ***"What 5 things does my dog look forward to each day?"*** (*Hint: The list should have lots of positive mental and physical stimulation*)
11. **Teach** your dog the skills to enjoy the human world; they'll **Change** inappropriate behavior
12. Every moment with your dog is a **Teachable** moment, for both of you.
13. **Teaching** is a lifelong process
14. **Teaching** must be **FUN** in order for your dog to learn. Your presence, posture and tone of voice determine how your dog will respond to you.
15. Dogs love to learn and they learn through repetition (ever hear of Pavlov?).
16. **Teach** new tricks, **Play** new games, **Practice** skills, **Explore** new places.
17. **Patience, patience, patience.** Neither you, nor your dog, learned everything in a day.
18. **Practice, practice, practice.** You must practice forever so your dog never forgets.
19. **Practice what you TEACH**
20. You must be **consistent** with praise, rewards, rules and boundaries.

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21. Your dog won't respond if you can't get his attention. You'll use focus cues for the rest of his life.
22. **Never** punish your dog for breaking a rule you didn't teach AND practice: the failure is yours, not your dogs.
23. **Never yell at your dog!** It's a waste of time: he doesn't understand what you're saying or why you're saying it; he just knows you're excited (in a bad way) and will respond inappropriately.
24. "Being realistic about what a dog can and cannot do is an act of love." (Suzanne Clothier)
25. "In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog." (Edward Hoagland)
26. "Indeed dogs rule. Being part of their life is a privilege; helping to make this a better world for them is an obligation. They deserve the very best from us as we share this time together." (Faith Maloney, co-founder, Best Friends Animal Society)

**Build TRUST, TEACH Skills, CHANGE Behavior, ENJOY Your Dog**