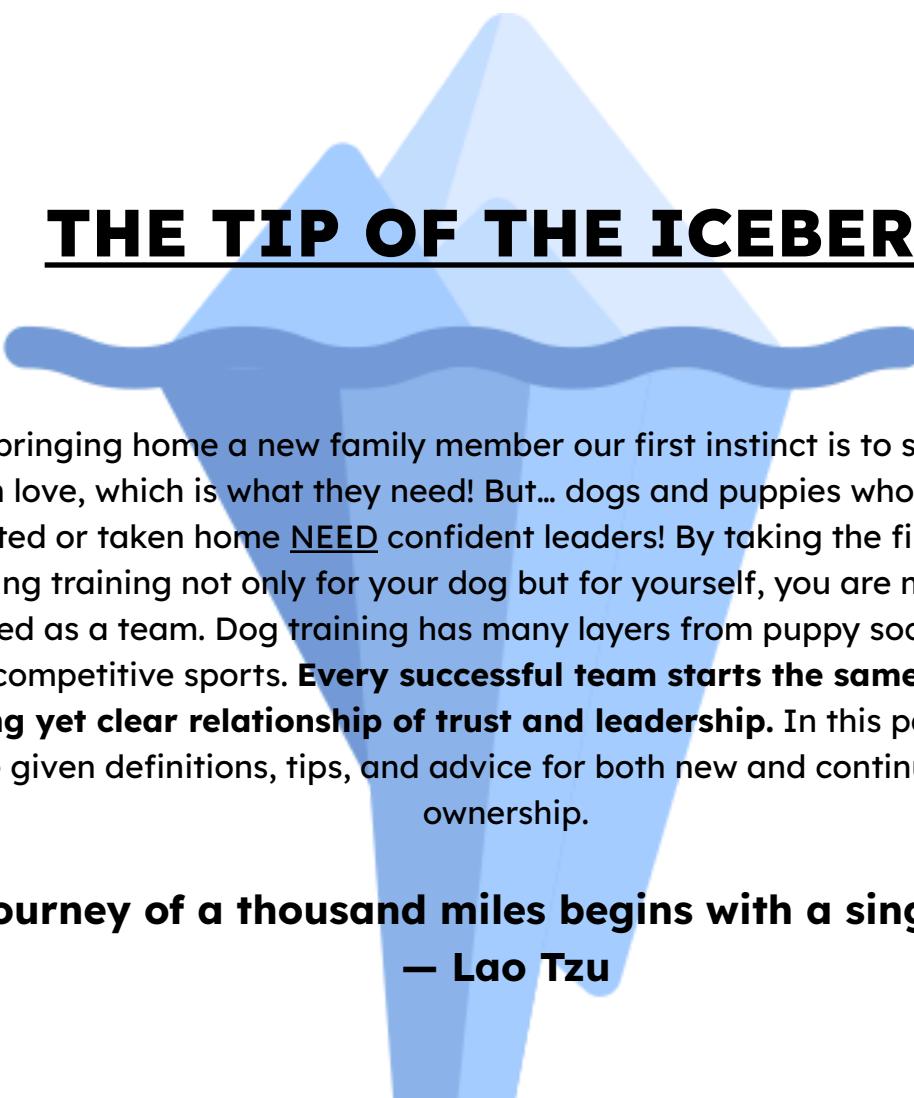


Wagging with Wisdom



THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG



When bringing home a new family member our first instinct is to smother them with love, which is what they need! But... dogs and puppies who are newly adopted or taken home NEED confident leaders! By taking the first step and choosing training not only for your dog but for yourself, you are more likely to succeed as a team. Dog training has many layers from puppy socialization to highly competitive sports. **Every successful team starts the same, by building a strong yet clear relationship of trust and leadership.** In this packet you will be given definitions, tips, and advice for both new and continuing dog ownership.

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

— Lao Tzu

[**WAGGING WITH WISDOM: CANINE TRAINING & BEHAVIOR**](#)

SAGE RAINIER

EASTERN, CT

(860) 639-6874

DEFINITIONS:

CUE [kyoo]

Noun

D: anything that excites to action; stimulus

Cues (or commands) are learned behaviors based on consistency and repetition. This is a great example as to why it is just as easy to teach a dog German as it is English as it is sign language, because to them it is all sounds and motions that when paired with their action, is routinely rewarded and encouraged. With practice you can create a cue out of just about anything!

In dog training cues can range from, hand signals, physical stimuli, and verbalizations to indicate or exert a learned action.

LANGUAGE [lang-gwij]

Noun

communication by voice in the distinctively human manner, using arbitrary sounds in conventional ways with conventional meanings; speech

VERBAL

Adjective

of or relating to words:
verbal ability

BODY LANGUAGE

Noun

nonverbal, usually unconscious, communication through the use of postures, gestures, facial expressions, and the like.

NONVERBAL

Adjective

not spoken: the nonverbal signals of body movement

We use body language and nonverbal cues 24/7. Harnessing the power of nonverbal cues and body language is dependent entirely on how consistent you, as the human responsible for them, are with your training. Dogs do not speak verbal language although they may learn to understand their patterns of cause & effect. Naturally they are inclined to pick up on context clues of the environment in order to respond accordingly to previous experience and current ability. A few common daily examples of nonverbal and body language cues include:

- Picking up their bowl, leash, treat bag, etc.

- Usually ignites excitement or intrigue as to what your next move may be based on past experiences of you reaching for these objects
- Your reaction when your dog jumps up
 - If your reaction to this includes yelling, physically pushing them away, giving eye contact or addressing them directly you are unknowingly giving your dog everything they are asking for at that moment. Although you may feel you are being very clear their action is unwanted, if your dog has not been taught or does not fully understand what to do instead, they are receiving what they intended to. Attention of any kind.
- Motioning a flat open hand towards the ground
 - If your dog has practiced this nonverbal cue they are likely to lay down following this hand movement
 - If your dog has not learned this verbal cue they are still likely to roughly follow your movement with intrigue which can then be shaped into a specific learned cue like “down” with consistent practice

When to Introduce Verbal Language: When you are 100% certain your pup comprehends what you are asking them verbally, in the environment they are currently in. Then and only then, may you begin to use and expect comprehension of a verbal cue.

We practice cues extensively before commanding and expecting the dog in front of us to comply in a variety of environments, distraction levels, and situations.

REWARD

[ri-wawrd]

Noun

D: something given or received in return or recompense for service, merit, hardship, etc.

When we are talking about dogs, and what a reward means to them a few things quickly come to mind. Food, toys, freedoms, and of course praise are all incredible forms of payment to a dog for a job well done.

Many owner's first question: “When do we stop giving them treats?”

The answer: I appreciate being paid for the work that I do, and I can only assume that you do too.

It is very easy to forget that our pets are animals being expected to perform what is considered “socially acceptable” behaviors in unnatural environments. Even when a dog is considered “trained” or “well behaved” they should still be compensated for their work according to ability.

Young dogs learning cues for the first time are continuously reinforced for completing cues in order to develop a substantial initial pattern. As they progress in their ability we can begin to expect a bit more, decreasing from continuous to intermittent rewards and the time in between again, varies on ability and execution. If you attempt to assume comprehension of a cue too early and prematurely decrease incentive, you can set yourself and your dog up for failure and

frustration faster than you realize. If and when this happens simply take that step back until they are ready or you are confident enough to try again.

MARKER [mahr-ker]

Noun

D: something used as a mark or indication

A marker refers to the signal given to your dog directly in between completing a cue or performing a desirable behavior and before receiving some kind of reward. For most this is either “Good!” or “Yes!” which is immediately followed by presenting said reward. The key to ensuring your dog understands the meaning of the marker, you must stay extremely consistent in both word choice and tone. Dog’s being masters of pattern, we are looking to create a habitual response in our favor so too much variation can cause confusion over time.

***If timing, tone, word choice in the moment, and paying attention to your dog’s actions all at once may be or is proving difficult for you, there’s a tool for that!

Clickers are used for this very reason. Providing a clean, crisp, and nearly identical sound every single time. The click of a clicker is used in place of a verbal marker to build clear and fast communication with your dog. Like a verbal marker, each time the clicker is clicked your dog is presented with their reward!

When first beginning to use a marker, or starting the use of a new marker, it must be CHARGED!

Whether you are using a verbal marker or clicker, you must charge said marker by simply marking and rewarding your dog several times. For simple already well known behaviors or better yet, nothing! After catching their attention you can then begin asking them simple commands and luring them into position, marking and rewarding when done correctly.

ex.) Cue - Action completed - “Yes!” - *reward* - & repeat !!

THE 3 D'S OF DOG TRAINING

1. **Duration** - how long they can remain in a specific cue
2. **Distance** - how far the space is between you and your dog while in cue or completing a cue is
3. **Distraction** - distractions vary from wind, to squirrels, to people and other dogs. Some distractions prove to be of greater value for some dogs over others so be sure to socialize and expose them appropriately, taking note of how your dog responds to the different stimuli around them

***Never start building any of the 3 D's at the same time.** We always want to set our dogs up for success, building each of these individually and in increments proves to solidify a much stronger understanding of the cue concept at hand.*

SOCIALIZATION

Keep in mind, every new place to a dog is SMELLY, BRIGHT, and LOUD, just because it is normal to you does not mean it is for them. Forcing dogs is never the answer but allowing them the time needed to settle into new environments is required for them to build trust over time.

DO NOT RUN from problems.

Dogs feed off of our emotions due to the fact that we cannot communicate with direct language. When an anticipated negative stimulus is approaching, distract your pup by calling their name and gaining their attention, followed by offering their favorite reward before moving on if successful. This creates a positive connection between the stimulus, owner, and environment over time.

With that being said, not every dog will be as easily deterred from a distraction. If your dog is easily distracted or has a tendency to react towards distractions, try positioning yourself in between your dog and the stimulus while rewarding them on the move acting as a physical barrier and continue moving! While keeping yourself as calm as possible in the moment, focus on rewarding your dog for continuing past, and any time they switch their attention to you ensure you reward them heavily without panic.

** For reactive dogs, this will not be an immediate fix but rather one that builds trust in typical social environments. The longer you practice this method, your dog will begin to counter-condition into new habits when faced with previously triggering stimuli.

*****If you are struggling with a reactive dog, always consult a professional! A single lesson can increase both you and your dog's ability to understand each other as well as be more prepared to work as a team in stressful situations.**

What happens when you run?...

When the owner or handler panics, the released energy is immediately picked up by your dog. You may even be familiar with the saying “down the leash” and for good reason. In many situations you are the most familiar thing in the environment to your dog, so they are likely to seek your approval of new experiences to help gauge their own reactions. Just because you are calm may not immediately put them at ease without practice, but when a nervous dog is in a new place, sensing danger means a reaction of some kind. Reactions can vary from vocalizing to hiding. Encouraging tones of voice can assist your pup in these new experiences yet we must always keep in mind they will not solve the issue on their own with the lack of contextual understanding of words a dog has unlike human children. Remember to use any positive reinforcement your dog is *willing to accept* in the moment when they are exploring or observing a new place, this can be food, toys, praise, and more!

*****Willing to Accept**

This is something that can vary between dogs based on what they typically like and their current state of mind. If your normally food and toy driven dog is not taking any reinforcements, hiding, acting overly submissive, etc. then these may be signs they are overwhelmed and in that case, there is no longer any learning occurring. It is usually a good idea to end the current interaction or experience in these cases, take a break at the least, and try again if your dog initiates curiosity and you deem it safe and fair to reattempt.

POSITIVE & NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES

We assume that all experiences with friendly dogs and people will be positive, unfortunately this is not always true. Sometimes overly friendly people and dogs can negatively impact a dog's behavior. Showing your pup that you will stand up for them so that they do not have to, is a major key in their development of environment neutrality and handler/owner trust.

GREETINGS & PUBLIC

When allowing your dog to greet new people and dogs, do not allow either party to run up to one another. This establishes boundaries for your dog so they feel less inclined to react themselves (jumping, rushing, barking, etc.). There is a SPLIT SECOND in between your dog noticing a stimulus approaching and their reaction to it. Attempting to catch this moment if possible and reward your dog for switching their attention back to you can really help in the long run. Teaching dogs and puppies to remain calm and focused on you in a plethora of environments, will prove to greatly impact their sociability throughout their life.

However, not all dogs are this easy. If your dog tends to react vocally or hide, the best option before leaving the situation is to stand directly in front of your dog and attempt to receive some kind of recognition, breaking that initial focus. Even if only for a second, once received praise heavily and move on with a calm, composed demeanor. If your dog continues with you and is accepting rewards, this is a great time to add that cherry on top for choosing you over a stimulating distraction.

HOME

If your dog is resistant to approaching strangers or familiar guests, have the guest ignore the dog as if they were not there when visiting. This includes no eye contact, talking to, motioning towards, and touching. For nondisruptive dogs, this can easily give an introverted dog time to open up on their own and initiate interaction when comfortable.

For those who tend to vocalize, react, or become overly excitable, ask your guests to perform the same no interaction routine upon arrival. Beforehand, leash your dog if you do not already have full verbal obedience control, this allows you to communicate more effectively what is and is not appropriate upon the arrival of guests in the home. Reward your dog for calm behaviors with verbal praise and other rewards when deemed appropriate. This can be a fantastic opportunity to implement the "place" or "bed" cues as well, allowing you to send your dog to their bed until they have calmed down and are able to interact appropriately with guests. This should be occasional but AMAZING food such as cheese, hot dogs, steak, something you do not usually get in order to create great association with calm behavior and guests.

X - DOG PARKS - X

Dog parks unfortunately do the opposite we expect them too.

They are very helpful places for socializing however only from the outside. When allowing young or impressionable dogs to enter an uncontrolled environment with strange dogs is a recipe for disaster. Keep in mind the following, you are typically unaware of their vaccination statuses and behaviors before entering and releasing your own dog. Keeping your dog outside the fences and rewarding them for ignoring the commotion can improve their ability to ignore such stimuli in the future rather than assume it is always time to play with any and everyone. Try circling the dog park with your dog on leash, rewarding them for checking in with you. As they become more comfortable, move inward towards the fence continuing to look for acknowledgement from your dog. You can play games, fetch, use a long line for more room, scatter rewards, and more! Following this, leave! This initiates the understanding that other dogs are able to be present without need for initiation especially when you are present because you are SUPER FUN!

ON LEASH

Try not to let your pup approach another dog or person unless they are in a relatively calm state.

If they are not, this can cause tension of some kind between both the dogs and people. Nervous dogs may become more nervous when forced to interact with others. Young or overly excited dogs can be corrected by older dogs or even reinforced with more excitement, increasing the likeliness that they will be as exuberant if not more in their next greeting.

BODY LANGUAGE

A wagging tail is a happy tail! ...Right?

Unfortunately no, the tails, ears, eyes, and bodies of our dogs are communicating with us constantly. Many are simply unaware of what they are seeing. Something as simple as yawning and the licking of chops in unusual circumstances can be signs of stress. Only dogs with soft, inviting features and an even wagging tail are ready to be approached by anything. I always advise dog owners to seek out information on dog body language and take note of their individual dog's habits and communication skills. Attending seminars and seeking training lessons can be incredible ways to access such information in person and have the ability to ask questions.

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



TRAINING

IF THEY ARE NOT ACKNOWLEDGING YOU, THEY ARE MOST LIKELY NOT LISTENING.

And no, repeating 50 times unfortunately does not help either, this instead makes that verbal command become meaningless very quickly.

If you want your commands and cues to mean something then that has to be proven during the training process. No this does not mean forcing them to do tricks but instead a test of both your own and your dog's patience. When training is done correctly it can be extremely rewarding for you both!

My favorite tip to remember:

You MUST be 5 minutes more stubborn than your dog.

(5 minutes feels a lot longer when you are waiting)

When asking something of your dog, follow through. If your dog seems confused on a relatively new task, guide them in the right direction to complete it before moving on. By giving up we only teach them that they are not always held accountable if they push hard enough.

SAY IT ONCE!!

If they know a verbal command has meaning and it has been practiced with enough guidance, they will complete it. Stay consistent. Stick to the program.

Obedience classes are **ALWAYS** a good idea for any dog or puppy that has been newly adopted or brought home. Classes and individual training allow designated bonding time for you and your dog as well as educates all involved!

FEEDINGS

If you find your dog is not intensely food motivated a key factor may be their feeding schedule. Feeding at scheduled times can increase a dog's drive when it comes to training and obedience. Allowing a full food bowl consistently only reveals that food is no longer a "rarity".

Feedings should be limited to roughly 15 minutes, anything outside of that is unnecessary, it can lead to both over-eating and dietary issues as well as behavioral issues from lack of positive leverage.

THE CRATE.

I know we all dread the crate when we bring home a new pup because it seems like nothin' but puppy jail. But, I promise the crate becoming their crib or safe room can be one of the best things especially for a rescue dog.

When starting out in a new home the first two weeks at night should be spent in the crate. This is typically how long it takes for them to become accustomed. When beginning the first few nights are going to most likely be filled with whines and howls for attention if they have not been previously crate trained. You must ignore this. Covering the crate with a light blocking blanket, providing them with safe crate enrichment (kongs, bones, etc.) and placing the crate somewhere quiet at night but in the open during the day is key.

Bedtimes are very important to learning puppies, they need schedules to begin the trust and training processes. This includes feeding times as well, which can also be held within the crate to start that positive association. If you choose to feed in the crate, place the bowl in a back corner encouraging them to go completely inside in order to receive their meal with the door open. Having them wait for food is also a great option to practice self control beforehand.

DO:

- Leave them in their crate when leaving the home
- Leave them in the crate at night for the first 3 weeks minimum (I promise it is much more rewarding for them to sleep on the bed following this)
- Use the crate as a safe place or “own room” for your dog
- Use the crate during training sessions
- Feed them in the crate, meals and enrichment!
- Cover the crate for added comfort and security

DO NOT:

- Use the crate as abrupt or rough punishment
- Bang on the crate even if they are barking/whining
- Leave a new puppy alone in a crate full of stuff (similar to a baby in a crib, this can be a safety hazard)
- Let them out of the crate if vocalizing or pleading in hopes of attention. Even talking to them encourages these obnoxious behaviors. Ensure they have been cared for in every way and then leave them be with something to do, rewarding them intermittently for composure.

TYPES OF REWARDS

FOOD

In dog training there is a hierarchy that is entirely up to your individual dog and their likings. Some lower value rewards for others could make your pup go nuts and vice versa, make sure you design the hierarchy that is right for your dog!

- High Value Rewards consist of irresistible foods, common examples include; steak, freeze dried treats, wet or raw foods. High value foods are used as top tier encouragement when a dog has a breakthrough, during an emergency, or even when overcoming a new obstacle as peak encouragement.
- Low Value Rewards consist mainly of kibble, commonly offered treats, etc. This kind of reward is typically most engaging in lower level distraction environments but gives you

the ability to experiment with jackpot feeding and games when attempting to re-engage your dog.

- Medium Value Rewards serve as the bridge between low and high, common examples include, peanut butter, cheese, and soft chewy rewards. These can be incredible motivators for rewarding a dog for engaging with your redirection, encouraging them to face new challenges, and bridging the transition in rewards between low and high value.

***It is easy to forget the fact that we feed our dogs bowls full of rewards, usually multiple times per day at meals. Whenever possible, use it to your own advantage! Many dogs are driven to work for their food and you can practice harnessing this ability on a daily basis at typical mealtimes.*

TOYS

Similar to food rewards, this all up to your specific dog. Experiment with different toys and games while training your dog or simply begin asking them for simple, learned commands during play. If your dog deems the toy or game valuable enough they are likely to complete cues and tasks in order to continue playing or receive the toy. The more often you do this, your dog begins to associate specific games and toys with the same value as treats! Some dogs prefer the fun and movement of play as a reward over food so remember to listen to your dog!

A few toys and games to keep in mind:

- Ball/fetch
- Rope toy/tug
- Frisbee
- Flirt pole/chase
- Scatter feeding/sniffing
- Squeaky toys
- & so many more!

PRAISE

When actively engaging with your dog, training, playing, exercising, and everything in between it is natural for us to verbalize to them. This usually consists of praise words like “good dog!”, “yes!”, “good job!” but it is much less about the words we use than the tone we say it in. Whether your dog is completing a lengthy loose leash walk, holding a distance stay, or watching a squirrel run by without chasing it, consistent tone and verbal praise lets your dog know they are doing a good job and to keep up the fantastic work!

LURING

Luring references the act of pinching a treat between your thumb and palm with enough space for your pup to lick and nibble at, but not quite receive it. This builds slight frustration from your dog who knows if they try hard enough they can get it. From here you are able to use their magnetization on your hand, guiding them into a variety of positions. Luring can be used to teach new cues, clearly communicate desired body movement, and increase drive while training.

(PHOTO)

PRIORITY KNOWLEDGE

- Recall (*their name*, here, come)
- Sit
- Down
- Stay
- Leave-It
- Touch (nose to palm for redirective purposes)
- Loose leash walking

BALANCE

As you may have noticed, I choose not to label my training methods. Common dog trainer sub labels such as “purely positive” or “balanced” implying only partial usage of *operant conditioning* to teach clear understandings of desirable and undesirable behaviors. In turn this either limits their effective ability to teach certain skills or limits the type of dogs and behavior challenges they choose to face.

While training dogs we use varied combinations of operant conditioning to receive a desired response. Broken down into its most general terms, experiences highlighted green reference forms of encouragement and those highlighted red reference forms of consequence. As a whole this shapes an individual's overall understanding of consistent expectation in their current circumstantial experience. Even as a human you can directly relate many of your own if not all learned experiences to this template.

OPERANT CONDITIONING: a learning process where behaviors are modified through the association of stimuli with reinforcement or punishment.

In reference to training dogs, operant conditioning represents all of one's available options in teaching a dog clear expectations through consistent experience. Unfortunately for us, the way we use language in our verbal communication with each other cannot be equally understood by dogs. Instead we utilize our human understanding of a word's meaning and apply physical expectation to our dogs through varied outcomes. These verbal “cues” serve to anticipate patterns of reinforcement or punishment in relation to the individual dog and handler's experience and consistency.

STIMULI: a thing that rouses activity or energy in someone or something; a spur or incentive. Examples of stimuli include; irritants, sights, smells, sounds, & temperature changes.

With the instincts of a domesticated predator animal, individual dogs have varying levels of drive (incentive) to obtain food, receive praise & affection, chase, tug, dig, shred, sniff, play, vocalize, run, protect and even bite. Our job as dog owners and those responsible for their quality of life in our care, is to provide:

- Clear and fair expectations

- Realistically structured boundaries
- A consistent understanding of reinforcement patterns
- Appropriate outlets for their instinctual needs based on their breed(s) & age

REINFORCEMENT: the process of encouraging or establishing a belief or pattern of behavior, especially by encouragement or reward.

Common forms of reinforcement found in most dog training methods include food, toys, & praise which are all fabulous reinforcers. Our ability to easily manipulate ownership and control of these reward types makes them common forms of reward during structured training sessions. However, when reflecting on what your dog finds reinforcing throughout their entire life, do not fail to acknowledge your opportunities to manipulate and control access to other reinforcing incentives specific to your dog! You will find yourself beautiful opportunities to shape their more general impulsivity patterns for the better.

PUNISHMENT: the infliction or imposition of a penalty as retribution for an offense.

The word punishment and its definition in relation to training dogs has been wildly misconstrued over recent years. We have already established an understanding that dogs do not comprehend contextual language on its own without a clear and consistent pattern of reinforcement or punishment that has been associated with it and ourselves.

As animal owners, trainers, and lovers it is never acceptable or appropriate to inflict abusive, unfair, or confusing forms of punishments towards our beloved companions. We seek to build realistic, loving and manageable relationships with them. However, this does not mean we refrain from seeking to control undesirable, unsafe, or vicious behaviors which routinely result in catastrophe without proper training. Similar to reinforcement options, punishment comes in many forms being received and adhered to uniquely by the dog in question.

The number one most common form of punishment many owners fail to even recognize they are inflicting is inescapable leash pressure. There is a false expectation that dogs understand the concept of a leash from the moment we clip it on. Many fail to stay aware of the conflict progression caused by seemingly inescapable pressures and punishments on their most sensitive areas. Without taking the time to teach your dog the expectations of being on a leash, they simply lack direction and quickly begin to self inflict pressure by pulling. Without intervention and understanding the long term effects of practicing similar or even more explosive examples of undesirable behaviors, many dogs go on to suffer both physically and mentally from lack of consistent leadership.

POSITIVE: to add

NEGATIVE: to remove

Now with a good understanding of these important definitions in the context of training dogs, I present to you...

THE 4 QUADRANTS OF OPERANT CONDITIONING:

	+	-
R	POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT (+R) To add Desired stimulus	NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT (-R) To remove Desired stimulus
P	POSITIVE PUNISHMENT (+P) To add Discouraging stimulus	NEGATIVE PUNISHMENT (-P) To remove Discouraging stimulus

WHO IS ALPHA?

We have all heard the misconception about how we as humans should be “ALPHA” in the home with our dogs in order to assert dominance. This however is very counter productive, and instead teaches dogs to be fearful and or react to our presence negatively.

When our reaction to a puppy peeing inside the house is to rub their face in it and be put in the crate angrily, we only teach them to fear relieving themselves. Usually this can look like hiding accidents behind couches/in unusual rooms and places, cowering, and even hiding themselves.

- Instead, redirection is key! If you catch them in the act, immediately bring them outside to finish (you can even throw a paper towel over it in the meantime), reinforce the correct behavior, and put them on a leash or in their crate with something to do while you clean it up. The crate in this moment is all about your approach, it is not negative simply a safe place while you cannot pay attention to them out and about.

When meeting a new dog and they roll over immediately most take it as a good sign that they want to get a belly rub. However, this is not always the case and all other aspects of the dog’s body language are still in effect. If their tail is tucked, ears are back, and/or eyes are very wide and non confrontational these are signs of distress and submission. What we see as an invitation for pets could actually be an extreme display of submission to people and other dogs.

What does an inviting “belly-up” look like?

When a dog is inviting pets especially to such a vulnerable place in a positive way it is usually very obvious. Some dogs will even throw themselves at you and roll over as they hit your feet with a wagging tail and initiate that kind of attention very obviously.

A good rule of thumb, if you feel like you have to soften your tone and treat them like a scared child they probably are exactly that.

The best way to handle a dog who is submitting in fear is to IGNORE these displays and instruct others to do the same. If someone approaches your dog and they roll in submission you should instruct the greeter to retract until your dog feels more comfortable while you reinforce their confident behaviors. If your dog is refusing praise or treats from you and others it may mean they do not wish to interact at this time or are overwhelmed, leaving the interaction appropriately is always an acceptable option.

YOU DO NOT OWE ANYONE THE ABILITY TO TOUCH YOUR DOG AT ANYTIME.

As long as strangers are respectful, just let them know you are advocating for your dog’s personal space while they are in training and invite them to chat with you about your pup without physical interaction. This can be very comforting to nervous dogs and puppies who will

begin to understand that there is no need to defend, hide, or submit themselves to everything, their handler will always step in before they ever need to.

DISASTER

If the unfortunate event of a dog fight ever occurs in the course of your time as a dog owner,
DO NOT get in between the animals.

You **WILL** get injured.

If you have never been shown how to separate a dog fight correctly please do not attempt unless absolutely necessary. In an emergency situation, not involving you, the quickest and safest option for everyone is to retreat with their leashed dogs.

Never risk your own dog's safety if they are not already involved.

If you are handling a dog, remain at a safe distance from the commotion and remove them from the scene as quickly as possible (another room in a crate, car, house, etc.).

If your dog is not on a leash, they should have a trained recall and be wearing a flat collar AT ALL TIMES for this very reason in order to remove them quickly and safely from any form of conflict.

Dog fights are never a fun experience for **anyone** involved.

If you know your dog has exhibited a tendency to fight other dogs, do not put them in situations in which they will be tested to do so.

Please always consult a professional to guide you through managing this type of behavior.

PUPPIES

Puppies typically go home between 9 and 12 weeks depending on their health standpoint. This time period up until 6 months is CRUCIAL to their behavioral and social development. Once puppy vaccines are complete, setting aside time for socialization is a must! Just like human toddlers, puppies are like sponges taking in both how we as people and other dogs respond to each other and any outside stimuli. Keeping this in mind when training and socializing your pup can be very helpful for their development of neutrality later on.

***** REMEMBER *****

What you allow and think is cute now, will definitely NOT be as time goes on and they both solidify habits and grow bigger.

Keep the future in mind, **ALWAYS**!