

TRAINING TIPS BY PERSONALITY

Timid –

This dog shrinks from entering class, spooks at new sights, and cowers at being corrected. Owners tend to coddle, protect, and soothe, being afraid the training will break the dog's spirit. Soothing a timid dog **always** makes it more timid. Build his confidence by ignoring cowardly behavior. Work your dog in a peppy, no-nonsense fashion with **lots** of praise.

Sullen –

This dog drags along grudgingly, sighs, and rolls their sad eyes. You feel guilty for putting your dog through such "misery." Would you take a child out of school because he was too lazy to try to learn? Work fast and happy, giving lots of praise. NEVER feel sorry for a sullen dog – he can read you.

Previously Abused –

Half of all dog owners we meet think their dog has been abused, because it is fearful or shies from certain people, objects, or motions. Most of the time, the dog is simply timid or under-socialized. In the case of the rare, truly abused dog, training, with fair firm corrections, will greatly build confidence.

Happily, Berserk –

This party fellow takes life with a bouncy zest and nearly pulls your arms out of their sockets trying to play with the other dogs in class. He may leap and play bite the leash or you. You feel like a party-pooper making such a jolly boy behave. Don't worry – training will give your happy-go-lucky dog manners, not take away his jolly nature. Give very clear, firm corrections and mild praise.

Aggressive -

This dog grumbles, growls, and even snaps when you try to enforce a command. Owners sometimes try to cover for such dogs, claiming he was just "sighing" or "yawning" or that training caused his aggression. Proper training never causes aggression – it simply reveals the resistant nature of a dog that has never been required to obey. **This is a serious problem.** Aggression never goes away by itself; it gets worse and ends up being dangerous to humans and fatal to the dog itself. Contact trainer for proper aggression correction methods.

Crowd Shy –

This dog isn't timid at home but hates class no matter how cheerful his owner is. Some dogs, just like some people, simply hate crowds. If you are sure that you are not being tense or overprotective, chances are your dog just lacks socialization. Ignore his discomfort, be as positive as you can, and figure he may never enjoy the bustle of class, but he will benefit from it.

Super Smarty Pants- This dog is always busy trying to find a "work around" to avoid obeying! Anticipate, and don't be outsmarted!