



K9EDGE DOG TRAINING

CREATING THE BOND NEVER BROKEN

Puppies are defaulted to going to get the things they want (reinforcers). We need to train moving back will still result in reward.

Empowerment training allows the dog to make a choice. We can set our dogs up to choose the behaviours we want rather than forcing them.



DEBUNKING DOMINANCE

It's not based on science...Really.

The notion of dominance in dogs stems from a misunderstanding of wolf pack research that was then applied to pet dogs. Unfortunately, the notion stuck. It was always likely to stick, because we humans organize ourselves in hierarchies so the idea seems utterly plausible to us. But even if the dominance principle applied to wolves—research now definitively shows it doesn't—pet dogs are no more wolves than we are chimpanzees.

It's not helpful.

The term *dominance* is a label, not a solution. What's more, it sets up a conflict. If I believe my dog to be dominant it follows that I must make him submit to me. This often results in an ongoing battle of will that is unpleasant for both of us.

A much more useful approach is to leave out labels altogether and simply describe what your dog is doing, decide what you want him to do instead, and then make a plan to help him change his behaviour.

The training relationship reflects we are asking something of them, there is an opportunity for a reward, and the dog is free to choose.

It's a non-issue.

What is vitally important is the good relationship between you and your dog, and getting training results that allow you to live harmoniously together. Good training sets the human and the dog up to both get what they want so everyone is happy. For example:

- Reward behaviours you like. That will make them happen more often.
- Ignore behaviours you don't like. That will make them happen less often.
- Practice *nothing for free*. Ask your dog to sit for doors to be opened, balls to be thrown, leashes to come off at the park, etc. This makes asking politely your dog's main strategy for getting what he wants, instead of using pushy, obnoxious behaviour.

With methods like these, everyone wins. You get a happy, well-behaved dog and your dog gets to chase balls, sniff other dogs, and eat treats, all of which are high on his list of priorities.

K9EDGE - proud member of :

Canadian Association of Professional Pet Dog Trainers

Pet Professional Guild

Association of Pet Dog Trainers (US)

K9EDGE offers private training for family dogs. Puppy prep, obedience, and problem solving, I can work with all breeds and all ages of dogs. Serving Edmonton and surrounding communities with a love for the species and a commitment to being one of Alberta's finest Pet Professionals.