



Courtesy of: Heather Hime
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Dog Training & Behavior Services

Everyday Compliance

In order to achieve a dog who is willing to offer good behavior for you on a daily basis, it is important that we provide “Life Rewards” for behaviors, not just treats. Once a behavior is learned through lure & reward training, we need to begin teaching the dog that using this behavior in an everyday context is worth his/her while. To do this, it is important that we think of our dogs top 5-10 favorite things, and figure out a way to have them work for those things.

Example: *Rufus loves going for walks, playing in the yard, and greeting guests (wildly) at the door. So how can we make Rufus understand that in order to achieve his favorite things, he first needs to offer us good behavior?*

Going for Walks - Take out leash, wait for calm behavior (you may have to sit on the couch and watch a few minutes of tv), reward calm behavior by calling Rufus over to be leashed, but before leashing, ask for a sit or down, again wait for calm behavior before you get up to walk to the door, once at the door wait for calm behavior again, then ask for a sit and wait while you open the door and exit before releasing him to do the same. While walking, reward a loose leash by continuing the walk, punish a tight leash by stopping or going the opposite direction.

Playing in the Yard - Before allowing Rufus into the yard, ask him to sit and wait while you open the door until you release him.

Greeting Guests - Place Rufus on leash. Rufus should sit & wait before you open the door, once you open the door, if Rufus greets the guest politely, he is allowed to greet, if he jumps or is rude, Rufus is removed from the guest and either placed in a time out location for 15 seconds, or brought out of sight until he calms down, then we repeat.



It is important that we control the environment in a way that allows us to effectively communicate that certain behaviors (our definition of “good behavior”) earn certain privileges, and other behaviors (our definition of “bad behaviors”) will make you loose access to certain privileges.

Effective Leadership = Good Behavior

If you think of what a great boss looks like to you, what are some criteria? If you asked me, I would say that a great boss takes the time to teach you what you need to know, helps guide you if you are struggling, and if you do something wrong, your boss will effectively communicate what you have done improperly and help you learn how to correct what you did. This person would not yell, be angry or harsh, or hurt their employees. Would you respect someone who hurts you emotionally or physically? If not, then why would we ask our dogs to when we use aversive training techniques?

When you think about it, we as humans are generally also required to work for the things we find valuable. We work for money to get the things we find of value, dogs simply can work for those items. If we don't do our jobs, we are fired and no longer make money. Your dog will be more likely to do their “job” well (be well behaved) if they see a direct line between the behavior and consequence (whether a positive consequence—reward, or negative consequence—punishment).

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Boundary Training

Out: This essentially means go out the nearest exit, or leave the room. Choose a room that you would like to be able to send your dog out of such as a kitchen, bathroom, or dining area. When your dog tries to enter that area, say “Out” while extending your pointed finger in the direction you want the dog to go, and quickly and assertively move into the dogs space, using your body language to push him/her out of the room. Be sure you are standing up straight and portraying confidence both in your body language and tone of voice. You may need to shuffle your feet into the dog or use your knees to push the dog (pressure, not a kick with the knee). Do your best to not grab the collar of the dog, let your body language do the work. Once the dog moves out of the space, it is important to move away and remove body pressure. You will likely need to do this a dozen times or more before the dog begins to understand what you are asking. If your dog continues to come immediately back into the room, it can often be helpful to hold your ground at the threshold (the doorway or entrance to the room) a bit longer until the dog seems to relax or loose interest a bit.

Back: This essentially means to move back away from the door. This command is to be used when answering the door. When you say “Back,” the dog should move back away from the door providing you some space to not only open the door, but to invite someone in if you would like. This works best when you have an entry way or in some other way a more easily controlled space, or even a visual boundary such as a rug the dog should stay off of. Wide open spaces in front of the door can be more challenging. To teach this behavior, we use the same body language concept as in our “Out” command, just in the context of your front door. Practice without guests until the dog is good at the behavior, then add guests.

