

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR LIVING WITH AND TRAINING YOUR DOG

- A good pack leader gives and expects respect, is fair, consistent, and trustworthy.
- Your dog doesn't do things out of spite, malice, or jealousy (he may just want attention, is bored, or has learned that negative attention is what he normally gets so he'll take it over no attention at all!)
- **SAY COMMAND ONLY ONCE** (or you'll start to go into nagging territory!), count to 2, then take action to enforce what you've asked your dog to do (or not do!).
- Appear confident, secure and in charge (he will more likely follow your lead)
- **If you don't like what your dog is doing, tell him to do something else!!**
- Use Agh or Hey w/hand clap (**startle**) instead of NO. You can also **interrupt (Agh) and redirect** your dog to do something else. **ALWAYS praise** when dog stops any unwanted behavior!
- **Be consistent! Be consistent! Be consistent! Be consistent! Be consistent! Be consistent!**
- Once your dog knows a command and chooses to ignore you when you ask him to do it, ALWAYS insist that your dog follow through. Say it once, count to 2 then take action.
- How your dog shows stress: flight, fight, freezing or fooling around.
 - To help calm her down, talk quietly to her and give her something else to do (such as sit or sit/stay). Be sure that you contribute to calming rather than stressing your dog out even more.
 - DO NOT pull harshly on leash, yell, repeat commands, or hit your dog! This will only increase her stress level!
- Let your dog know when he is being appropriate by giving lots of praise, toys and treats. By doing this, your dog will do more of what you want him to. Be aware of what you give your dog attention for. If it's only for misbehavior, then it will persist! Give praise when your dog is acting appropriately, and ignore or interrupt/redirect when your dog is acting inappropriately.
- All rewards and reprimands must be given while a behavior is occurring to be effective- having up to 3 seconds to give feedback. Otherwise, your dog will not associate the two. If you do any "after-the-fact punishment" your dog will usually become fearful and/or come to see you as untrustworthy and unpredictable of you rather than learning the lesson.

Important things to remember for success in your training and relationship with your dog:

- Consistent rules/training are important - give your dog continuous feedback
- Voice tone (praise [happy], reprimand [interrupt with Agh!], command [flat and direct])
- Fairness in your expectations of your dog (if he hasn't learned it, you have more work to do)
- Calm, clear, consistent instructions from you
- Practice! (make it fun for you and your dog)
- Generalize your training (variety of locations – practice everywhere you want your dog to listen)
- Socialize your dog to different people, places, dogs and things
- Give your dog alternatives! Interrupt/redirect, ignore or obedience command, depending on the situation.
- Make your dog a part of the family (dogs are pack animals and need your companionship)