

PREPARE FOR SUCCESS

ATTITUDE

There isn't one right "method" to train a dog, there is however, one right "attitude" in training a dog, and that is a positive attitude. That actually has two meanings. You must be positive that you want to train your dog. It is a big job, and if you're doubtful going in, you're more likely to quit. But you can do it, so believe in yourself and believe in your dog. This positive attitude is vital to success. The other meaning of positive attitude is that your approach to the actual training be positive. The dog that has learned to obey you because it's pleasant to do so is a happy, obedient companion. If you think of your dog as a potential partner, who just needs to be taught what's expected of him, then you're well on your way.

VISUALIZE

Each day before training I want you to practice visualizing.

FOR EXAMPLE: Picture yourself walking down the street with your dog on your left side. Your dog walks next to you without pulling. You stop to chat with your neighbor while your dog sits quietly waiting for you. Isn't that a nice thought?

POSITIVE AFFIRMATION

After visualizing, look in the mirror and say, "I have a great dog that wants to learn. We are going to have fun today. We are going to learn a lot from one another. I am not going to worry about anything else because I am going to give fifteen minutes of quality time training."

TAKE TIME TO FOCUS: Try to forget everything else going on in your life, and give yourself and your dog fifteen minutes of quality training time.

WARNING - THOUGHTS SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING WILL PREVENT LEARNING IN YOUR DOG:

My dog is smarter, my dog is too stubborn, my dog is too active, my dog does not want to learn, my dog is stupid, my dog's will is greater than mine.

REMEMBER, SLOW IS FAST

If you rush your training, pushing your dog too hard, you build a sloppy foundation. Dogs need time to absorb what you're teaching them. Consistency, patience and practice are important. Be sure your dog really understands each step before moving on. The result will be a dog who will do what is commanded correctly because that is the way he was taught.



ACADEMY FOUR PAWS

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