

ACADEMY OF CANINE BEHAVIOR

Ten Thoughts To A Better Relationship With Your Dog

1. Your dog will never take responsibility for getting trained. You must take the responsibility for educating your dog. This means that you must also take the responsibility of learning to communicate with your dog. Without communication, there can be no education.
2. In the canine world, there are no such things as equals. You will either lead or follow. A dog's reasoning ability is similar to that of a two-year-old child's. A two-year-old child does not make an effective leader. You must be the leader.
3. Every time you interact with your dog, he is learning something. If you are not teaching him the right behavior, he is learning the wrong behavior.
4. Negative attention is still attention. If the only way your dog can get your attention is by being bad, you will train him to act bad for attention. Remember to always reward your dog for good behavior. Pay attention when he is doing something right and let him know you like that behavior.
5. The consistency of your dog's behavior, good or bad, will mirror the consistency of your training. If you train your dog by repeating the command ten times, you can expect the dog to respond 10% of the time.
6. A dog's concept of right and wrong is very different from ours. Do not expect the dog to know what you may think is right or wrong.
7. If you are correcting the dog, are you certain the dog understands why it is being corrected? Have you educated and then generalized the concept?
8. Nature has no form of punishment, only consequences. If you can stop thinking "punishment" and focus on what the dog perceives as the *consequences* of his actions, you will make more headway in any situation.
9. If you are reacting to a behavior of the dog's, it is the dog that is training you! You must decide what behavior you want and educate the dog to that behavior.
10. You are your dog's primary role model!!!! If you want quiet, calm behavior, you must role model quiet, calm behavior.