



PATS' POSITIVE TRAINING PRINCIPLES **THE POWER OF POSITIVE TRAINING**

CONCEPT 1. ALL LIVING THINGS REPEAT BEHAVIORS THAT ARE REWARDING AND AVOID BEHAVIORS THAT ARE NOT. If you remember this one simple behavior, you can teach every behavior that you want your dog to do and change every behavior that you don't want. You do not have to punish a dog in order to make a behavior "not rewarding". You just have to figure out how to make the right behavior rewarding enough that your dog will choose to do that behavior instead of an inappropriate one. You accomplish this by rewarding the behaviors you want and ignoring or preventing those you don't want.

CONCEPT 2. YOUR DOG ALREADY KNOWS EVERYTHING YOU ARE GOING TO TEACH HIM. Your dog already knows how to sit, and he knows how to lie down. He can walk quietly by your side, he can come bounding to you from a distance, and he can stay in one place for long periods of time - when he wants to. All you're going to do is teach him the English words for those behaviors and make them very rewarding and fun for him so he will want to do them when you ask him to. Of course, he always has a choice. If you're a good trainer, you'll program a pattern of responses in his brain so that he will want to do them and will choose to do them when you ask.

CONCEPT 3. DOGS CAN LEARN ONLY ONE BEHAVIOR FOR ANY PARTICULAR CUE. Dogs don't understand that a word can have several different meanings. For the best training success, have everyone in the family agree on which words will be the cues for which behaviors, and make sure that these cues are used consistently by everyone.

CONCEPT 4. THINK IN TERMS OF WHAT YOU WANT YOUR DOG TO DO, NOT WHAT YOU WANT HIM NOT TO DO. This is the peaceable paws formula for modifying unwanted behavior. All you have to do is figure out how to prevent your dog from being rewarded for the behaviors you don't want and reward him consistently and generously for the behaviors you do want.

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