



Beginning • Orientation Outline

Susan H. Fletcher, CPDT-KA

Relationship. Training has changed.

A relationship based on cooperation and trust.

A positive attitude toward working with you.

Leadership.

The best leaders don't have to prove it all the time. They just are. They are calm, collected, in control, consistent and reliable.

Don't be a door mat.

Even if someone gets rewarded for complying with what you ask for, you still are the leader. Feeling good about working for you is okay. You are calling the shots.

Teach what's right, how to avoid being wrong, and the relevance of why.

How to act. What to do. It won't dawn on them what to do to be right (good) until they have done it many times.

Teach manners

Teach them to say please and to have self control before they get what they want.

Teach how to react to new things.

Have a plan.

What could happen in this situation? What are you working on? Pick a goal.

One thing at a time. What. How much?

What behavior are you pinpointing to mark and reinforce?

What makes a behavior stronger? Reward/positive reinforcement.

Dogs do what works. Dogs do what makes sense to dogs.

Have them work for what they want. What is rewarding for your dog?

Attention (meaningful praise and touch), Play, food treats, running, access to _____?

Don't be cheap with time, preparation, rewards.

What makes a behavior weaker? Negative Consequences.

Ignored, scolded, time out, forfeit of _____.

Or make it too much work for what the reward is.

What keeps your dog working?

Random reinforcement.

Mark the moment.

That's it! That's what I want!

"YES!" Make it a meaningful association.

You will find what you are looking for.

Are they right a lot or wrong a lot?

Setting up the environment.

Management.

If your dog is in trouble all the time, you're not doing your part. Supervision.

Where to be when not supervised.

Dogs need physical and mental exercise and practice what to play with.

Communication.

Listen to your dog. Have your dog listen to you.

Body Language.

Learn to read dogs and people.

1. Tension, breathing, eyes, ears, posture. Forward or back?
2. Wagging tail, teeth, hackles – not always good or bad.

Learn signals that help convey your message.

Facial Expression. Helps convey information and emotion.

Vocalization.

One to two word commands.

One word = one meaning.

Teach the word **after** you have taught the behavior.

Tone of voice. What you need to have:

1. Pleasant, clear = command.
2. Impressed, warm, excited = praise.
3. Deeper, disappointed (uh, oh) = mistake.
4. Growling NO! = never think that's okay.

Sense of smell.

A major form of communication for dogs. We need to be aware.

What cues do dogs pay attention to?:

1. Body movement
2. Hand signals
3. Verbal signals.

In the event of...

Worst case scenario: U-Turn – leave it, come, sit, watch.

Rules.

Who can train? One at a time. Children must remain seated unless working.

Don't feed dog before class.

Exercise and potty your dog at home. Turn cell phones off.

Keep dogs apart.

Start working with your dog as soon as you get here.

Reactive dogs will be transferred to private lessons.

Absences: Sorry, no make up classes. Homework is available at happygoluckydog.com/homework