



WHY TRAIN YOUR DOG?

By: Scott Schiller & Bernard Kaplan

Obedience training is one of the most important aspects of raising a dog. In fact, a well trained dog is by far a happier dog! Why? A trained dog requires fewer restrictions. The more reliable the dog, the more freedom he is given. For example, many stores and businesses that normally won't allow dogs on their premises will make an exception for a puppy or dog that will heel nicely by their owner's side or will do a sit-stay or down-stay without hesitation.

When company arrives in your home there's no need to banish a well-behaved dog to another room for fear that he will be a royal nuisance. Moreover, a well-mannered, obedience trained dog is both appreciated and welcome. He receives more attention and interaction from family members, visitors, and passers-by, than does the ill-mannered dog.



YOU AS YOUR DOG'S LEADER

Training serves to strengthen the bond between a dog and his owner. It builds communication, understanding, and mutual respect, and subtly, but effectively, demonstrates to your dog that you're the leader of the pack (commonly referred to as the "**Alpha**.") If your dog doesn't respect you as his leader, you may both be in big trouble, particularly if he's a bit rowdy or dominant by nature.

TRAINING MAY SAVE YOUR DOG'S LIFE

Obedience training also gives the dog owner the voice control necessary to prevent numerous potential tragedies. For instance, should a dog slip out of his collar in the middle of a congested traffic intersection, he can be safely heeled across the street and be given a sit command to facilitate putting his collar back on. Should someone accidentally leave the front door open, and you spot your dog leaving, he can be safely called back to you using the recall command.

Not only will obedience training help your dog to become more responsive, it enables you to have immediate control over your dog's behavior. In an emergency situation obedience training may save your dog's life. In fact, it can ultimately save the lives of many dogs because far fewer dogs would end up in animal shelters if their owners would simply take the time to train them. For those dogs that do need homes, a trained dog is far easier to adopt out to a new home than an untrained one.

Statistics also show that puppies which receive early socialization, obedience and temperament training (aggression prevention training) are far less likely to



end up being destroyed by the time they turn three years of age, than those that do not receive this early training.

Without proper training many dogs are likely to misbehave. When owners allow their dogs to misbehave everyone suffers: the family because they live with an untrained dog; the dog because everyone's down on him for misbehaving; the neighbors because living next to a difficult dog is no one's idea of fun; and ultimately every dog owner, because incidences where a dog creates a nuisance increases anti-dog sentiment and contributes to the likelihood that tough legal restrictions will be placed on all dogs.

OBEDIENCE TRAINING BENEFITS EVERYONE

A well-behaved, obedience trained dog is a pleasure to own because he can go virtually anywhere without being a risk or nuisance to others. Don't we all want a dog who exhibits appropriate behavior in a crowd, good manners when we have guests in our home, is reliable around children, and who doesn't threaten other dogs or passers-by?

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINING TRULY BENEFITS EVERYONE!

