

Behavior Training

www.sportdogtrainingcenter.com

Adolescent Dogs

The Genie in the Jar

Adolescence is difficult for people, and they can understand and reason. For dogs, it is a very traumatic time in their lives. You can make, or break a dog in this time. You will probably need to go back to basics, no matter how wonderfully trained your dog was before.

Adolescence isn't a time to quit and hope things get better. It is the best opportunity you will have to build loyalty, trust, and obedience.

It is frustrating for people, but it is also a wonderful opportunity.

Adolescence is a time when relationships are bonded – for life. It is a time when you learn the boundaries and limitation of adulthood. It is a time when you learn the difference between right and wrong.

Stress Coping Skills

I don't understand

Humans do not understand what stresses dogs. The walk can be in a quiet neighborhood, nothing scary. But a stressed dog worries about what 'might be' around the corner. In our club we call them dragons.

Your puppy may be lunging and pulling because it is worried about what is around the corner. IF you punish this and make the situation worse, then the stress and anxiety will get worse.

So, what do you do?

Who is Alpha



In a dog pack the alpha is not the biggest bully. Dogs are motivated by family. Dogs make tight bonds. But not for 'fun' or because we live in the same house.

Dogs bond with the family members that are calm, smart, and consistent. In other words, the ones who can survive best.

If you want to be your dog's alpha then you need to work with your dog. Do not try to bully him, or he will learn to bully you back.

Instead, teach him obedience. This means that he needs to learn that working with you is a 'way of life' not just a game he plays for treats. It is hard, which is why our club members work together through adolescence.

If you can get your dog to focus on food, or a toy, then do so.

Do not 'lure' your dog with the toy and food. And work at your dog's pace.

If you can only take 2 steps, and then treat, 2 more steps and then treat, then start there.

If your dog cannot handle the street, then move to the back yard until your dog can handle stress.

Remember, your dog is not being bad – it is afraid.



The problem comes from the fact that you spent too much time worrying about your dog 'doing' what you wanted when it was young, and not

enough time building 'behaviors'

- Stress coping
- Calming
- Self-Control
- Focus
- Focus on you
- Reorienting to you – not fight or flight
- Trust in you as alpha
- Confidence
- Problem solving skills

These are all things we teach in the great beginnings and Smart Pup programs.

They are all things you can teach your dog.

Visit our blog for help.

The Hyper Dog – High Drive – Working Bloodline

Today's society has a love hate relationship with the working breeds, and working bloodlines. We all want a lab because they are great dogs. We all want a Working Bloodline German Shepherd because they will protect us. We forget that those 'wonderful' dogs that made us fall in love with the breed had thousands of hours of training behind them.

Most professional trainers do nothing but behavior work in the first year. They don't do any obedience. It is all confidence building, relationship games, and calming. The dog never runs wild in the house. It is never allowed to roam the back-yard learning to hunt, chase, and fear. If it is not in its kennel, it is working.

So, what do you do? Revoke privileges. Take your dog back to the beginning. And work with it more. This is not the time to back off, but the time to make obedience a lifestyle, but keep it fun. Don't Give up. Work Harder.