



happy tails dog training

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Happy dogs, Happy homes!

Fetching Facts & Noseworthy Notes February 2016

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Upcoming Classes

Puppy Class:

Wednesday Mar 2 – Apr 6

Monday Mar 28 – May 2

Doggy Manners:

Wednesday Mar 2 – Apr 6

Monday Mar 28 – May 2



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Happy Clients!



Choice Training:

Teach Your Dog to Think!

Teaching your dog to respond to cues for a behavior is a significant part of successful training. To take training to the next level, your dog needs to learn how to make good choices; how to think!

At the beginner level of training, we implement focus on cue as well as the Leave It behavior. Focus first teaches your dog to make eye contact; and then to check in with you for direction. Eye contact improves the communication with your dog. The Leave It behavior tells your dog to ignore something and refocus on to you.

These are behaviors your dog can learn how to do automatically or with little coaching from you. Once your dog has a solid foundation and prompt response to these behaviors when cued, you are ready to move to the next level. To a higher level of understanding between you and your dog, teach him how to make a good choice.

Dogs are very intelligent; and they are motivated by successful outcomes. The key is making certain your dog's idea of a successful outcome matches your desired results. For example, if you leave a plate of food on the dinner table, how does your dog benefit from ignoring the food versus stealing it? Or to turn and focus on you when there are other dogs present?

To start with, teach your dog to make easy good choices. Being successful at simple choices first provides a foundation for your dog to build on. Gradually, make the decisions more challenging for your dog. (*Training examples on Page 2*) To ensure long term success, reward correct choices with high value treats. In time, as the level of difficulty increases, the less challenging choices will not require food rewards.

Using high value food rewards allows the dog's brain to successfully connect the decision he made with a positive, valued outcome. In other words, you are "paying" for good work! Dogs like to be acknowledged when they succeed! Therefore, rewarding success will result in your dog repeating the correct choices.

In time, you will find less need to prompt your dog's behavior. Your dog will have learned what choices you prefer and will repeat those decisions to achieve continued success!

Franklin is choosing calm behavior...



Q'S VIEWS



"LIKE" my FB Page!
@Quincy Joe Simpson

As you all know, I am a very friendly and outgoing boy! Well, as it turns out, much to my surprise, not everyone wants to be friends with me! I know, I am as shocked as you are...

The problem was I did not understand this when I was a young puppy. Not all dogs wanted to play with Q. The dogs were never mean to me, but they let me know by looking away, a subtle growl or turning away from me that play was not going to happen. So, my Momma taught me to "walk away" when another dog told me in no uncertain terms to go away.

At first, this was really challenging for me; even if Momma had treats. Sometimes she had to come to get me and lead me away. But soon I connected Momma saying to "walk away, Q" with the language from the other dogs! Now, when another dog says "No thanks" to me, I turn and walk away on my own!

Of course I am still surprised that these strange dogs do not want to be friends with the Q... But it is their loss, I suppose!!

Examples of Choice Training

🐾 Auto Focus

- Trained behavior PRIOR to playing this game: A solid Look or Focus; your dog will promptly make eye contact with you in ANY situation when you are less than 4 feet away.
- Teach your dog to make eye contact WITHOUT you prompting in any way.
- Choose a location with some distractions - not so distracting that your dog is overstimulated.
- Stand there with your dog on leash - you are CALM and QUIET.
- Keep the leash short so your dog is about 2 feet from you at most.
- WAIT. BE QUIET.
- The INSTANT your dog looks at you - for ANY reason - say "YES! GOOD DOG!!" and reward with a treat.

🐾 Food Plate

- Trained behavior PRIOR to playing this game: A solid Leave It; your dog must be successful at this game and in several other HIGH distractions when told to Leave It.
- Prepare a plate with food that is dog safe.
- Place the plate on a table with you seated next to the plate.
- Your dog must choose to: stop moving toward the plate, sits, lies down, walks away or make any choice OTHER THAN going for the plate.
- Reward success with a treat and praise!

KIRB'S BLURB



When I was a young pup, I was grabbed by my neck by an unfamiliar dog. He appeared out of nowhere and scared me! Luckily, I was not hurt because my big brothers were there and scared that dog away! But after that day, anything or anyone that appeared out of nowhere scared me really bad.

Fortunately, my Momma recognized what I was experiencing and helped me learn to feel safe again. Momma says I was upset by "Sudden Environmental Contrast." No wonder it was scary! What a thing to have happen! But part of my rehabilitation was to learn to look at my Momma when I did not know what to do. At first she had to remind me a lot. Soon I learned if I just ignored the new, scary thing, and looked at Momma, everything would be OK.

I learned to make a good decision and better choice all on my own! It feels great to know what to do to be successful!