

Two Paws Up



Dog Training LLC

Want a well-behaved canine companion?

Hiring someone to help you train your dog is a great first step. Hiring a behavior consultant who uses modern, science-based training methods, and follows the [LIMA principles](#) ensures that you and your dog will both be treated with respect.

Here are our top 10 tips ways to set your dog up for success:

1. **Train from a place of “YES”** – When you see a behavior you like, make sure that your dog knows how pleased you are. This could be simply acknowledging your dog for lying quietly on the couch, sitting in the kitchen while you prepare food, or not jumping. Reinforcement drives behavior in ALL species. The more your dog is rewarded for the behavior(s) you like, the less likely he is to behave badly.
2. **“NO” is not a behavior** – The word NO has absolutely no meaning to a dog. At best, it may interrupt your dog’s behavior, which allows you to redirect him to something more appropriate. Your tone of voice may convey your displeasure, but you still need to help him learn an alternate behavior or prevent him from making the same mistake repeatedly.
3. **Dogs will be dogs** – Dogs are not humans. They need acceptable outlets for normal [CANINE](#) behavior. These include chewing, play, exploration, and more. Your dog’s genetic makeup influences his behavior. Herding dogs will run/spin in circles, sporting dogs pick up things in their mouths, and puppies bite, A LOT! Learn to work with him!
4. **Management is Key** – Be proactive! Set up your dog for success by managing his environment. Use confinement or tethering to prevent destructive chewing. Tethering can be a great way to help reduce jumping. Preventing your dog from learning bad habits, through management at home and in public, helps him learn good behavior.
5. **Forget “Obedience”** – We believe dogs should learn three core behaviors: Come, Wait, and Follow. You have a lifetime to teach traditional obedience skills. Teaching manners first, then adding in obedience positions such as down, is much easier to learn from your dog’s perspective.
6. **Train, Don’t Complain** – Your dog cannot change his “naughty” behavior without your help. Rather than complain about it, teach him what you want him to do instead!
7. **Train, Don’t Restrain** – Restraint leads to frustration and frustration leads to aggression. Rather than pull him back at the front door teach him to wait!
8. **Predictability = Stability** – If your dog’s life is full of predictable routines he doesn’t have to guess. This sets him up for success! Positive Reinforcement Training does not mean you have to be permissive! It means you provide clear, predictable choices for your dog to learn.
9. **Work the Brain** – Mental exercise is beneficial for **EVERY** dog. Provide food puzzles, foraging opportunities, and nose games to work the olfactory/brain pathway! This satisfies your dog’s needs and builds his confidence.
10. **Follow the Exercise A, B, C’s – Repetitive play is not exercise!** It is arousal. All play should include Aerobic activity, Breaks in the action, and the Cortex (thinking.) This is healthy play!

Need help with any of the 10 tips? We can help!