

Kelly Krager

From: Aidan, Positive Petzine [editor@positivepetzine.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 18, 2007 7:56 PM
To: Kelly Krager
Subject: [positivepetzine] What is positive dog training?

Hi Kelly, if you're already a "positive dog trainer" then you can probably ignore this message but if you are new to all this it's important to understand exactly what positive dog training really is.

"Positive" is a word with many meanings, but when someone says they use "positive dog training techniques" they are usually identifying themselves as someone who prefers to use positive reinforcement and motivation rather than negative reinforcement and punishment to train their dog. They might believe that it is kinder, more fun, less prone to abuse, and even more effective than alternatives.

We all have our reasons for choosing whatever style of dog training we choose. Mostly, we ALL just love dogs! People who own dogs, work with dogs, or train dogs usually have a deep respect and love for "man's best friend" that extends beyond any philosophy, doctrine or logic.

So the burning question is, why did YOU sign up for this e-course? Was it because you wanted:

- to have a better relationship with your dog?
- to have fun training your dog?
- to solve behavior problems?
- to learn to train other people's dogs?
- because more 'traditional' dog training techniques didn't feel right to you?
- because your dog didn't do well with older style dog training techniques?
- to learn to train more efficiently or effectively?

These are some of the many reasons people choose to learn about positive dog training techniques, and there are many more.

While our training methods are 'softer', make no mistake. There are no fewer boundaries or rules. In fact, you can set as many boundaries or rules as you like, just as with any other style of training.

"Positive" does not equal "permissive". Dogs still require leadership, they need to know what they can and can't do, but with positive training we don't focus on what dogs aren't allowed to do - no, we focus on what WE want our dogs to do INSTEAD OF the unwanted behavior. This is what all good leaders, human or canine, do.

The real beauty is that positive trainers set their dogs up to get what the DOG wants in return for doing what the HUMAN wants. It's a win-win, and lots of fun too. You can spoil your dog rotten and still have an obedient, mannerly dog who knows and gives what you expect. That is a great working relationship, and I wish we saw it more in human-human relationships as well.

Stay tuned, because next issue we're going to look at exactly what Positive Reinforcement is. Is it what you think it is? I've spoken to many professional dog trainers, some of them with big names, and even a lot of them get it wrong yet you can avoid so much trial-and-error by knowing exactly what positive reinforcement is and how to apply it for real results in your dog training.

Until next time,

Regards,
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