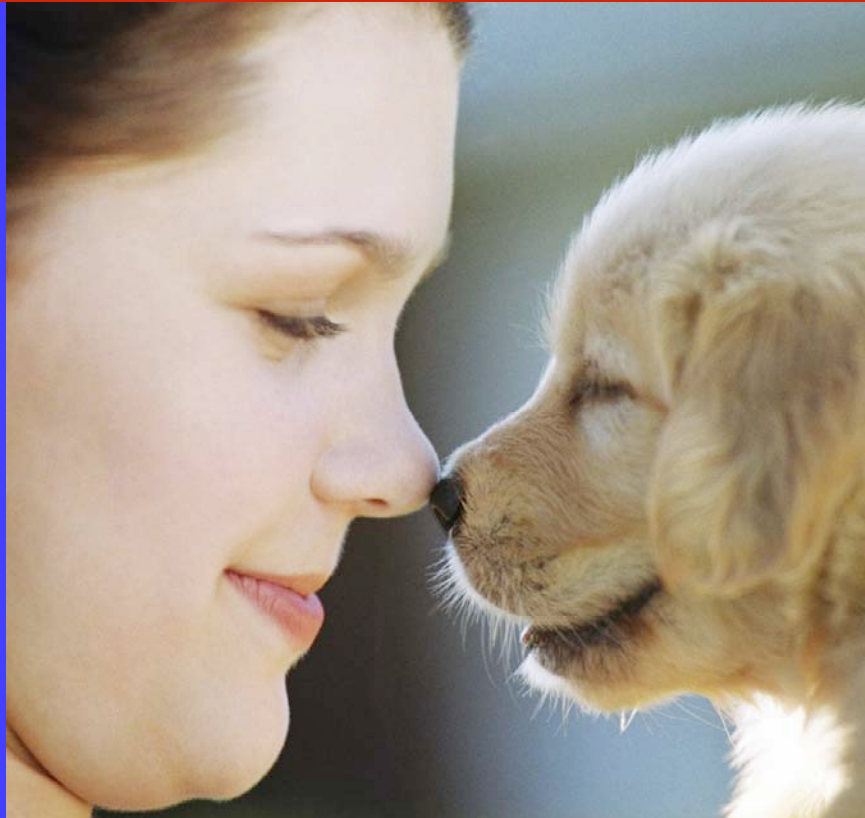


# Partners Dog Training

July 2007



*People often adopt a puppy into their family without a full understanding of the lifestyle changes they will be experiencing. These well meaning owners often find themselves lacking the knowledge they need to teach the new addition all he needs to be a well mannered part of the family.*



## **PARTNERS TRAINING OPTIONS**

Training Camps are ongoing and enrollment is Monday thru Friday

Group Classes are held Saturday at 7 am & 8 am

Private Lessons are scheduled, on a per needed basis



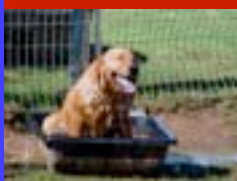
## **Starting off on the *RIGHT* paw!**

Think of your puppy as a child you are raising in your home. Would you ignore teaching your children their manners, and allow them to behave disrespectfully? What many people view as "acts of love" in human terms often mean something quite different in "dog language." Understanding of some basic dog behaviors can be quite eye opening to many people. One of the most loving things you can do for your dog is to teach him how to be respectful and obedient.

In today's world we have very busy lifestyles, and are unable to devote the time necessary to teach these young dogs the basic foundation of training. What seems like cute habits as a puppy are not as cute as the puppy matures into adulthood. Foundation behaviors are essential for the puppy to learn in the beginning, to ensure he will become a well-mannered and enjoyable member of the family. Simple training and housebreaking can begin much earlier in the home environment, but many Professional Trainers recommend an average age of 4-5 months to begin formal behavioral training, as this age seems to have the maturity level needed to have the best success rate.

In the wild, dog packs have a very organized system of who the Leader or Alpha is, and what the rules of the pack are. When a dog understands the rules and has a sense of order, he is a much more secure nature, and will be less anxious about where he fits into the pack, or family. And remember, you CAN teach and old dog new tricks, it is never too late to train even an older dog!

## Some Fun Pics at Partners



## How do you teach your dog?

Training or sometimes called operant conditioning is a learned behavior, and is achieved thru correct timing, consistency, repetition and motivation. We call training laying down the foundation upon which all behavior will build upon.

A dog lives in the moment and has no concept of time in the way that humans do. When he does something that is unacceptable such as digging in the yard, if you come into the back yard 3 hours after the “event” happened, he is not going to associate your displeasure with what he did hours ago. All he will know is that you are upset about something, but is unsure what that “something” is. He must be caught in the act and corrected at that time. Dogs must be corrected within 1.5 seconds of being caught in an inappropriate behavior for them to associated and connect the behavior with the correction.

Consistency is also very important in helping your dog understand what is expected behavior. You cannot have something unacceptable one day, and then okay the next. One example of that might be allowing your dog up on the couch as he pleases, and then when you invite people over, he is a pest to your guests and try to compete with them for couch space. That is not being fair to your dog in allowing them to do as they wish when no one is around, and then expecting them to be polite when people are around. That is being inconsistent with your expectations. If you do not want a certain behavior at all times, then it should not be allowed “sometimes.” That will create confusion for your dog.

Repetition is also critical to learned behaviors. The more that obedience is practiced and understood, the more imprinted it will be in your dog’s mind. You cannot expect a dog to become well trained if you are not consistent with repeating their obedience with them.

Motivation can be both positive and negative. A couple examples of this would be when practicing obedience with your dog, you use a “praise tone” to show your approval of their behavior to communicate that you approve. When they are not following your directions, you give them a correction to let them know that their behavior is not what you want. Correction can be in many forms such as using your tone of voice, your body language, and collars, ect. Corrections should be given in accordance to the level needed. For example, if your dog is slightly disobedient, a simple “ahh-ahh” is appropriate. However, if they were jumping up on people, a more firm tone and a “NO” with a correction would be more appropriate.

The key is learning to recognize when you see them beginning to misbehave, and trying to stop the behavior before it escalates to a level that stronger corrections are needed. Some of these things are also dependent upon the personality of your dog as well. He may be a softer personality, and responds to corrections with more ease than a dog that is more dominant and needs a bit more firm corrections. Also, a softer personality dog will respond to positive motivation training, and require less corrective measures than a dog that may be more persistent in getting their own way. The key is to understanding their needs and how to communicate with your dog so they understand what is expected of them.

One of the best forms of referrals is a word of mouth. Speak with your vet about who they recommend, ask friends who have had good experiences, or may have heard from others who have.

## Some Fun Pics at Partners



***There are typically three types of training methods that professionals will provide:***

**1. Resident Training Camps:** At Partners we have found this method tends to be the most successful for several reasons. Training is achieved through repetition, which is sometimes called “patterning or conditioning.” When dogs are in Partners resident camp environment, their entire day is structured around learning. They are working with professional trainers, whom have years of experience and are be trained to be flexible in adjusting their techniques to meet the individual needs of your dog. They typically have 2-3 training sessions per day in addition to structured play and socialization time, controlled feedings, so they are essentially “saturated” in the learning environment. When they have the opportunity to be in a highly structured environment the learning will be more “imprinted.” We call this giving a dog a “strong foundation.” After camp, the owners will be starting off with an already trained dog, and then they will simply need to stay consistent, making the long-term success rate much more effective. Once the dog has gone thru camp, we have a private transition lesson the day the dog goes home with the owners, as well as 4-8 weeks of follow up classes where the owners receive continued education on how to stay consistent with their newly trained dog.

**2. Private Lessons:** A private lesson can be held in your home or at the school, in a one-on-one situation and benefit is having the undivided attention of the trainer. This is great option for families that may have issues specific to their home environment. This can be issues such as severe barking at doorbells. It is also a good option for elderly people who may not have the ability to come to the school, and need help where they are.

We also have many families that like to “start out” with private in-home lessons for their younger dogs who are not yet fully vaccinated and are not able to join a group class or go to camp yet. They simply need to begin with basics, and then send their puppy to camp around 16 weeks when they are protected with their vaccinations.

**3. Group Lessons:** This method of training is more reliant upon you. Before you make the decision to join a group class, you need to make sure that you have the time and commitment need to make this method a success for your dog. With whomever you choose as a trainer, you must be willing to follow thru on the advice you are given if you want effective results. Again, training is learned thru repetition and consistency, so in this method, your success will be based upon what you put into the follow thru.

### **Overview**

When searching for a prospective trainer at any facility, find someone who is willing to take the time to speak with you and learn more about the situation. Your dog’s temperament, the specific issues you are experiencing, are all-important factors in understanding the complete picture.

Some behavior issues require different techniques, so look for a trainer who is able to adapt to the training needs of your dog. Their methods should be practical and easy to adjust to daily life, since you will be the one who needs to stay **consistent** with these methods after you dog is home.