

Paws for Thought

Bonding and Role Confusion

We need to understand and remember something incredibly important... people are people and dogs are dogs!!!

While (most) humans have an innate ability to think and express themselves with common sense through words... dogs do not! Dogs become overwhelmed and frustrated when we, as humans, use dogs as human substitutes! They are not... they are dogs! Dogs get trapped in a world of "limbo", trying to (with no success) perform like a human being. In many cases, this causes the dog to lose their drive to identify and/or relate with his own kind, leading to much hostility and aggression!

When the dog is always catered to and constantly pampered, the dog DEMANDS the same rights as humans. This goes against the laws of nature!

On the other hand, if the dog receives no discipline and/or guidance, they are forced to self-train. This is too big a role for a dog to handle. Instead of developing proper behaviors, they become incorrectly conditioned. Destruction, anxiety, aggression and phobias are perfect examples of this!

When a child misbehaves or is reluctant to obeying directions, we do not tug at them or scold them out of nowhere. Instead, we try to understand what the underlying issue is. We solve the problem, and redirect the child onto another activity. Children yearn to please their elders, and do so by showing and imitating similar expressions to us (both physical and verbal).

When a dog misbehaves, we need to take a step back and think. What are we asking of them? What are they bred to do? What function is their breed expected to carry-out? If we take those few minutes to reflect and ask ourselves those questions... we will then be able to get the right answers. It is your responsibility as a pet owner to search for the answers, if you are unsure as to what to do or how to do it.

There is, however, ONE commonality between the human race and that of our K-9 friends... it is the never-ending need to be guided and loved in the appropriate manner. It is then that we (humans and dogs) can learn to live happy and fulfilled lives.

Behavior Problems?



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help!**

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