

## Management vs. Training

### What goes into a training program...

There are many aspects of training programs that go together to create a one-of-a-kind program for you and your dog's specific needs. The largest part of any training program is NOT the actual training. Roughly 75-85% of any training program (remember, it will be different for every scenario) is going to be modifying YOUR behavior, not the dog's behavior before any training takes place. It works out this way because, to change a behavior, you must stop it from continuing or at least keep it from getting worse. You can use management strategies without implementing training, but you cannot start training your dog without using management strategies.

We define MANAGEMENT as a couple of different things:

- 1) Modify YOUR behavior. If something YOU do causes your dog to react in a certain way, stop doing whatever it is *that* way. This can be as simple as your dog is whining because it wants to come out of its kennel. You let the dog out, so the whining behavior was rewarded and becomes stronger. Next time your dog is in the kennel, it whines louder and maybe starts barking. The cycle can continue if the behavior keeps getting rewarded. Don't let your dog out of the kennel until they are displaying calm and quiet behavior. Keep in mind: the longer a behavior was reinforced, the longer it can take to go away completely.
- 2) Limit your DOG'S behavior. If a dog is continually allowed to engage in or practice behaviors, you will see them continue or eventually get worse. Like when you let your dog out into the backyard to go potty but instead, they spend the whole time running along the fence, sniffing and digging, and barking at random things. They don't do what they were supposed to, but you let them inside to get them to stop those unwanted behaviors, but then your dog pees inside. The easiest solution would be to walk your dog on a leash for their potty breaks. Not only does this keep them from engaging in the wrong behaviors, but it also keeps your dog focused on the task at hand - going potty.

Management makes up a huge part of the training process. You can see how a dog with a plethora of behavior issues will have a similarly long list of management strategies for any interaction with the world around them. Some management strategies can be simple, some can be more complex, and some might take a few tries to figure out what works best for your life and your dog. Starting a training program with the understanding of how to exist in everyday life with your dog will help you succeed greatly once more structure is added with routine training.