

# Dog training is an art

■ BY HARRY KALAJIAN

When it comes to training, the trainer should evaluate what would be the best type of training for your dog according to its character, temperament, breed, sex and age. There are many different techniques and not one type will work for all. The trainer should evaluate the comfort of the owner and must explain why they have chosen a certain technique that will give them the best end results.

My formula that works for all dogs is "Patience, persistency, consistency and repetition." Trainers are not magicians; they know what works and what doesn't. All training is a joint effort between the owner and the trainer. You must work and practice daily to achieve your goals.

There are two avenues in obedience training: reward basis (treats) or balance training. With reward training, the dog obeys because it will get a treat. That's its motivation. Try after 10 times without giving it a treat and it will no longer obey. The balance type of training is praising, correcting and guiding the dog to what is expected from the command. If you're training your dog for tricks then of course treats are used.

To have a good, obedient dog, you must put in at least 20 minutes a day of practice. Don't rush or compare the speed your dog learns with others. Some learn quickly, others take time. It all depends.

Always master each command before going onto the next. If unsure, ask the trainer to show you again. It's better to do it right than not.

The equipment that you are using for your training is very important. The quality of the equipment also makes a difference. Any equipment must be used properly and adjusted to your dog's neck size. The leash you are using makes a difference, so talk to the trainer and they will guide you. Always buy



American, Canadian or German equipment. Be careful not to fall for Chinese knockoffs; the price will be a giveaway.

Always begin your training in a quiet area and then gradually go to areas with more distraction.

Make sure you are clear with your commands. Follow the exact way the trainer showed you.

If you feel frustrated, don't practice. Leave it for later or the next day. Also note that timing has a lot to do with the outcome. Time your correction and praise. If you overpraise your dog physically, it will think the training session is over. During training sessions praise verbally only. Depending on the equipment you are using, never leave the training tool on. Use the training tool(s) only during your practice or walking.

The more time you put in with the training the better it will be. Twice a day would be great. Your dog will be happy because you're spending time with them. After each session go for a leisure walk or play ball. That will be its reward.

Do not rush your training.

If you are serious to have a good obedient dog, give us a call. Executive Dog Training 941-662-1431 or [executivedogtraining.com](http://executivedogtraining.com) or [caninebehavioraldiagnostics.com](http://caninebehavioraldiagnostics.com)

*About the author:*

*Harry Kalajian M.D.T. has over 35 years of experience in all aspects of training including behaviorist, ethologist, psychologist. Visit [executivedogtraining.com](http://executivedogtraining.com) or [caninebehavioraldiagnostics.com](http://caninebehavioraldiagnostics.com) or call 941-662-1431*

■ Molly in training.