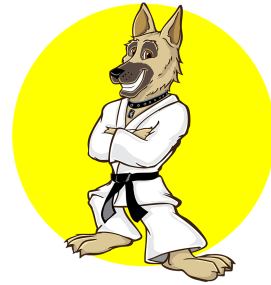


# **Obedience FIRST**

## **Training for Success!**



How you begin your training routine is among the very most important aspects of your training.

Even with the very best training techniques, you can still have a difficult time training your dog unless you know how to start and the importance of the structure of the training. I've had many people ask me "how I train my dogs, how I interact with them?" So, I want to start posting some lessons that show this important structure.

To train for success you must start off on the right foot.

### **Obedience FIRST**

NO matter what you are embarking on with your dog, it should start with structure. That structure begins the minute the dog gets out of the car, house or kennel. Just letting the dog run free and then trying to get that control is very damaging to your relationship and even more damaging to your training.

### **Start SMALL then Open Up**

Giving your dog too much freedom means you'll have to take that freedom away at some point. I think this is very disruptive to the dog. I always strive to give my dog more and more freedom. That means my dog starts off confined and as they give me more of what I want, I give the dog more of what they want. This means BALANCE!

### **It's Never So Dire**

The most common objection here will be from people who say, "My dog really needs to go to the bathroom." Sadly, this type of thinking will get you into trouble, and more importantly it will get your dog into trouble. If your dog tears out of the car and gets hit by a car, it's a bad thing. I covered that in a previous lesson. But, if your dog tears out of the car and starts just playing, you'll have to correct him to get obedience after. You're much better off to start with structure and slowly open your dog's world up slowly.

### **Dogs LOVE Structure**

Structure makes dogs feel safe, and if you are the provider of this structure your dog will love you, respect you and that will make your relationship much, much better!

### **Have a PLAN**

Whether it's just a walk in the park or a training routine, have it mapped out in your head. You should know what you're going to do. If it's a play session or a walk, start with the dog coming out of the car, sitting, waiting politely, offering one behavior like a look or a down and then releasing the dog.

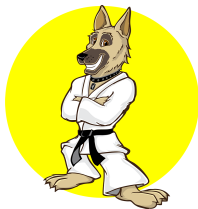
If it's a training routine you're embarking on, have that all set in your mind. Dog's LOVE structure... give them that structure and you'll not only have a successful training, but a balanced relationship!

### **SAFETY Above all Else**

The number one, most important thing to remember is that it's all about safety. Your dog must know where he belongs and who to listen to. Give him a chance to check in with you, demand it and reward it! If you are his leader, his master, his everything – give him the tools to thrive!

### **It's Not Trivial**

I know this short lesson may seem trivial to you, but I can promise you it is one of the most important things you will ever learn... EVER! This one secret can make the difference between successful training and mediocre training. I promise you this! It's nothing I've really ever posted about in my social lessons, but I want you to know the info and its relevance!



### **Takeaways from Obedience FIRST:**

1. Never let your dog have freedom before structure.
2. Ask for some behaviors before releasing your dog.
3. Your dog will respect you if you provide obedience and structure.
4. ALWAYS use a line and collar to help your dog succeed.
5. If your dog knows where he belongs, it will be safe zone for him.