



### **Pawsitive Reinforcement Brings Pawsitive Results**

Dog training has evolved in the last several decades as the general public has become more educated during that time on animal behavior and how animals learn. However, even with the current development in animal behavior research, some dog trainers continue to base their training methods on outdated dominance theory and punishment approaches. Most undesirable behaviors in our dogs are not related to priority access to resources (dominance theory), but instead are the result of accidental rewarding and reinforcement of the undesirable behavior.

So how do dogs learn? They are capable of making association. To put it simply, they will make the connection that certain behavior can elicit a treat, toy, praise or affection, so they are more likely to repeat that certain behavior. And for behaviors we do not want, you can redirect, ask for an incompatible behavior (i.e. asking your dog to sit when your dog is jumping on people), or modify your dog's behavior. This can be accomplished with positive reinforcement training. Pet parents can learn to communicate with their dogs using a compassionate method so our dogs can live in our world and, at the same time, build trust in us as their caregivers.

Your dog is also able to make an association with what behaviors may bring about punishment and pain if continued. This type of behavior modification can be effective. However, behavior science shows that punishment may result in your dog exhibiting other undesirable behaviors, which eventually takes away your dog's ability to communicate her emotional status and may cause your dog to learn helplessness and shutdown, to freeze in fear of consequence, or to become aggressive. Furthermore, your relationship with your dog is based on fear and not trust.

We live in an instant gratification world. However, training your dog using compassionate, science proven method to modify undesirable behavior to become desirable behavior will be well worth your time as you build your relationship and trust with your dog.

\*\*\*\*\*Don't Be A Pain To Your Dog\*\*\*\*\*