

What I do After I Get Home from Dog Training?

- 1.) Upon arriving home, remember that your dog is **going to test** you so be prepared.
 - a.) Be Calm, Confident and be Firm, but have FUN while working your dog
 - b.) Balance **Task and Relationship** – Praise and Correct when needed
- 2.) Please always feel comfortable calling with any questions (404) 444-9329
- 3.) **2 Weeks Dog Training** – You become proficient, comfortable, confident
 - a.) Work 15-20 minutes 5 days out of 7 doing all Basic Obedience Commands from your **Dog's Turn Over Session**. Do this training for two weeks.
 - b.) On the other Two Days follow up with the **Inspect - Respect Principle**
 - i. Meaning hold your dog at his new standard so your dog will respect your new position as the Alpha Leader of the Pack
- 4.) Leave your dog on his leash for Six Weeks and Practice **Tethering**
 - i. Remember the Principle of **Imprinting and Proofing** in Dog Training
- 5.) Follow your **dog's feeding and eliminating schedule** to the letter
- 6.) **Alpha Vs Beta Dog Behavior** – What does it mean to be your Dog's Pack Leader
- 7.) **First Time Obedience** – Give your dog the Command and Praise or Correct
- 8.) **Vertical vs Horizontal Focus** – Where is your Dog's Focus
- 9.) We are certified by the **American Kennel Club** and **Comprehensive Pet Therapy** and perform all levels of these training programs for these organizations.

1. Dog Training: Why is my Dog Testing Me?

When you arrive home, your dog will be back in his normal familiar place, and may think that the old behavior is acceptable. Be Consistent and Be Persistent!

Remember that you saw him perform all his basic obedience concepts at the Turn Over. He knows what he is supposed to do and you worked with him first hand. This is not a matter of retraining, this is a matter of expectation from you as the dog's Alpha Leader. His behavior is not a matter of Deficiency of Knowledge, but an issue of Execution. Give the Command once and either correct or praise your dog for his response. Dogs are thinking hierarchal within the pack and testing your resolve. Will you keep your place as the Pack Leader or will you relinquish that position to a stubborn dog who is willing to push you? In this case the dog's obedience is up to you. If the dog was obedient at the turn over, you must insist that he is obedient at home.

1.b Dog Training: The Importance of Task vs Relationship

When we try to love dogs like we love each other (relationship), our dogs misunderstand this as our submitting to them. For example, we may think that having the dog on the couch or in the bed with us shows we love our family pet. Many dogs will misunderstand this elevation as moving the dog to an alpha position in the pack and at the same time you are lowering yourself to a more beta role in the dog's eyes.

Allowing dogs to jump up in the greeting or in our lap, uninvited, has the same affect. Often a woman will say that their dog listens to their husband better than to them. Many times this is because the Relationship side is 70% for the woman and 30% for the man. This is a stereo type and is not always accurate, sometimes the woman is more task oriented than her husband and the dog listens to her better; this is a balance of Task vs. Relationship

Basic Obedience allows you to keep Task and Relationship in balance by giving commands that your dog must obey and that you can practice the concept of **Inspect vs Respect**. This balance does not mean that we do not have just as much fun with our dog as we once did, but having an expectation of proper behavior is very important in your being the dominant influence in your dog's life.

2. Two Weeks Dog Training – Transitioning Your Alpha Position Home

For the next two weeks, 5 days out of 7 days, take about 20 minutes to review each of the Basic Dog Obedience concepts with your dog. If you have multiple people in your home you can do 10 minute sessions. It is important for each member of the pack (family) to work the dog through these concepts so the dog learns to respect them also. A **Vertical/Task Relationship** needs to be established with your family pet and each member of the pack. The dog needs to look at itself as Beta to each person in your home. If each person does not accomplish this, the dog will be more obedient to one member of the family and not to another. If at any time you are struggling with this process, please call us right away. 404-444-9329

2a. Train the Trainer and Turnover

The Purpose of the two hour Train the Trainer and Turn-over is to demonstrate what your dog learned while at Whispering Oaks Kennel in Cumming, Ga. Your dog will show you all that he learned; you will be able to see that your dog has learned 90-100% of the Dog Training Program you enrolled him. If we do not get the result, you do not pay the Dog Training rate only the Dog Boarding rate.

This turn over gives us the opportunity to review, in our half hour orientation, a review of your specific dog's personality and character. We will review with you his feeding and elimination schedule so you will know when to feed and water as well as when to allow your dog out to eliminate. We will explain the use of crating, two weeks of on-going training as well as the concept of tethering, imprinting and proofing. It is important to understand the philosophy and psychology behind dog training. What do we do as dog handlers that helps our dog's behavior and what do we do that hinders our ability to handle our dog as the Alpha influence in our dog's life.

This process will allow you to feel comfortable with your newly trained dog as well as how to successfully transfer your dog into your own home situation. The Train the Trainer covers the concepts of Alpha vs Beta

and interactions with your dog, Vertical Focus vs Horizontal Distractions and finally, the Concept of First Time Obedience.

2b. The Principle of Inspect / Respect

Your family pet needs to know that you have a standard and expectation of their behavior. The Principle of Inspect / Respect places your dog on notice that the concepts of Basic Obedience are important to you and that as the Alpha / Pack Leader, you are going to hold your dog accountable for that Basic Obedience “Trained Behavior” that you witnessed in our Train the Trainer, Turn Over on the day you picked your dog up.

After the initial Two Weeks of Follow up with your dog, upon arrival back at your home, you are going to be practicing the Principle of Inspect / Respect. Watch your dog’s behavior to see if he is behaving at the level of the Basic Obedience, if he is you praise your dog and provide physical affirmation (high excited voice and lots of petting), if not then you use your strong voice and provide a correction using the training/pronged collar. Remember that the correction is a popping of the leash and that the correction must be stronger than the dog’s distraction if your corrections are half-hearted or weak, they will not be affective and your dog will continue to challenge you and not behave. This Principle of Inspect / Respect is used throughout the dog’s life.

All dogs, like people, are free agents and decide how they will behave based on their motivation. Dogs are not robots; they behave based on the attitude of the Pack Leader. If the dog sees that you do not care, the dog will not care. The mistake we make is the assumption that the dog has forgotten how to behave and needs to be retrained. The truth is that if the dog is left to its own in the area of behavior, and like people, the dog will fall to a level of obedience or performance that is not acceptable and is outside of the behavior expected from a well-trained dog. Inspect / Respect allows you to Praise your dog for good behavior and correct your dog for behavior that is less than acceptable. The result is a dog that behaves consistent with Basic Obedience because they know that it matters to you and the rest of the pack/family members.

3. Tethering your dog

Tethering is the practice of keeping your dog with you 100% of the time so that you can follow the principle of Inspect / Respect. Do not let your dog out of your sight for the six weeks after you bring your dog home. Keep your dog in the same room with you so that you can prevent the dog from peeing or engaging in behavior that is not consistent with the Dog’s Basic Obedience Program that you enrolled your dog. This act of Tethering insures that you are able to praise your dog for the good he does and correct your dog if he is not behaving. If you get busy or need to multi-task, put your dog in his crate until you can give him your undivided attention. When in doubt, put your dog in his crate. For the first six weeks after returning home from training at Whispering Oaks Kennel, your dog will need to be in his crate more than you feel comfortable. Keep in mind that this is a short term investment so that you might enjoy your dog for the next 15 years. This practice of Tethering is well worth the result of a well-trained dog whose behavior becomes consistent with the Basic Obedience level. Tethering is an important part of Proofing your dog so that his default behavior is consistent with his training program.

3i. Importance of Imprinting and Proofing in Basic Obedience

Two very important concepts are introduced during our Train the Trainer Program; the Understanding and implementation of these concepts is the difference between success and failure in your dog’s continued successful behavior at home. We use these approaches in all our Certified Dog Training Programs here at Whispering Oaks Kennel.

Imprinting is introducing the new acceptable behavior to your dog. We do this over a 14-21 day process that is cumulative. Each day we either introduce a new behavior to your dog or review over and over each basic obedience concept each day until your dog knows that this is the acceptable behavior. Generally dogs want to “please” you and does want to know the correct parameters for his behavior. Through practice, over and over again, each day of his training, your dog adopts this new “correct behavior”.

Proofing is the act of holding your dog to this level of behavior long enough that it becomes his default behavior. This is why the Two Weeks of practice 20 minutes per day and the Six Weeks of Tethering is so important to your dog’s long term behavior. When you hold your dog to the acceptable behavior over the Six Week period, you are following the principle of proofing. Now your dog behaves in this “New Way” naturally because this behavior has been lived for so long that it becomes his default, normal behavior. If you have any questions about this principle please give us a call at 404-444-9329.

4. Alpha vs Beta Dog Behavior

Dogs are Hierarchical in their relation to other members of the Pack. Dogs respect Position, Power, Strength and Authority. On a scale from number one to number five for example each dog is ordered as to where they stand one through five. So where do you and the members of your family rank? Many dog owners do not think this important question through. Often dogs that are strong willed see themselves as dominant in the Pack and perceive themselves to be number one and the two legged members of the Pack as settling out in descending order in the Pack.

It is so important to impress upon your dog that you are the Boss. You and each member of your family will need to earn this position. Sometimes this challenge to your authority/dominance will be challenged for a season of time even six months to one year. The more Beta/Submissive your dog is the easier this task will be. If you do not take the place as the Alpha influence in your pack (as well as each member of your home) your dog will not respect you.

If your dog perceives you as weak, this task will be more difficult. A Strong Command Voice, A Strong Correction if needed, Time Spent with your Dog and a Calm Confident Attitude are all necessary in communicating this “Alpha Position”. Anything less than this may be misunderstood by your dog as Beta on your part and elevating your dog on his part. His perception of you and the situation is more important than what you think. Remember, his perception is his reality.

5. First Time Obedience – Not Repeating Commands!

The sign of a good dog handler is to give a good confident command with a tone that lets the dog know it is not negotiable. Be careful to use your basement/command voice for giving direction to your dog and your attic/high voice to praise your dog. Do not use your middle voice for that is the voice you use for the 30,000 other words you use each day. These words go in one ear and out the other ear of your dog. The natural tendency is to say the command over again if the dog does not sit for example. After a while the dog begins to turn a deaf ear to the word, the command and the person giving the command.

Say the dog’s name to get his attention, give the command and then either Praise or Correct based on whether the dog obeys or does not obey. Dogs are very aware as to whether we, “say what we mean and

mean what we say". You must be consistent with your dog in the correct use of your commands, or your dog will ignore you and not give you the time of day!

6.) **Vertical vs Horizontal Focus – Where is your Dog's Focus?**

Many dogs pay more attention to those things going on around them than they do to the person who is giving them direction. This seems to be especially true of puppies and dogs that are "rescue dogs". Dogs that are horizontally focused are generally: 1.) Less Obedient, 2.) Less Focused on you, 3.) Shorter Attention Span, 4.) Less Calm, 5.) Less manageable 6.) and More distracted.

We socialize your dog in 5 areas: 1.) People, 2.) other Dogs, 3.) Places, 4.) Things, 5.) and Noises. We accomplish the task of moving your dog's attention away from the Horizontal and Focus him on the Vertical which is your body. Remember that "Leave It" means do not pay ANY attention to anything but you. "Watch Me" means look up at me. When getting your dog's attention, say his name first and then give the command. The stronger the distraction in the Horizontal the stronger your voice must be in the Vertical. Even in the correction, if the distraction is a 6 out of 10 then your correction must be a 7 out of 10 to have any influence at all on your dog.

Certified by the American Kennel Club & Comprehensive Pet Therapy

We are a family owned and operated business started in 2000. We have successfully trained and boarded thousands of dog over the years. We are a Georgia Approved Cage Free Boarding and Dog Training Facility. We take the care and training of your family pet seriously!

We also offer the installation of invisible dog fencing by Pet Stop Brand. Check us out at www.atlantapetstopdogfence.com Are you interested in a lifetime warrantied, insulated dog door? Check us out at <http://www.plexidordogdoorsatlanta.com/>