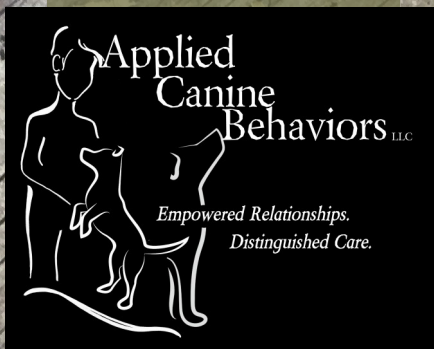


Volume 2, Issue 1

August 2017



Unleashed Newsletter

Choices Come at a Price

This is no different in dog training. The obvious problem with choices are the bad ones. Bad choices become a pattern of bad habits very quickly. Bad habits, as you may have experienced yourself, are a lot harder to fix than teaching only the correct choice to begin with.

If we take honest stock of how much control we have in a situation with our dog, we will have to admit that we can avoid bad choices via leash, collar, or even our voice the first time, in almost all cases. We are usually the ones responsible for not properly negotiating the right amount of control when there is opportunity for a choice to be made. Worse yet, if we do not have the necessary

controls in place to influence a choice, especially when the dog is first learning a skill, that's simply plain bad training.

When we are about to engage with our dog, it is effective to anticipate the mistakes which could happen in that situation. When we are aware of the possible mistakes, we become more aware of the proper and necessary setup to put in place before we work the skill with our dog.

It is technically impossible for dogs to learn to jump on people when the encounter occurs on leash. And a young, sociable, excitable dog who meets a stranger for the first time should not be allowed this greeting off leash to "see what happens". It should be

impossible for a dog to run away from us when we first teach "Come", as we should work on this exercise with a leash to help show the dog the solution. If a puppy pulls on leash, show him the absolute first time you walk him what earns forward motion – not pulling.

Make your training scenarios fail-proof so the dog can learn the one and only correct choice, the solution. First learning has largest impact. Make the correct choice be that first impression. Show them clearly with food and equipment what you want and block, prevent, avoid the rest. Training becomes not only effective but a lot of fun this way.



Got Mood?

Do you reward your dog's mood sometimes? Mood is often a lot more important to pay attention to (reward), than an actual obedience skill. This is specifically true for reactivity/stress and anxiety scenarios. Rewarding the right mood is a lot more crucial than rewarding a Sit or a Down.

Aggression or Defense

How do you know a dog reacts or bites out of fear (defensive) or out of confidence (offensive)?

An unexperienced owner may not be able to determine the difference from looking at the dog. However, there are indications such as type of hackle, overall posture, and type of bark to determine fear vs confidence.

The differences between AGGRESSION (dog bites out of confidence) and DEFENSE (dog bites out of fear) are in fact significant and mainly happen in the mindset of the dog, or how the dog feels in that moment. The dog biting out of fear is in fight and/or flight mode. If it cannot flee right away, it will fight only to enable itself to flee (flight). A dog with this mindset may say: "I feel cornered, I want no trouble, I just want to make you go away enough so I can escape (flight)". The dog biting with confidence is on the offensive (aggression) and may say: "I am bigger than

you, I don't like you, and I'm going to stir it up. I will not move!"

Both scenarios are very real to each dog type and based on the dog's temperament and disposition, each dog would fall into one of these categories in a given scenario.

While you may not want a biting dog, regardless as to why your dog is biting, it is in fact important to know the mindset difference when modifying the problem. A defensive dog should always be impacted with positive solutions, lots of patience and love. An aggressive dog can be handled the same way, however, the "have-to's" may have to be applied firmly and early on with this type dog in the modification process.

Within the pet dog environment, easily 97% of bite issues are fear based (due to lack of socialization and deficient amount of confidence building), versus aggression based.



Unleashed Newsletter

The Real Solution to a Jumping Dog

You have a dog who just jumped on your friend. Worse yet, possibly your dog is also nipping at your friend's shirt, being really wild, and just having a big, out-of-control party with its front feet nicely planted on your friend's chest.

Our instinctive next move is pulling the dog away from the "victim". Literally grabbing the collar or leash, we pull our dog back, away from our friend. While we try to squeeze a sincere apology into this mess of a situation, we notice that our dog pulls even harder into our friend. So we have to add more strength to keep the dog from jumping up again!!!

Why is this?

1) What we think makes sense to do here is not at all what we need to do. Opposition reflex is at full force and makes the dog want to pull harder into what you try to pull against. And even if we managed to throw enough physical strength at this man-handled disaster, 2) we

never addressed how the dog FEELS in that moment. The feeling being a giant party on the victim's chest or arm or sweater. In the moment of pulling the dog away and keeping him away, he is still attached to the victim in his mind!

In order to "break" this cycle, I usually suggest pulling UP on the collar or leash, very gently, and just enough so that the dog detaches from what it's grabbing. Once you settle your dog back down right in front of the victim, you make the dog do a meaningful behavior to redirect the feeling of 'party on sweater' to 'having fun with owner'. This is not easily done at first. Using the leash to block the unwanted choice of jumping up again while making yourself most valuable with meaningful behaviors your dog identifies with is the best ticket to these life skills.

www.appliedcaninebehaviors.com



Tough Love

When the going gets tough, tough love may need to happen. Sometimes we need to get away from the cookie approach and put the hammer down. This holds especially true with dogs with whom we have exhausted all other attempts to improve them or when safety (of the dog) is involved.

Even if you are a purely motivational owner, there are specific behaviors where "have a cookie" may not deliver a strong enough message for improvement or safety. Running on the road, nipping at the cat, or not coming to you are examples.

The Right Trainer

Finding the right trainer to work with is a relationship matter! Like our personal relationships, we may experience greater comfort, better "chemistry", and clearer communication styles with certain people over others. This is normal and important to consider when choosing a trainer to help you with your dog. When it comes to your canine babies, you want only the best. "Best" does not only need to mean reputation, cost, size of business, or amount of experience. When you meet with a trainer, be in tune with your gut feeling, your comfort level, and add this component to your decision making for whom you wish to work with.

Impulse Control ("Stay")

Do you have trouble with your dog getting up from a Down immediately? Teach them impulse control to stay in a Down position. Two crucially important pieces to impulse control, especially initially, are to get ahead of your dog's failure and to clearly introduce and/or maintain a release marker. The release marker gives your dog permission to free himself from the asked behavior and payment comes promptly. Releasing your dog from the Down before they decide to get up, even if it is immediate in the beginning, will teach them the concept of staying in position until freed. It also puts the decision to get up on your terms vs the dog. It works very well with promptly timed releases along with praising the actual position. You then can add other distractions i.e walking in place, walking about, moving your upper body (big trigger), and talking to someone to the mix to proof your Down stay even more.

New

Accepting *credit cards* and
payments through *Venmo*
(under *Applied Canine*
Behaviors)

*Some of our service prices have
changed effective August 1st.
Check our website for details.*

Getting Dogs Off Their Barking Throne

Don't make your good intention part of the problem! Your dog barks incessantly on the porch when people or car traffic comes by your house. You use the "treat" word as a bribe or literally lure your dog away from his barking throne and pay your dog for following you. Bam. You just rewarded your dog for the nuisance barking. Use the principle of disassociation along with the obedience skills your dog has to turn this

scenario into a meaningful lesson. More productive scenario: call your dog to you. If you can't do so, let your dog drag a leash so you can tug him towards you after you call him. Make your dog Sit or Down or Look, something it knows and can offer you. Make sure at least 3-5 seconds passed (disassociation) after the barking and your request for a meaningful behavior and pay them then for the offered behavior

"Animals do what they *perceive* is best for them" ~ Bob Bailey

Recall—Success is in the Details

Recall is one of the most important life skills to teach your dog. Recall means safety for you, your dog, and your dog's surroundings. We preach recall early in the dog's life and build on the initial dependency of a young puppy to an absolutely reliable recall under severe distractions as they get older.

When we train behaviors to proficiency, we rarely ever train a behavior chain the way the end product looks like. We train small sections of the behavior chain, often out of context, we lower our criteria, or we back chain. Once the pieces are proficient, we build the final behavior chain which then more and more looks like the real result we expect to see on an open field – the real deal.

I find in my experience that especially for Recall, owners ask for the entire chain, without any buildup in its pieces, when the dog may not understand the task fully yet. While this may not pose any immediate, observable problems, there are usually longer term consequences.

Let's look at some pieces an owner can work on when teaching Recall to their dog:

1. The act of coming to you at all (via leash or long line)
 2. Speed for coming to you (via using a motivator such as a toy, or mega awesome drool-worthy treats)
 3. Promptness in coming to you (via leash)
 4. Sitting in front of you when dog arrives (via sit practice)
 5. Happiness to come to you (via motivators and voice and a giant cheerleading yahoo)
- How many of us recall our dog, i.e. use the word "Come" or "Here" etc, fairly early in the learning process, assume the dog knows what the word means, and make him

routinely sit in front of us when he comes? And no matter the quality of the recall, i.e. fast or slow, prompt or leisurely, sitting crooked, or far away from us, we are secretly just so happy our dog came at all that we always reward them for this? Realize that you get what you pay for (behavior which gets reinforced will occur more likely in the future) and understand that your dog may or may not be very clear on what you want. To maintain integrity of the final chain, you must occasionally reward the small pieces within the chain, else it will fall apart. It is just a matter of time. When we look at the pieces above, you must sometimes reward just the promptness, or the speed, or the fact that your dog instantly whips around to return to you as soon as you call them, or that he comes happily. This means you must have the willingness to disengage from the behavior chain when they successfully did what you asked. For example, if you like their speed for coming to you, reward just that and be done with that repetition (stop then). If you love their speed but make them go through the approach and sit front before you pay, you lost the golden moment. You paid the sit (the last part in the chain). And if the sit front was not by your liking, you now are stuck not paying at all (which is not fair because he recalled like a leopard) or paying a bad sit front, neither of which is optimal.

When we look at the above pieces, everyone has a different standard for what's acceptable. And that's totally fine. Stay within your standard, however, and don't deviate from your tolerances when you work on those pieces. Keep yourself honest

and your dog accountable. Be willing not to pay if your dog deviates too much from your tolerances. Don't settle.

One particularly troubling area for recall is the Sit Front business. I understand that you don't want to fear knee surgery every time you recall your dog and he blasts happily at you. Asking for a Sit front all the time, however, makes the dog anticipate and it automatically slows down to be able to sit in front of you. Now, you may say that you don't mind your dog coming slowly, or that it slows down for the Sit. In fact, you see value in your dog not plowing into your legs. Yes, I agree. But it does not work in vacuum like that. Speed will continue to deteriorate through the entire recall until the dog does not come at all anymore. Owners do not realize this. Stopping in front of you needs to be taught, yes. It is manners and impulse control. Settling for the slow speed, though, especially in a dog who is still learning the life skill of recall, will set your dog up for failure. This may be 6 months down the road, and your reaction is one of surprise. "He used to come to me all the time, now he does not want to come to me anymore. I don't know what happened. I've practiced this so much with him"... Unless you reinforce the individual components of recall every once in a while, the chain will deteriorate to complete failure. When you practice recall or any behavior, ask yourself how you can add fun and a little of the unexpected into your training. Think about and work on the small pieces. Think about what you like to reward specifically and focus on that, nothing else!

About Us

Applied Canine Behaviors, LLC

1491 East Sample Road
Bloomington, Indiana 47408

(P) 812.269.6374
info@appliedcaninebehaviors.com
Appliedcaninebehaviors.com
Facebook.com/AppliedCanineBehaviors

"We don't just train and board dogs; instead, we are trust builders, relationship enablers, effective communications catalysts, and distinguished care providers."

Sandra Groschwitz is the owner/trainer at Applied Canine Behaviors, LLC., (ACB), a small training and boarding business located just north of Bloomington, on 5 fenced acres. Sandra has trained companion and competition dogs for 13+ years. She trains



and competes with her own German Shepherd in IPO/Schutzhund.

Sandra has rehabbed several shelter dogs, and loves working with aggression and problem behaviors in dogs. She has also trained 4 service dogs. Sandra is available for private lessons and group classes including Basic and Advanced Obedience, Rally Obedience, Puppy Development, Scent Detection/Tracking, and Drive Building workshops. In Kennel Training is another option ACB offers.

ACB offers many attractive amenities that highlight our premium care approach. When entrusting your canine family member to strangers, whether it is to meet training objectives or board your dog while away, we understand that you expect the safest, cleanest, and most premium training and boarding experience. We feel certain that Applied Canine

Behaviors, LLC can provide an ideal offering to you.

Liz Carmichael has been a wonderful addition to the ACB family in 2017. You see her helping around the barn, with the kennels, in training contexts, and most importantly with the many canine family members we care for year-round.

Liz has a huge heart and has grown up around animals, especially horses and dogs, all her life. In line with ACB's core values and mission statement, Liz is very professional and courteous, taking her role very seriously when it comes to caring for our many 4-legged vacationers. Liz is hard working, trustworthy, dependable and only has the best interest of our dogs at heart.

Liz and her young lab Ace do advanced level obedience together. They make a great team!



Fall 2017 Classes

Basic Obedience

05SEP - 10OCT
07NOV - 12DEC

Advanced Obedience

04OCT—08NOV

Puppy Development

02OCT - 06NOV

*Classes usually meet at 6pm for 6 consecutive weeks, on the weekday on which the class starts.

*Check our website for other classes such as Rally-O, Drive Building, and Scent Detection



Happy Dogs Board at ACB

- ACB is the only kennel north of Bloomington with easy access off SR37 and Old SR37 on your way to Indianapolis International Airport
- ACB offers flexible drop off and pick up times for Sundays, Holidays, or late pickups
- The Facility Owner lives on premises, always able to provide care for your dogs.
- All kennels are climate controlled with 15' covered outdoor runs
- Dogs get exercised off leash 4 times per day in a huge all grass fenced area
- Dog to dog play interactions are included!
- ACB provides personalized attention and care for each dog
- Special needs dogs, very young or older dogs, and intact dogs are always welcome.
- Optional services such as scenic walks, structured play, baths, as well as training options are also available

Reserve early for your Fall Break, Thanksgiving or Holiday Vacation. Kennels fill fast!