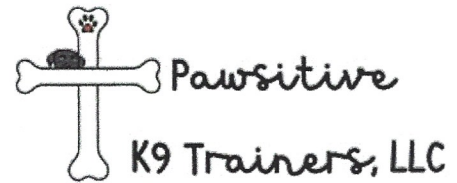


Common Issues that Dog Owners Face:



Jumping on people: Jumping up is a normal canine behavior, redirecting your dog into a “sit” is the fastest and easiest way to correct this behavior. Until your dog is better under control, I recommend having your dog on leash upon greeting guests. As you walk toward your guest if your dog pulls, lunges, or barks, turn around quietly and walk a few steps away turn back around and try again, if they continue to do the same , turn away again . Your dog will very quickly learn that being quiet and in control will get them the attention they want. Once your dog is near the guest ask them to sit, once they do then your guest can pet, if they jump up in excitement to greet, calmly turn around and walk away. Do your best not to yank on the leash. You can also practice at home – see How to train sit for greetings handout

Leash Manners: Most dogs pull on a walk, they will always walk faster than you are hence the pulling. I teach a few methods during a leash training session. The first is when they pull, you stop and don't move forward until there is slack in the leash and/or the are no longer pushing forward, if you move forward while they are pulling you are reinforcing the pull so they will continue. I also teach a “with me” cue which teaches the dogs to come to your side. I don't allow dogs to circle behind me or cross in front of me to avoid and falls. You want to walk with a loose leash, tension on the leash between you and dog may be misinterpreted as something to worry about for the dog and may cause reactivity. I don't recommend the retractable leashes; they are dangerous and there is no communication between you and the dog. The walk if for the dog's mental enrichment so let them sniff and mark and enjoy the outdoors.

Coming when called: Teaching your dog a solid recall is very important as it is a safety cue. I like to make this a game so your dog will be excited to come to you, play hide and seek. I reward this behavior consistently with treats and never get mad or frustrated when it may take a few minutes for your dog to come to you. The better the relationship you have with your dog the faster they will come to you. You can ruin that opportunity with your dog the one time you get mad at your dog for taking too long to come to you and tell the dog off, they won't forget that will likely not return to you. Don't ever call your dog over to you and punish them Dogs read your body language better than what you say – so look and sound excited to call your dog, watch your tone and expression. When your dog comes to you without being called, praise this often.

Potty training: Puppies need to go outside and potty every 30-45 minutes starting at age 8 weeks, I highly recommend taking your puppy out on leash so you can control where they go. Say “go potty” or any phrase that want to use and once your puppy begins to eliminate be quiet and once they are done, praise lavishly and reward with a treat, then stay outside for a while so puppy can play, doing so will ensure that puppy going outside is for potty and play. Warning: If you only take your puppy to go outside to potty and then come in immediately may teach puppy to hold their bladder as long as possible to stay outside and that will encourage accidents in the house. Puppies should go outside after meals, play time, and waking up.

Puppies should have limited access to the house and need to be supervised all the time, if puppy starts sniffing and walking in circles get puppy outside immediately that's a signal they need to go. NEVER punish a puppy after having an accident in the house, it's your fault not there's , doing so may cause the puppy to fear you and they won't eliminate in front of you but will go off and potty away from you.

Potty training takes time, and you need to pay attention to their signals. I teach the bell method, so the puppy learns to push and electronic bell or I recommend a doggie door. I am not a fan of piddle pads as it encourages your puppy to potty in the house.

Puppy Chewing and Nipping

All dogs explore their world by their mouth and noses. Chewing and nipping is very normal behavior. Redirecting the nipping onto the toys is the best way to handle this issue. Always having a toy handy when handling or playing with you puppy is the easiest way to redirect the mouth onto the toy. I teach "no bite" to the puppy when they nip me and then insert toy into the mouth. The nipping gets worse as the puppy is teething – by month 4 permanent teeth are coming in and their mouth is sore. I recommend using an old washcloth with a knot in it and freezing it to give as a teething toy to soothe the gums.

Smaller breeds unfortunately are victim to more overall handling, holding, cuddling than larger breeds. Your puppy or older dog will tell you when they want down, they will squirm and eventually bite at you, pay attention to their signals so biting you doesn't become the first signal the use to get your attention. Keep your puppy on a long leash in the house so you can see where they are going and close all doors to rooms where you don't want them to go redirect chewing on house items to their toys. If they bite at your legs or pants, show them a toy, and toss it away from you so they chase after the toy.