

## **HOW TO MAKE TRAINING SUCCESSFUL!**

- Start in a quiet place with no distractions and no distance. Work in only one room at a time. When your dog is on command in this room move to the next room.
- Be consistent! Make sure everyone in the household is doing the same.
- Practice! Practice makes perfect. There are never any guarantees in dog training. I can guarantee that if you don't practice, you will not see any progress and you will have lost time and money.
- Remember when we raise the criteria of one thing we need to lower another. For instance, if we have been working in the kitchen and the dog is off leash and sitting on command perfectly, we will need to put the leash back on when we move to the living room.
- Do not use a command until the dog is performing the behavior you want time and time again. This is so that he learns to associate the right word with the right action.
- Say a command only once. A dog will learn to tune you out before long if it is said repeatedly!
- Once your dog is on command, start random rewarding. For instance, reward every other sit, and then reward every 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> sit. Then every sit. Remember to keep them guessing!
- Remember to reward the behaviors you like, and ignore the ones you don't.
- Find out what motivates your dog! Is it food, touch, toys, verbal praise?
- Stop the training session if you recognize any signs of stress.
- Remember to take breaks or keep sessions short.
- Remember behavior that is allowed to be practiced takes longer to correct. If you don't allow the behavior to take place or reward it, the behavior will diminish quicker.
- **HAVE FUN AND PLAY WITH YOUR DOG!**