Top Dog Training Mistakes

1. Not Being Consistent Within the Family.

 Everyone in the family wants to be involved in the dog training process. Each and everyone come out with their own commands and methods. While this is understandable, this kind of training will confuse your dog. Proper planning such as specific routine, methods, responsibilities and rules should be discussed among your family members before the dog or puppy arrives home. In this way, everyone will understand their own role and the importance of consistency.

2. Training Too Much, Too Fast.

 Are you ever guilty of introducing too many new commands or tricks to your dog in a training session? Unfortunately, this is happening frequently among many dog owners and will usually cause your dog to be confused. Instead, you should focus on one or two new training exercise or command per training session. Dogs have a shorter attention span. Train your dog 10-15 minutes per session (less for puppies) each 2 to 3 times per day. Having patience will also set up your dog to comprehend each command better and be more successful in the training process.

3. Not Praising or Rewarding Immediately.

 If your dog has performed a new desired action and you delay giving out immediate rewards, you will find the dog does not pick up on what you are looking for. A dog will fail to understand what it is doing right unless you teach them to associate the behavior with praise or food immediately after each action. Rewarding immediately also ensures that you are rewarding the correction behavior. You should only withhold rewarding in the event when your timing is late so that you won’t unintentionally reward the wrong behavior.

4. Unintentional Approvals.

 Do you pet your dog when they jump on you enthusiastically every time you come home? Do you allow your dog to greet another dog if they are pulling at the leash and barking to get to the dog?. If you answered yes then you are unintentionally encouraging the behavior. Through it may seem harmless, these kind of unintentional approvals may lead to more serious behavior problems when they figure out that it results in increased direct attention from your or something else they find rewarding. Once a dog has learned a bad behavior or has developed phobia, more time and effort will be needed to correct and retrain your pet again. Therefore, always be mindful of your actions and plan ahead on how you want to train your dog.