

# Setting realistic goals?

■ BY HARRY KALAJIAN

We all want the perfect dog, the well-behaved pet. It's not a far reach, but you must be realistic in your expectations. Here are a few examples.

Don't try to teach an Alaskan Malamute to do flips, because it isn't going to happen. Don't try to teach a happy-go-lucky Corgi to do protection training. I can go on and on, but I'm sure you get the point: Remember to always take the dog's

character and temperament into consideration. Even if you have a good working breed like a German shepherd, Rottweiler, Doberman or Malinois, it does not mean it can do protection training. Character and temperament are the root of any form of training.

I'm very sure that on Facebook or other social media, people see dogs performing like Navy SEALs, doing unbelievable things. However, do not compare your dog's training with those. Mostly what you see is the trainer with his own dog, not the normal pet owner. It would be very costly and time-consuming for an owner to achieve the same results, so never compare your dog to someone

else's.

To have a good, obedient pet, you must seek a professional trainer to guide you and help you achieve your goals. A professional trainer will show you different ways to train your dog according to its character and temperament. Trainers are not magicians. Once the dog is programmed, as I call it, it's up to the owner to practice daily what has been shown and taught. The more you practice, the better the results you will see. Mastering one command at a time before moving on to the next will give you better results. The funny thing is, people will put in hours and hours preparing for a party that won't take place for a few months, yet they don't put half that effort and time into training their pets.

Sometimes owners do practice, and they do well, but once the course is over they don't continue to keep up the training. Training never finishes, it's always an ongoing daily event well after the

course. Want results? Keep up the training.

During and even after your course if you have problems, call your trainer to help you as many times as needed. A professional will help you over and over and won't charge you, as long as you're trying and working with your dog. Every individual dog, regardless of breed, size, gender, character and temperament, has qualities that others don't. Some excel in certain things, while others excel in other things. So be realistic in your expectations and goals. It's the time you invest in working with your dog that will make or break your goals and expectations. Your efforts will show with the amount of time and dedication you put into your training.

Our famous formula: Patience, persistence, consistency and repetition will be your key to success.

Have a woof woof of a month.

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