

Breeds, dog training and intelligence

■ BY HARRY KALAJIAN

With so many pure and mixed breeds, at times we ask ourselves which is best for training and which are intelligent? This question is not answerable, because there are many variants that play a role in answering such a question.

The bottom line is that the training and intelligence of any dog is based on each owner's dedication. There are certain dog breeds that are quicker than others. However even pure breeds or mixed breeds that may seem not as fast just need a bit more time to learn.

It's the individual dog. Some may learn through a five time repetition, while the others may take 15 times. The bottom line? Who really cares as long as you love your dog, and are willing to work with them. The end result is the same. There are breeds for certain types of training that qualify more than others, and excel and perform better. The AKC or the CKC have charts that help you decide which breed is more suitable for the type of training you are looking for.

While some dogs excel in tracking, others excel in personal protection. Some dogs that aren't really qualified can still do it, but it's not in their genes. Choosing the right dog for what you need is important.

Most owners just want an obedient dog that is friendly and outgoing with no aggression issues toward people or dogs. The training of a puppy or dog in its early stages of life will reflect its behavior as an adult. The owners contribution to the training and invested time is the key.



When you look for a trainer, make sure they are professional. Make sure they know many forms and techniques to achieve your goals. One method does not teach all dogs. A variety of training techniques might be required to achieve your training goals.

The no nonsense method is best, bribing does not work (it might seem that it works, but doesn't). Balance in both praise and correction must be always present. Praising during training should only be verbally, corrections should be quick and timely. Always ask for 100 percent to get 75 percent, there is no 100 percent. There are, however, dogs that get close to the 100 percent, but those are the trainers or a committed individual's dog(s). They have invested lots of time in the training. A huge commitment; most of those are for sport dogs, either for Schutzhund, French sports ring, Belgium sport ring etc.

In every pure breed or mixed breed there is the good and the bad. The Ying and Yang. Choose your puppy regardless if it's pure or not; specifically for what you eventually expect from them as an adult.

The character and temperament is important. When choosing a puppy, have a professional do certain test prior to buying. Testing a puppy will let you know if it has what it takes to fulfill your final goals.

Every breed has the genetic intelligence to perform its own breed tasks. Here is an example: if you want a dog to herd, make sure you get the puppy/dog from a reputable breeder. The breeder will be able to tell you how many generations their breed has been in herding (The great grandparents, grand parent, parents that have been herding). This way, you know the bloodline is specific to herding.

Always do your due diligence before investing with the breeder. Remember you get what you pay for, and that applies to everything in life.

All types of dog training aren't hard, as long as you are willing to put time and follow my formula to have success; Patience, Persistence, Consistency & Repetition.

If you still fail, it's on you, not your dog. You didn't stick to the formula.

Have a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays
Have a woof woof of a month.

*Harry Kalajian M.D.T.
With over 35 years experience
All Aspect of training,
Behaviorist, Ethologist & Psychologist
Executive Dog Training Inc.
executivedogtraining.com
caninebehavioraldiagnostics.com
941-447-8234*