

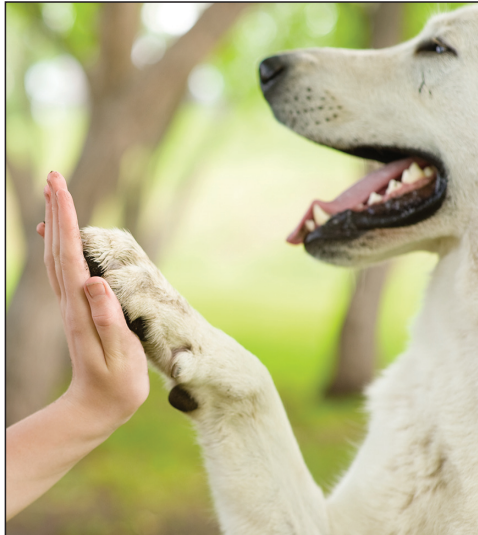
Reflection

■ BY HARRY KALAJIAN

Reflection of behavior on every level is contributed to the input you have implemented on your dog. That simply means what you have accepted or allowed is the output reflection of the behavior. Many owners in the beginning are of accepting certain behaviors when they are young, until they get older and it's not cute anymore. Puppies and small breed dogs fall in the, "oh so cute zone". Pending the age of the dog, from day one they should be structured; puppies, adult dogs or even those that have been adopted.

Many adopted dogs unfortunately come with and have some habits that new owners don't like. Most behavior can be corrected as a new beginning for the dog because it's a new environment. Chances are the dog won't exhibit those behaviors till they are comfortable in their new environment. As owners don't accept anything you don't like right away by showing the dog that you will not accept it.

Some behaviors will need to be addressed and through a professional trainer you can achieve it



(pending). Put aside the "oh how cute, poor thing, and anything else aside".

The best thing you can offer your dog is good leadership and a course in obedience, which will re-shift the way your dog looks at you and will know you are top dog. We call that a re-shift in the hierarchy of the family, where the dog would be at the bottom. If you don't re-shift the dog in the family's hierarchy it will do as it pleases and you will not be a happy owner.

If after the professional obedience training your dog still pulls or doesn't listen to any commands properly then sorry it's your fault. The dogs training and repetition is based on how much you have worked with them. Many owners have tons of excuses; I'm too tired, I'll do it tomorrow, I have no time today, the dog is too tired ...

I have found that the owner's intentions are good in wanting to train their dog, however they become board or will find a reason not to train that day. Then the ripple effect kicks in with excuses. If as an owner you get board or don't seem to have the desire to work with your dog, find a way to get motivated. Ex-

amples; change the area of your walks and training, find another person that is motivated, think of all the advantages once you will have trained them, with more walks the more in shape both you and the dog will be in.

What does it boil down to; the effort you have put in will be the reflection of your efforts. Practicing for five min will not do it, teaching the dog the wrong way will not do it, incorrect way of using your training equipment will not do it. If you forget or unsure call your trainer see them again before your next class for a quick refresher. It's better doing it the right way for 20 min. then for an hour the wrong way.

Master each command before going onto the next, in school you learned the arithmetic before you progressed. The same applies to dog training; don't try to jump to the next command if your dog barely understands the previous command. You are setting up for failure. Every command you have taught will be a reflection on the next time you ask your dog to do it. If they respond great, if not it means it needs more practice. Don't rush it.

Always remember.

Training isn'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 woof woof of a month.

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