

A young boy with blonde hair is shown from the chest up, holding a small, fluffy white dog. He is looking down at the dog with a gentle expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor setting with greenery. The text is overlaid on the image in a clean, sans-serif font.

What Are The Different (and best) Puppy and Dog Training Methods

A Brief Pros & Cons
Training Guide
for Puppy & Dog Owners

Make Your Training Time & Money An Investment Instead of An Expense

John Wade

www.askthedogguy.com

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT PUPPY AND DOG TRAINING METHODS?

**A BRIEF PROS & CONS GUIDE FOR PUPPY &
DOG OWNERS**

JOHN WADE

SUN TZU PUBLISHING

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



John on stage at his one man show for companion dog owners, Why Your Dog Doesn't Listen and What To Do About it.

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INTRODUCTION

Several things influence the life a dog will lead. Genetics, bloodlines, early life social imprinting to name a few. Another is training and training can either negatively or positively impact those variables. As a result dog training can be an expense or an investment.

This very brief guide is intended to provide companion dog owners with enough information to lead to time and money spent as an investment that pays valuable dividends. Dividends like a dog that comes when called, stays when told and walks on a loose leash - No Matter What.

A frequent companion dog owner complaint is that when they decided it was time to start researching dog training options for their dog what they thought should be simple quickly grew confusing and sometimes discouraging.

Much of what companion dog owners encounter, whether online articles, books read, television shows watched, veterinarians spoken to seems to have a polar opposite opinion following close behind.

Hopefully, the following will help in finding the right training fit for

you and your dog. In this brief guide, you will learn about three training approaches and training environment options.

DOG TRAINING AS AN INVESTMENT VS AN EXPENSE

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE



Investment

Dog training is an investment when the companion dog owner's goals are realized. When they imagine sharing their lives with a dog in my experience, most are not looking for "Lassie" or a soulless robotic companion. They typically want a dog that is civilized in and outside of the home. A dog that can

be relied on when asked to exert self-control regardless of distractions independent of special treats or devices.

They want their dog to be able to go with them from everything to the corner store to day trips to vacations. They want their dog to be a warm ambassador whenever guests come to visit, and they want the day to day rhythm of household goings-on not to be further complicated just because there's a dog as part of the household.

Expense

Where dog training becomes an expense is when even after training the dog's owner still finds that still, after walking their dog, one arm has been stretched slightly longer than the other. They have a dog more interested in them with a treat than without or need special apparatuses to keep the dog from physically overwhelming them.

It is extremely rare to find companion dog owners that discovered their dog training dollars resulted in an outcome that reflected their original hopes.

There are a few reasons for this. Sometimes people are not well matched to their dog from a handling ability or a lifestyle perspective. Sometimes the dog doesn't have the most stable bloodlines. Sometimes the dog is carrying baggage imprinted early in life. Almost always though, and even with these factors in mind, it is the approach to training from the perspective of method and content.

THE UNREGULATED DOG TRAINING INDUSTRY

CAVEAT EMPTOR



How many dogs can walk in a heel off leash? How many can walk in a heel - on a leash - without pulling - without special collars or treats? How many will come when called when in their yard, let alone in an open field on a hike? How many aren't taken on those hikes in the first place? How many have to be isolated for part or all of a guest's visit because they won't stay or refrain from jumping when told? The answer is - not enough. The reason? It's not the dogs, and it's not dog owners. It's the industry.

The average companion dog owner doesn't want or need much - a dog that comes when called, a dog that doesn't pull on a leash and a dog that stays - NO MATTER WHAT. If that's all the average companion dog could do, that dog will be able to go anywhere and do anything.

You may have heard of the saying "Cave Canem" also known as "Beware of Dog." People looking for companion dog training might do well to add as a corollary, "Cave Canem Lanista" or Beware of Dog Trainer.

Dog training is an entirely unregulated industry where people are free to move from selling shoes one day to next day advertising themselves as a dog trainer, master trainer, canine behaviorist, etc.

Dog trainers all too often make whatever claims they wish about experience and expertise. They can and do pay for testimonials, google ratings, and facebook likes.

They can believe that because they love dogs, they “know dogs” and “dog training” and “complex canine behavior problems” etc. as well as someone that has taken extensive courses, stays up to date with the scientific literature and apprenticed extensively with experienced, established companion dog trainers.



I recently became aware of a local young woman disenchanted with working in a shelter cleaning dog runs and without any dog training experience or education begin to offer services as a dog trainer. Her website immediately claimed extensive expertise. Not only in

basic obedience but listed challenging behavior problems as within her skill set. Two months later she had changed her designation from dog trainer to a canine behaviorist.

As someone that has seen dog trainers come and go over a 30 year period, I say with confidence that the example of this young woman is more the rule than the exception. It is a reality that it is extremely rare to find a companion dog trainer that does so full time and does so well enough to support themselves.

Without industry regulations, the public is none the wiser. As a result, the vast majority of companion dog owners and their dogs fail to fulfill potential not because it cannot be fulfilled but because of charlatanism and quackery in an unregulated industry. Unfettered by regulations dog trainers are free to make unfounded claims like

'Might Is Right' yank and crank, alpha rolling, etc. oriented methods are okay because mother dogs do it. (They do, but very rarely). Far, far more falsely claim that 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' methods are based on science.

The good news is that there are some fantastic companion dog trainers out there and this little booklet is an everything you need to know beforehand primer on how to find the training that will best help both you and your companion dog live as fully as possible.

COMPANION DOG TRAINING

VS ALL OTHER DOG TRAINING



As mentioned in the last chapter in your quest for finding training for your dog you may see that there will be a risk of encountering questionably skilled dog trainers. It has been my experience that they constitute the vast majority of those in the dog training field. However, also as mentioned there are some very skilled dog trainers. The problem for companion dog owners is while you might think a trainer with verifiable accomplishments

would be a good thing (and for the most part it is) however, it isn't always. Fairly frequently you will find that the skills acquired stem from a specialty unrelated to companion dog training and are not necessarily well matched to companion dog training.

Companion dog training is, or at least it should be considered a specialized form of dog training as the goals/needs of a companion dog and dog owner are not always well matched by other elements of the dog training world. In spite of this most dog training available to companion dog owners typically have roots in other specialties, and this can be a problem for companion dog owners and their dogs.

A convincing argument can be made that the goals, needs and wants for the average companion dog owner are not very well represented by what is required to title a dog in the context of a kennel club obedience competition. However, almost all obedience training offered to companion dog owners uses the competition template or a close variation as a curriculum foundation. Not only in the exercises but in the environments and manner in which they are taught.

The advantages of getting a dog to do obedience in a controlled environment are better than nothing and arguably could be used to make the transition over to companion dog day to day environment life-skills. However, considering how much there is left



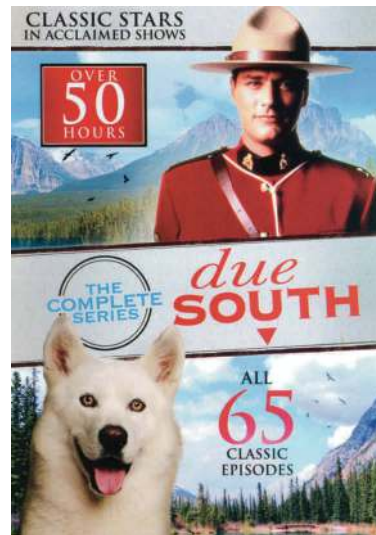
over of the average companion dog owner at the end of each day, a strong argument can be made that much of what is offered to companion dog owners isn't particularly companion dog owner or dog owner friendly and frankly - even necessary.

How Dog Training Varies

When I was training dogs for the television series *Due South* I was doing the trick and stunt training along with but separately from obedience training. I have some good friends that specialize in training for dog sports like French Ring or Schutzhund. Others - scent detection. I have other trainer friends that specialize in military, police and personal protection dog training. Some others still that specialize in training various hunting dogs.

More friends still that specialize in trick training, dock diving, agility, etc. Some specialize in training for kennel club obedience competitions.

What I have found is that when people have an extensive and successful history training in one of the above disciplines, it often untowardly influences how they approach companion dog training.





Fred Staub (breeder and trainer) with one of the most accomplished female Weimaraners in North America.

Trainers with police or bite oriented sports background and similarly in the hunting dog community often approach companion dog training in variations on the 'Might Is Right' style. This approach has more to do with tradition than science, but either way, dogs successfully trained in these activities typically have genetics that equips them with stress thresholds far higher than the average companion dog. They quickly bounce back from the harshness of the approach which unfortunately acts as a confirmation in the trainer that the strategy is sound enough to be considered a method.



Much more common are dog trainers superficially exposed to Pavlov

and B.F. Skinner's work with conditioned and operant conditioned responses usually via venues involving closed settings activities like tricks, agility, etc.

There's absolutely no problem with training that incorporates conditioned responses and operant conditioning. The problem lays when dog trainers without the the educational background (or in its place, the intellect, and the self-discipline to acquire an understanding at the very least of critical thinking, scientific methodology, cognitive bias, etc.) are unable to distinguish between actual behavior science and cherry picked aspects of the above that result in pseudo-scientific ideology.

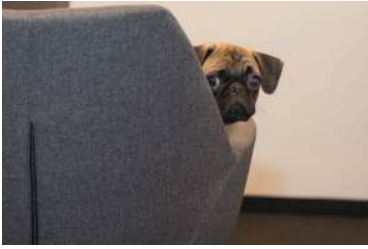


The problem for companion dog owners regarding both of these approaches is that it's rare that a companion dog owner's day revolves around their dog in the manner that the dog trainer's days typically revolve around their dogs.

Also, very few companion dog owners are willing to be as harsh towards their dog as the 'Might Is Right' dogma seemingly endorses. Nor, at the opposite end of the spectrum can they afford the timelines associated with the 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' ideology.

Companion Dog Training

When it comes right down to it, most companion dog owners just want a dog that will Come/Stay/Heel - No Matter What. A dog that doesn't beg at the table, stays on a mat when food is being prepared for the family and when a guest arrives and departs. Stays off the furniture entirely or waits until invited. Waits at the top and bottom



"Oh, you meant our furniture."

of stairs for an invitation. Just necessary household context skills. They want their dog to do these things without imminent treats, in fact, they want to be able to multi-task and know that their dog will perform as expected even if they are changing a diaper. Outside of the home, they want to

be able to come home with both of their arms still the same length.

Ironically as you've found if you've begun your search or will shortly discover, these skills and a companion dog and dog owner friendly approach to acquiring these practical life skills are rarely offered in spite of there being vastly more companion dog owners and dogs than hunters, agility fans, obedience competition enthusiasts. It's still mostly geometric patterns around pylons, staring at your dog when he or she is learning to stay while the dog stares at your treat holding fingers. However, such trainers do exist. You may just have to do a little digging to find someone that specializes in companion dog training.



Come - No Matter What = Healthy Exercise & Mental Stimulation

METHODS & TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

MOST COMMON OFFERINGS

There are two areas I recommend you consider in your search for finding the right training for you and your companion dog.

1. Training Methods
2. Training Environment

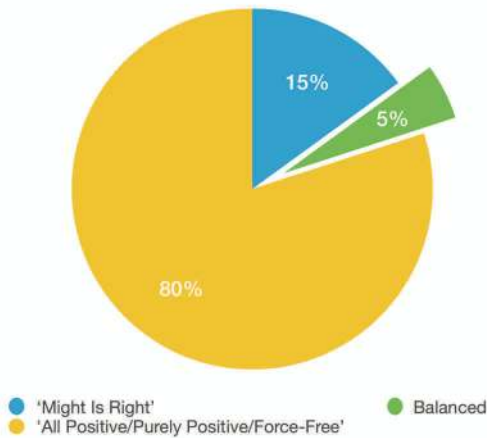
Training Methods

These are the three most commonly encountered methods used by dog trainers.

1. **'Might Is Right'** which often justifies things like pinning a puppy to the ground as "natural" "because mother dogs do it." While not wrong, it's not a "method" mother dogs use, and it's not an attitude they embrace. They don't do that sort of thing very often.
2. **'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free'** which is a philosophy as opposed to a method.
3. **'Balanced Training'** which if you've ever raised a child

yourself you're familiar. It's relationship based rather than threat or treat based and positive in approach almost all the time with the odd; I'm not asking you, I'm telling you, thrown in.

Estimated Ratio of Puppy & Dog Training Methods Available for Companion Dog Owners



Training Environment

1. **'Group'** is what most people are familiar with but there are more downsides than pluses as teaching new things to a dog (and owner) in a strange environment around strange dogs, and strange people is a bit like trying to teach a child to do geometry at the gateway into Disneyland.
2. **'In-home'** has usual household distractions and can involve everyone that usually interacts with the dog on a day to day basis. Can focus on more practical skills as well.

'MIGHT IS RIGHT' APPROACH

PERHAPS 20% OF THE MARKET



It is undeniable that painful life experiences powerfully influence learning. Allowing a child to burn their hand on a hot stove will get the job done because it's incredibly memorable and motivating. It is, however, a ghastly way to have to learn to be careful around the stove and illustrates why we have parents using a more balanced approach to teach us.

Pain should not be considered a method so much as it is a consequence of making an uneducated lousy decision or what happens when we ignore a teacher's lessons.

Additionally, terms like alpha, pack leader, dominant, etc. are often bandied about by 'Might Is Right' trainers, but they rarely understand them in the context of ethology. Yes, mother dogs do upon occasion physically discipline their puppies, but it is much more the exception than the rule.



As a result, trainers using such “yank and crank” methods as the foundation for teaching a dog life skills should be avoided. However, such trainers aren't going to advertise themselves as 'Might Is Right' oriented. It has been my experience that the majority are not aware that they are and they consider and advertise themselves as balanced trainers. After reading a little further, you'll be able to better discern for yourself but here are some tips:

Signs Your “Balanced” Trainer Might Actually Be 'Might Is Right'

Training Tools

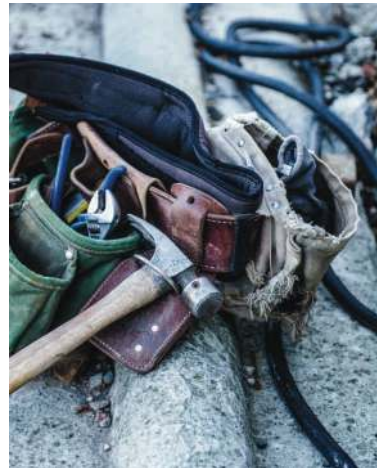
In any discussion of 'Might Is Right' dog training, it's important not to fall victim to the "blame the tool not the fool at the end of the tool" trap. The potential for misuse in a device does not necessarily equate with the way the trainer might incorporate it into a training program. A veterinary scalpel has the potential for both saving a dog and ending its life. When compared to scalpels even dog training



tools with the most potential for abuse require a bargain far less Machiavellian. Inexperienced or philosophically motivated as opposed to science-based trainers quite often point at worse case examples, assign labels and demand banning.

There isn't a single dog training tool in existence, including a simple flat collar or harness that I have not seen used both abusively and cruelly. On the other hand, I have seen countless dogs with a dim or no future in front of them that 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' trainers have been unable to help end up leading long happy lives in part because of the inclusion a humanely used piece of higher leverage equipment.

In short, what I'm attempting to convey is that you shouldn't solely judge a carpenter by his or her tools. Better to judge them by the number of the tools they keep in their tool bag and the flexibility in which they use their tools and their ability to select the best tool for the job at hand and of course how well they use those tools. Tool use or lack of tools use is in essence where you can potentially identify a dog trainer that in spite



of claims they might make to the contrary are not balanced but are 'Might Is Right.'

Rather than determining what might best help the dog and dog owner 'Might Is Right' dog trainers will often use the same collar type for all of their training. Typically higher leverage collars such as prong/pinch. One of many problems with this is that when the only tool you have in your tool bag is a hammer, everything starts looking like a nail. I have found without exception that when you know what you're doing (tools in the tool bag; knowledge, experi-

ence and lastly equipment), there are ways to get through to a dog that is safer and far easier on the dog and more transferable to the dog owner.



Language - Alpha, Alpha-Roll/Dominant/Pack Leader



Terms like alpha, dominant, pack leader, etc. are real things, so it's not necessarily a sign of being a 'Might Is Right' companion dog trainer. In the context of companion dog training I personally rarely use terms like Alpha, Dominant or Pack Leader preferring instead, teacher/student or parent/offspring which I believe to be a more accurate, useful and

undoubtedly relatable relationship model.

As to the idea that flipping a dog or puppy on it's back and pinning it until it completely relaxes. The rationale is typically made that "it is okay because mother dogs do it." That's an incomplete truth and a 'Might Is Right' trainer hint. It is true that mother dogs do such things. Even scrapping mature dogs will force the issue if one is unwise enough to not perform the act of submission voluntarily. However, the complete truth is that mother dogs very rarely resort to

such levels. When it does happen, it's generally a sign that all else has failed.



When dog trainers think regularly flipping a dog is appropriate, it's a good sign they are 'Might Is Right'.

Bite Rate



I have found that a lot of 'Might Is Right' trainers get bitten quite a bit. Some seem proud of it. I've read on more than one occasion statements such as, "If you're not getting bitten, you're not training enough dogs." As a result, it might

be worth asking a trainer if they've ever been bitten. Having trained for 30 years full time, I have taught many thousands of dogs. I am well known for my work, and a disproportional ratio of the dogs I am contacted for helping are seriously aggressive. The number of bites in 30 years? One. Admittedly I have excellent safety protocols in place, but in my experience, the reason these trainers are sustaining bites is their lack of flexibility. When they should be thinking, they instead pull out the hammer. In my view, if I push a dog so hard that it lashes out I've made an error and let myself, the dog and the dog's owner down. Fortunately, due to the experience and knowledge I've garnered over the years, it is an infrequent occurrence where a dog I'm working with feels pressured into a bite or even a snarl or a lip curl for that matter.

**'ALL POSITIVE/PURELY
POSITIVE/FORCE-FREE'**

ALMOST 80% OF WHAT IS OFFERED



To the detriment of companion dog and dog owners everywhere, 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' typically treat driven training has in recent years become one of the more common offerings. In the entirely unregulated world of companion dog training now as much as 80% of companion dog trainers now promote this philosophy and themselves as being science-based 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog trainers.

On the surface, to those without a familiarity with what constitutes actual science some of their claims seem reasonable enough. However, a closer look quickly reveals that one would have to have a very loose grip on what constitutes science, not to mention common sense.

The day to day environments in which companion dog owners must live and train their dog is a world apart from the settings that 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' is based.



Whether referred to as 'All Positive', 'Purely Positive' or most recently 'Force-Free' the virtue signaling, devoid of science message, being sold to companion dog owners it that there is no room in their approach for any degree of physical or emotional chastisement. The concept of "No" is not only considered as "unscientific" but as cruel. Amongst some of the disciples there are claims that any level of negativity directed towards a dog will magnify rather than discourage undesirable behavior. To learn that pain associated with an action increases the likelihood of repeating that move will come as a surprise to anyone that has been subjected to a painful experience, such as touching a hot stove or betrayal in a relationship. The reality is that pain can have a swiftly profound and lasting impact on future decisions. It is however, as was mentioned earlier in the 'Might Is Right' section, a crappy way to have to learn things and is a sign that maybe one's teachers don't really know understand the role of

teachers which one would assume is to mitigate painful experiences through intelligent guidance.



False Virtue Marketing

In spite of a lack of relevant science to back up 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog training and atrocious results it has flourished. It has done so because of its marketability.



Selling a novice companion dog owner suffering from the normal puppies are cute psychological impact of what Konrad Lorenz referred to as Baby Schema (The Cuteness Trap), on the concept of 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free', never say no, everyone gets a trophy, is easy. Whereas, it's a tad harder to be honest and say, - but if you want your dog to learn things beyond a momentary trick, in real life, around real distractions you may have to add in a manner appropriate to the situation and the dog, the concept of I'm not asking you, I'm telling you, once in a while.

“Saying Yes is instantly rewarding but can have a long-term cost. Saying No has an instant cost but can have long-term benefits”

— UNKNOWN

All too often 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' dog trainers venture into further false virtue marketing by mischaracterizing all other training and trainers that are not 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' as by default being purveyors of 'Might Is Right' or “pain.” There are those sorts of trainers. However, that's hardly a fair

representation of options available to companion dog owners. It's simply dishonest marketing and virtue signaling.

Some go as far as using images of dogs cruelly abused by some disturbed individual and blame the collar used or use it as a representative example of any approach other than 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free.'

In recent years they have been using this sleight of hand for more than virtue marketing. They are also now advocating for banning of dog training tools and methods other than 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free.'



Clickers are often used by 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' dog trainers. They can be useful but require a high level of commitment by companion dog owners and are not well suited for companion dog training. Tons of fun though for teaching tricks.

Harnesses

You may have noticed far more dogs wearing harnesses as opposed to collars.

When 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' first came on the scene a couple of decades ago there was a movement to head halter type devices as more "gentle" means of controlling a dog during a walk. Halting its pulling if you will.

What most don't realize is that the need arose because the 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' approach consistently fails in what

should be the goal of good training. That goal should be training that results in teaching a dog to keep its own leash loose in real world settings.

The head halters allowed for the dog to punish itself leaving the trainer to feel virtuous. Those dogs that did not learn quickly, or only slightly reduced their pulling, eventually developed neck injuries due to the pressure on their cervical vertebrae.

Part of the irony that seemed to escape 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog trainers was that the dogs almost universally loathed wearing such devices, rubbing their snouts on the ground and pawing at same, seemingly suggesting these devices are not so gentle or neutral. In any event, once removed, back to pulling and unruliness for most. Controlling a dog is not the same as teaching a dog to exert self-control.

The latest "you may love dogs but not as much as we love dogs" 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' tactic is the insistence that the only humane apparatus that a leash should ever be attached to is a harness.

I have had many people claim that it did indeed reduce leash pulling. However as with the head harnesses the body harnesses are more about misdirecting companion dog owners attention away from the flaws in the 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' training than as a means to teach a dog to exert self-control.

In most cases when examined objectively it is clear that in order for a harness to 'work', one of two things are being triggered by the harness.

1. The pressure that was once taxing the muscles and joints of the human has been transferred to a sensitive areas on the dog such as armpit pinching.
2. In more recent designs, the pressure that was once taxing the muscles and joints of the human has been transferred to the

dog's joints not so much stopping pulling but making it more bearable for the dog's owner.

One doesn't need to have a degree in physics or biomechanics to realize that in the end if the dog doesn't learn to stop rather than reduce pulling, the wear and tear once experienced by the human will be suffered by the dog. In time this will lead to an increase in dogs with arthritic and other joint related issues.

It will also result in an upsurge of dogs and people being bitten by untrained dogs in public settings as harnesses sacrifice control of a dog's head when they catch their owner off guard with a lunge. They also make it much more difficult to separate fighting dogs and allow much smaller dogs to apply the leverage associated with four wheel drive and four on the floor, low center of gravity.

These tactics regarding characterization of tools and using dogma rather than science are the lifeblood of 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog training. Logical fallacies are the entire foundation used to promote the scientifically unsound ideology.

In the aforementioned examples, the fallacy is an inductive appeal to emotion fallacy. If a trainer uses A in an abusive or cruel manner, then A can only be used in an abusive cruel manner and therefore all trainers that use A must be abusive or cruel by nature.

You Don't Need To Be Cruel To Be Kind And You Can Kill With Kindness

In spite of claims that 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog training is the most humane and cruelty-free approach to companion dog training, I don't consider 'it to be either. Far from it. Too many dogs have the quality of their lives negatively impacted because without the ability to exert self-control outside of sight of a treat they can't go anywhere. Additionally, far too many

companion dog owners thinking they have done all they can do believe they are out of options and return dogs to breeders, re-home, take to rescues and euthanize.

Life itself has shown us that the idea of no and physical restraint is a reasonable tool in the tool bag and the application of either doesn't inevitably result in the permanent loss of self-esteem. In fact, there's evidence that the opposite is true. We know that adding micro stressors in the early days of puppy development has a positive impact down the road. It's also beginning to look like if we do not allow sufficient or perhaps certain types of stress to exist during developmental periods that there may be a susceptibility to anxiety later in life.

How do most dogs react to the appearance of their leash? Leash = Walk = Joy. Consider that a leash is the most freedom restricting physically controlling apparatus in most dog's lives.

Imagine if 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' became the natural rule of law instead of the universal template I refer to as nature's template. Dog, wolf, ape, human, etc. parents are now prevented from using their physical advantages or using disapproving tone and body language and other distressing consequences. Even though these aspects are just a small part of our parenting skills repertoire I suspect very few of their or our offspring would make it to adulthood. I know I would be dead or in jail.

If you need further convincing search the science journal data bases such as PubMed, ScienceDirect, and Elsevier, which can be used for verification of "science-based" claims. Over 27 million records with 500,000 added every year and absolutely no supportive research for 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' in a real-life context application.

Science vs Ideology and Dogma

'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog trainers have

become scientifically disoriented in several ways.

They have taken legitimate research about behavior modification which divided options into four quadrants and decided through ill-disciplined philosophical musing that the dog is the only species for which all the quadrants do not apply.



Science: Operant Conditioning - The Four Quadrants

1. **Positive Reinforcement** - immediately adding something pleasant to increase a behaviour.
2. **Negative Punishment** - delaying a reward to decrease a behaviour
3. **Positive Punishment** - adding a negative experience to decrease a behaviour
4. **Negative Reinforcement** - delaying a negative experience to increase a behaviour.

PseudoScience/Ideology - 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free'

'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' dog trainers use as “evidence” the work done with aquarium contained marine mammals such as Orcas and Dolphins. There are at least four problems with this "evidence."

First, the significant impact on results that a tightly controlled setting vs. real life distractions has must be taken into consideration. The day to day living environment aka the “classroom” that a companion dog

owner has to cope with has far fewer controls than environments where this may be feasible.

A reasonable analogy would be growing a plant in a laboratory setting where every variable that contributes to the culmination of full genetic potential is controlled. However, in a real world, even an experienced farmer with an agricultural college degree using every tool and technique available has variables he or she cannot control or has little influence over that will impact success. For example climate, weather, pesticide, and insecticide resistance.



Mid-show, In spite of considerable efforts by professional Orca trainers an Orca ignores it's 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' "training" and kills a Pelican.

(<https://youtu.be/52o5yV6G7tY>)

In the context of companion dog training, there are variables pertaining to the level of expertise, handling ability, regular and irregular handler and canine distractions (to name a few) in and around the average companion dog owner's home are even further removed from the science than the farmer's reality.

Secondly, the negative impact such a narrow approach to behavior modification had and has on the animals subjected to the 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' approach. (See the documentary Blackfish for more information.)

Thirdly, they ignore or don't ask why evolutionary biology did not select for higher-order social species to use 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' to teach life-skills.



Fourthly they ignore all the science (a tsunami of evolutionary biology and other scientific

evidence) that demonstrates that all four quadrants exist for a reason and that there are other extremely significant factors, such as social relationships as exists between parent and offspring that influence the outcome and should be incorporated into companion dog training.

Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians



Perhaps one of the most surprising and ironic casualties of the 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog training movement is its impact in recent years on the education of veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Surprising and ironic because veterinary medicine is a science-based avocation. It's a field where one would think that educators and student candidate were selected for amongst other things better than average critical thinking, awareness of the dangers of logical fallacies, and cognitive bias.

As one might expect, during veterinary and veterinary technician schooling less time is spent on animal behavior than physical medicine. However, many people are unaware that the total class hours are less than the fingers found on one hand. This has been the case as far

as I know throughout my 30-year career. The only exceptions that I am aware of are when a behavior elective is chosen, and I know this because I have been one of the approved elective-instructors of veterinarian students in their graduation year. In recent years there has been a bizarre disconcerting shift in how those paltry hours are used.

Throughout North America, the majority of veterinary and veterinary technician colleges have had their meager behavior component of their programs infiltrated and altered. From the perspective of companion dog behavior, actual science has been usurped by philosophy and ideology.



This bizarre disconcerting shift is occurring throughout North America in the majority of veterinary and veterinary technician colleges.

The already arguably too meager behavior component of their programs is now dominated by

'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' as if it were a legitimate science applicable to normal companion dog settings.

Additionally taught is the message that any other approach to companion dog training is wrong or worse cruel and inhumane. Even the word No!

The entire body of scientific work that dwarfs and counters the lunacy of 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' in a companion dog ownership setting is not only not considered it is either unmentioned or misrepresented.

Here's how this now plays out in the real world:

I recently accompanied a client on



a veterinary appointment. When the veterinarian a recent graduate walked into the examination room, the dog suddenly jumped up on her in an attempt to greet, and the veterinarian chillily chastised the dog's owner when she

abruptly pulled the dog back along with a stern verbal No! I don't believe the dog's owner thought she was trying to teach the dog anything at that moment. It was more of reflex as one might do should a child suddenly reach for a hot stove in the kitchen or make a dash for the road or reach for candy in a store.

"We don't do that anymore!", said the veterinarian. "There are much more positive and humane methods!" I could hardly contain my mirth (and a similar reproach) when with the reprimand still ringing in the poor dog owner's ears, the veterinarian rather than embracing an 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' approach herself, then physically picked up the resistant and wriggling dog up when it clearly wasn't thrilled with the idea of her feet leaving the floor and even less impressed with standing on a slippery examination table. The veterinarian then had the veterinary technician use a common restraint maneuver so that the veterinarian could then force a thermometer in the dog's anus whether the dog objected or not. As one might expect the dog did object. I guess if you're a veterinarian in a hurry and your livelihood is at risk the idea of being 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' is more of a do as I say, not as I do concept and real life is permitted to take precedence making the application of brute force perfectly fine.

Given enough time, I'm reasonably sure 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' would have prevailed and we could have taught that dog to not only hop onto the table on command but to even back up on to the thermometer as well but I don't know any veterinarians or companion dog owners that have that kind of time.

Not All Bad



The 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' approach has its uses in highly controlled environments such as zoos where training an animal like a rhinoceros to walk into a paddock has its advantages. Given enough time, control of all sensory influences, enough food motivation, a highly observant and trainer and often a team of trainers experienced in the use of operant conditioning much can be shaped. However, on the plains of Africa, it's unlikely an 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' trainer would get very far trying to shape a rhinoceros's behavior to the extent it would reliably enter a paddock. The lifestyle and environment of companion dogs and dog owners may not be the plains of Africa, but it has sufficient challenges to make this type of training impractical.

As a result, real world 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' results are abysmal and for a variety of reasons, subject to collapse around both low and high-level distractions or low and high-level distractions in contexts not previously highly rehearsed. An interesting phenomenon that has evolved since the appearance of 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' on the companion dog training scene is that the results they produced are not considered abysmal at all. Instead 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog trainers have lowered the bar so low for what constitutes a "pass" in their classes that every dog "gets a trophy". It is no exaggeration to say that what constitutes "training" or "trained" in the 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog training world is what thirty years ago we referred to as either a trick class or a clear fail.

As distasteful as saying, "No!", to a dog may be to an 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog trainer, the reality is

that evolution has selected a superior method for higher order social species. That method occasionally includes something every dog, wolf, ape and human being, etc. need to learn from a young age and that is, “I’m not asking you, I’m telling you.”

As a result, I suggest you avoid 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog training.

PARTIALLY BALANCED

GETTING CLOSER

Far more preferable to 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' or 'Might Is Right' companion dog training but not as preferred as Fully Balanced Training is Partially Balanced Training.

I have found that Partially Balanced Dog Trainers are trainers that are evolving in the right direction but who may not yet have access to information that would make them Fully Balanced companion dog trainers.

These are companion dog trainers that have come to realize that a leash and collar's purpose and usage should not cross the line from being able to keep a dog from physically controlling their owner and as a means for acquiring a dog's attention over into usage that causes pain and abnormal fear or anxiety in a dog.

They understand that when the term balanced is used, it does not merely refer to a willingness to encourage and discourage a behavior clearly. Fully Balanced Training is much more than that.

Nor does it infer that both positive and negatives are used evenly. A Fully Balanced Trainer or a Partially Balanced Trainer would never

be 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free,' they would be ALMOST ALWAYS 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' with only a slight dash of I'm not asking you I'm telling you thrown into the mix.

They do not subscribe to a one size fits all approach. Instead, each dog, regardless of breed is assessed as an individual and the approach (including tool/collar selection) is made from data as opposed to philosophy.

This is the bare minimum for consideration as a Partially Balanced companion dog trainer. When a Fully Balanced Companion Dog Trainer is unavailable in your area, given a choice between an 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' or 'Might Is Right' trainer the Partially Balanced Trainer is more often than not, hands down the best choice.

FULLY BALANCED COMPANION DOG TRAINING

YOU'VE ARRIVED!



"AS FAR AS I KNOW THE DOG IS THE ONLY SPECIES SELECTIVELY BRED TO PLEASE A HUMAN BEING. IF YOU'VE FOUNDED YOUR TRAINING ON TREATS, YOU'VE BEEN AIMING AT YOUR DOG'S STOMACH AND YOU ARE MOST CERTAINLY MISSING THE BEST PART OF A DOG."

JOHN WADE

What IS Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training?

Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training draws on broadly accepted behavior science that can be applied to the setting in which the companion dog and companion dog owners coexist.

For example, with animals like wolves, apes, orcas, etc. one aspect

regarding the study of their behavior in their typical environment where the impact of human influence is minimized as much as possible, is called ethology. Because dogs are domesticated and co-habit with humans in urban and rural, working and non-working contexts the concept of ethology does not quite apply in the same way.

Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training does draw on commonalities amongst higher order social species as observed by ethologists. These species include the domesticated dog's cousins the wolf but with a critical eye as there are many stark differences. However, there are fascinating and useful similarities as well.

Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training draws additionally on various scientific disciplines related to evolution, evolutionary psychology, sociobiology, anthropology and more.

Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training mirrors as closely as possible the common threads amongst higher order social species like dogs, wolves, apes, and humans, etc. which at this point in the book you will not be surprised has far less to do with 'Might Is Right' and 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' companion dog training because as it turns out in the real world fear or food play little or no part in teaching life skills to offspring.

Fully Balanced Dog Training:

1. Is the only companion dog life skill training approach that science universally and overwhelmingly supports.
2. Does not shy away from, and so includes the concept of "I'm not asking you, I'm telling you." Which translates into learning skills allowing companion dogs and dog owners to more fully share their lives inside and outside the home.
3. Because it is part of nature's template companion dog owners and their dogs learn and adapt to it very quickly.
4. Because it's part of nature's template, dogs learn to exert self control without the loss of confidence or dependance on treats.



Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training and LIMA

There's a concept in dog training referred to as Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) which is just a fancy way of saying don't do anything you shouldn't or don't have to do.

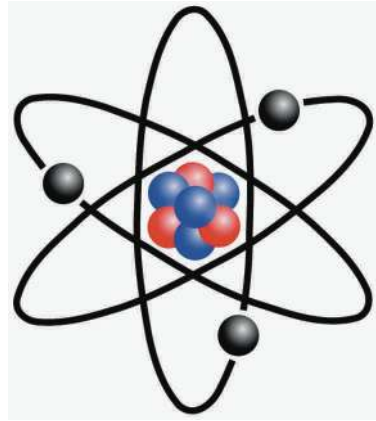
For example, if you don't need treats, don't use treats, if you don't need a physical advantage for safety or as a means of getting or keeping a dog's attention then don't use equipment you don't need. In other words, if you don't need a slip collar then use a martingale and if you don't need a martingale then use a flat buckle collar etc.

When done correctly, Balanced Companion Dog Relationship Training might be best described as using the Least Intrusive and Most Minimally Aversive (LIMA). Essentially being 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' ALMOST all the time.

As much as fully balanced companion dog trainers believe in making training a fun and positive experience the majority of the time they also know that when done correctly, providing a consequence that says, "No!", to a dog, will not wreck their self-esteem and exponentially increases the likelihood they will learn life skills, rather than a trick that will allow them to more completely integrate into their owner's lives.

In fact, when combined with approval from someone perceived as a

respected teacher the moment the behavior moves even incrementally in the desired direction an adjustment in tone and body language more than suffices to help the dog understand. One significant advantage is that this removes the need for dependence on treats or the threat of 'Might Is Right.'



Stick with science - choose balanced training.

Clearer Pictures For Companion Dogs and Dog Owners

Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training is very similar to painting a picture. Without all the requisite colors the picture is often frustratingly unclear.

Fully Balanced Trainers understand that the training palette must have many colors. Some needed for all dogs, some needed for some and not others as many things impact a dog's behavior.

Some of these things we have control over and some we do not (genetics). Either way, because they influence behavior, Fully Balanced Companion Dog Trainers give consideration to each aspect and weigh their importance on a case by case basis so they can provide better guidance.

For example, whereas we can't change the genetics of a guarding breed and therefore their predisposition to guard, a Fully Balanced Companion Dog Trainer will advise an owner of these breeds that unsupervised window watching time will almost always eventually overstimulate the dog. In time many issues arise related to leash

aggression, loose leash walking, nuisance barking, aggressively friendly or territorial at the door, etc.

Fully Balanced Companion Dog Trainer understand that some breeds are Ferraris, some are mini-vans. Some dog owners are highly experienced and some less so. Some dog owners have more of themselves left over at the end of the day than others. Some dogs have baggage, and others are a blank slate. Failing to consider these and other influences quite often set both dog and dog owner up for failure.

Example - Relationship

Arguably the least addressed and yet perhaps the most critical addressable companion dog training variable - because it terrifically impacts obedience success - is the actual (rather than perceived) relationship between a companion dog owner and their dog.

'Might Is Right' trainers believe in developing Alpha/Pack Leader/Dominant relationships whereas 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' trainers cultivate what is essentially a dealer: addict (treat/treat giver) relationship.

The relationship concepts of Alpha/Pack Leader/Dominant/Subordinate/Submissive are real enough from an ethology perspective but not in the context they are often being used to justify 'Might Is Right.' Yes, mother dogs do such things, but they are an exception and not the rule.

'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' dog trainers may believe an approach that revolves around 'behavior for treat' to be morally superior but it is much more representative of the relationship between a dealer and an addict than what is found in the usual context of a teacher and a student or a parent and offspring. In any event, training that cultivates a relationship with a dog by aiming at his or her stomach is missing the best part of any dog.

Either way ('All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' or 'Might Is Right') this is far too myopic of an approach to relationship.

A companion dog is learning whether we are training or not and the goings on during non-training time profoundly impact training success. A companion dog's time alone and time with household members when not officially training cannot only undermine training but the time together when not training has considerable influence on the relationship.

Fully Balanced Training incorporates strategies that complement rather than undermine training goals. When the relationship is addressed correctly, as it is in Fully Balanced Training, training becomes far more comfortable and successful. When it is not, training will unnecessarily always be far more difficult for both dog and owner.

Consider the following human:human relationships and how the nature of these relationships impacts the effort required to influence behavior.

- Parent:Child
- Parent:Adult Child
- Classmate:Classmates
- Established Teacher:Student(s) in a classroom
- Substitute Teacher:Student(s) in a classroom
- College Roommate:College Roommate
- Professor:Graduate Student
- Employee:Employer
- Drug Addict:Supplier
- Bar Bouncer:Inebriated Bar Patron

It should be readily apparent to anyone that some of these relationships will require far more effort to influence a behavior than others and others as powerful as they may seem superficially are less palatable ethically.

For example, the 'Might Is Right' approach much more closely resembles the Bar Bouncer:Patron and the treat oriented 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' the Drug Supplier/Pusher:Addict than Teacher:Student models. Both ethically questionable particularly when there is the parent/teacher:child/student model available.

In companion dog training relationships are formed more so in the home rather than elsewhere. Considers home-time as the classroom and outside-the-home-time, field trips it. It's no wonder that if asked and able to answer about what they think about their owners most dogs would respond, "I won the lottery for dogs! These people are fantastic. They love me, and I love them. They're pretty busy though so you wouldn't believe some of the things they let me get away with. They are the best roommates a dog could hope for."

How The Relationship Negatively Transitions

Dogs older than 10 weeks of age based on their "classroom" experience begin to realize that they are faster and more agile. Not long after, when asked to 'come' in a yard or when someone is at the door translates to, "If you have a minute, could you check your day-timer . . ." Rather than, the more useful, Point B, to Point A - No Matter What! The latter will pay huge dividends in future access to their owner's world, the former a dog that ends up under house arrest for much of its life.

Multiple daily interactions go on between owner and dog where compliance is more often than not, not a deal breaker. These may seem minor in the moment and they usually are but cumulatively are relationship impacting. When a companion dog owner considers how many times daily they ask but are ignored and how many work arounds become incorporated in daily routines it becomes more apparent how relationship when not training impacts training.

Understanding and addressing this is an integral part of Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training and is completely ignored or

insufficiently addressed in 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' and 'Might Is Right' companion dog training.

Ironically, failure to address how non-training time impacts the relationship and subsequently training success is one of the reasons for the "Pack Leader/Alpha/Dominance" extremes of 'Might Is Right,' and the treat fixated 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' approaches to companion dog training.

Companion dog owners using these unnatural approaches combined with failure to address relationship naturally and meaningfully inevitably find themselves feeling like Sisyphus with his boulder. Without addressing non-training time and its influence on a real teacher: student relationships they have to go to extremes to motivate their dogs and often take more steps back than forward.

The relationship is just one of many factors that makes Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training the best choice. Correct Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training is 'holistic' in the traditional definition of the word.

Compare what you find below to what is offered by 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' or 'Might Is Right' companion dog training.

Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training is Holistic

Holistic or holism essentially considers the whole (see list below) of a situation rather than merely an aspect (how to get a dog to do or stop doing something).

Whether basic obedience or behavior problems, here are, some of the variables that Fully Balanced Companion Dog Trainers know can influence behavior and therefore might influence their approach.

1. Breed Genetics
2. Bloodlines

3. Critical Socialization Period Experiences
4. Age of Dog
5. Training Approach (Past and Present)
6. Historic Equipment Use
7. Household Makeup (current and projected)
8. Relationship Between Dog And Owner
9. Influence of Environment on Behavior and Training
10. Health (Injury/Disease/Pharmaceutical Influence)
11. Nutrition (Type/Frequency)
12. Impact of Daily Mental Stimulation
13. Impact of Physical Exercise
14. Handling Ability and Experience of Dog Owner
15. Lifestyle of Dog Owner

While it may appear otherwise, considering all the factors doesn't mean Fully Balanced Companion Dog Training is overly complicated. It is actually far more accessible for companion dog owners to implement than 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' or 'Might Is Right.'

In essence, an experienced, Fully Balanced Companion Dog Trainer will improve your chances of success in accomplishing your goals by considering all the information and tailoring advice and approach accordingly. You will find it a far more successful method that is far less stressful to both companion dog owner and dog.

CHOOSING YOUR TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

GROUP CLASSES VS IN-HOME

Where you train your dog can have quite a significant impact from the perspectives of both the companion dog and the companion dog owner.

There are three options, group classes, one on one with a trainer at their facility and one on one with a trainer in your home.

Group

When dog owners think dog training, they typically think group classes. A lot of dog trainers, even those that believe in being Least Intrusive and Minimally Aversive in their approach believe this is a standard and best way to train companion dogs.

However, it's impossible to embrace LIMA in a group class. It's a strange environment with multiple unfamiliar dogs and people. The dogs and people usually are at different levels of experience and ability. It's not the best choice for puppies, rescue dogs with unknown histories, anxious, or aggressive dogs and poorly socialized dogs. Even for a mature, stable dog, it's not ideal as there's only so much of



As seen in this image all too often dog owners or instructor become distracted, and incidents occur that can leave lasting negative impressions.

an instructor available to split amongst a half dozen or more agitated dogs.

It's a harsh environment to get focus, and it's one of the reasons dog trainers inevitably end up encouraging companion dog owners to resort to treat extremes or physical corrections. That is not least intrusive or minimally aversive.

The group class curriculums are often poorly matched for companion dog owner's needs. All too often they are patterned to reflect what is required in an obedience competition as opposed to the goings on in and around the average companion dog owner's home.

Some dog trainers try to justify the concept of group classes by saying it helps dogs socially around other dogs. This is a red flag that an amateur or misinformed dog trainer is speaking. Dog to dog social skill imprinting occurs between 3 - 6 weeks of age and while learning to behave civilly in the vicinity of unfamiliar dogs is an important life skill, typically we don't teach children to do geometry at the gateway of Disneyland as too much of the lesson results in frustration for all involved. There are much more effective and humane ways to teach a dog to go anywhere regardless of distractions than dumping dog and dog owner in the deep end of the group class pool. You'll get there, but that's no place to start.

If your goal is to teach your dog real-life skills for immersion into your life, group classes are not the most time or necessarily the most cost-efficient way to get there.

In-Home

The most efficient and in the long run cost-effective path for teaching a dog how to be a civilized canine companion in and outside the

home is found when you find an experienced, balanced companion dog trainer that will come to your home.

In-home companion dog training focuses on household and outing etiquette skills. It allows for scheduling to include everyone that generally interacts with the dog on a day to day basis. In-home training environments provide distractions. It's just that the distractions are those that the companion dog owner has to contend with regularly. Contrasting much more favorably than a half a dozen or more strange dogs and people in a peculiar environment, once a week.

IN-HOME TRAINING		VS	GROUP TRAINING	
FOCUS				
Practical			Illogical	
Tailored for real life skills such as staying out from underfoot in the kitchen, during dinner, near stairs, behaving when guests arrive and depart, coming in from the yard etc.		vs	Almost always reflects obedience competition requirements. Geometric patterns around pylons, paying attention when being stared at in a context rarely part of any dog's life.	
— APPROACH —				
Relationship Based			Treat or 'Might is Right' Based	
Best possible environment for learning and using. Least Invasive and Minimally Aversive (LIMA) dog training methods. Treats and/or 'Might is Right' are replaced with tone and body language reflecting the methodology used without exception with every higher order social species.		vs	Strange environment, unfamiliar dogs and people have lead to the use of treats &/or 'might is right' techniques neither of which are the manner that dogs, wolves, apes, humans teach essential life skills to their offspring. Results are marginal and limited in real life usefulness.	
STRESS ON DOG				
Lowest Possible			Highest Possible	
Familiar place with familiar people. Better and longer focus for both dog and dog owners.		vs	Strange dogs, people & place. (This should be part of training but never the beginning.)	
PACE				
Custom			Cookie Cutter	
Adapted for you and your dog. More or less time can be taken as needed.		vs	Tailored for the group and usually the worst of the group.	
INVOLVEMENT				
Everyone			One Person	
Keeping everyone on the same page and far less likely to unintentionally undermine the training.		vs	Usually just one person is involved. It's rare that this reflects a dog or household's reality.	
SCHEDULE				
Convenience			Use It Or Lose It	
Increasing the opportunities for more family member involvement, shift work schedules, scheduling around child activities etc.		vs	Once a week, for several weeks on trainer's schedule. Missed classes are missed and catching up can prove difficult.	
RESULTS				
Work Hard Or Work Smart				
Whether In-Home or Group there is no magic wand. You still have to do the work. However, while in-home won't make training your dog "easy", it will be far easier on both you and your dog and produce far better results.				
COST				
Investment Or Expense				
In-home training might be more expensive, although if it is shouldn't be by very much. Either way, the cheapest part of a dog is always going to be the purchase price and considering the impact training will have on not only how your dog behaves in your home but to what extent you'll be able to share your life with your dog outside the home, if you get the right training, it will be worth every penny.				
Puppy & Dog Training With John Wade * 519-457-9559 * john@johnwade.com				

There is far less stress in-home, and as a result, both owner and dog take in and retain more. The pace is dictated by the dog and the owner rather than other dogs and owners.

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RESOURCES - TRAINING

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

In-Home Training With John Wade



John Wade

If you live in London, Ontario or within 30 minutes travel time, you can book an appointment for help with your dog with experienced companion dog trainer, author, teacher and podcaster, John Wade.

In-home companion dog training focuses on practical household and outside the home skills. It allows for scheduling to include everyone that usually interacts with the dog on a day to day basis. In-home provides fewer distractions, and those distractions that

do exist are those that the companion dog owner has to contend with frequently (as opposed to a half a dozen strange dogs once a week).

There is far less stress in-home, and as a result, both owner and dog

take in and retain more. The pace is dictated by the dog and the owner rather than other dogs and owners.

Telephone/Skype/Facetime Consultations

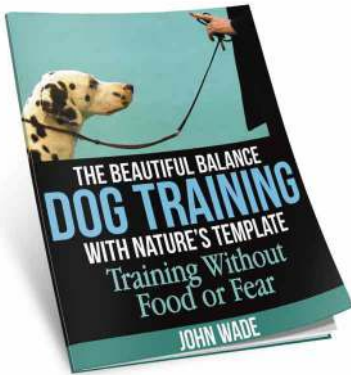


Telephone/Skype consultations are extensive and, followup notes/instructions are forwarded after each consultation. While not absolutely necessary it's best to have everyone that normally interacts with the dog on a day to day basis involved in the consultation. Phone/Skype consults on average last between 90 - 120 minutes. If you wish further details email john@askthedogguy.com

RESOURCES - FURTHER READING

JOHN'S BOOKS

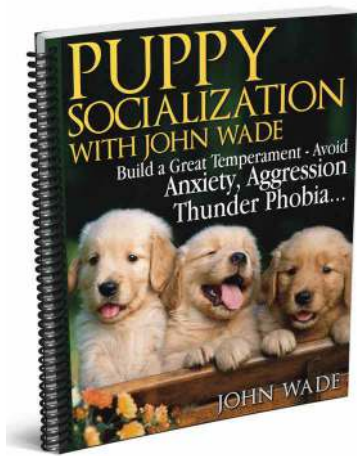
eBook - The Beautiful Balance - Dog Training with Nature's Template



If you are a, do it yourself person or a search amongst local trainers only turns up trainers using 'Might Is Right' or 'All Positive/Purely Positive/Force-Free' treat, treat, treat training this e-book is an excellent guide. You can learn more about its contents on the Ask The Dog Guy website www.askthedogguy.com

eBook - Puppy Socialization with John Wade

If you don't have a dog yet - read this first. Beyond learning how to properly socialize your dog, it will help you with best breeder selection. If you already have a dog that is under 12 weeks of age, read and



implement if you want to use real science during your dog's critical socialization period to get your dog to grow up to be fear and bombproof in our modern society. www.askthedogguy.com

eBook - Healing the Heel



If only family members with the upper body strength of the Incredible Hulk can walk your dog and even that person is starting to look like one of their arms is longer than the other - read this book. You will learn how to walk your dog, anywhere, regardless of distraction. There is more in this book than you will learn in any dog training class. www.askthedogguy.com

RESOURCES - DOG TRAINING EQUIPMENT

THE POWER STEERING DOG TRAINING COLLAR

Wade Collar's Power Steering Dog Training Collar



*Wade Collar's Power Steering Dog
Training Collar (7 sizes)*

Note: There are some the toy breeds that due to genetic issues related to frailty in the oesophagus and trachea should only be trained with harnesses. For puppies unless they are extremely difficult to handle rather there should be no need for a training collar. However, rather than the very common collars that snap together, new dog owners should be aware they are fairly dangerous

in that they are are prone to loosening and slipping off. For safety reasons I would consider a limited slip Martingale collar.

However, if you need some leverage, The Wade Collar's Power Steering Dog Training Collar is a very simple, easy to put on and take

off, dog-friendly, owner friendly training tool that allows increased safety and more nuanced handling and training.

It works very well because it's designed to stay up with relatively infrequent adjustment comfortably behind a dog's ears and under the jaw.

This positioning provides the dog's owner with subtle control of the dog's head which translates into better control of the dog's center of balance and in effect, their body, resulting in far greater receptiveness in the dog to the tone and body language guidance directed from the dog owner to the dog. www.wadecollars.com