



To Train Your Dog Effectively, You've Got To Know Their Personality

That's the Seemingly Simple but Revolutionary Insight Behind K9 Living

"My dog doesn't listen. What's wrong with him?"

"Here's the leash. Please make him behave!"

"Our dog eats food off the table and jumps on people. Make him stop!"

Sound familiar? These are just a few of the pleas K9 Living has answered in conjunction with the Kathy Santo training method. When you train your dog with K9 Living, you take Kathy's intuitive ability to "connect" with dogs quickly, to help you make the connection that's right for your dog. Our DVD's offer training solutions for every dog "type", helping you create a strong, long-lasting bond between you and your puppy or dog.

Dog training methods should vary from dog to dog, as no two dogs are alike. K9 Living training results, however, are always the same: obedient, confident, happy dogs and confident, happy owners too! K9 Living uses powerful observation skills and a precise training method to help you achieve success with your dog. More importantly, we bring to you a simple but revolutionary truth about canine training: Each dog has a unique personality that requires a customized training regimen to achieve ideal results.

To Train Your Dog The Right Way, Create An Individualized Training Plan That's Right For Your Dog

K9 Living believes that you and your dog can become a well-balanced team that enjoys a long-lasting relationship. To build this bond, you need a full appreciation of your dog's personality and you must recognize how your dog's characteristics can help determine its customized training regimen.

From teaching basic and advanced commands to curbing problem behaviors, the K9 Living methodology represents a fresh, exciting, innovative approach to dog training for millions of pet owners.

Conventional wisdom dictates that for each new behavior, there is a set way to train a dog. For example, the traditional method for teaching your dog to sit is to push down on your dog's rump while repeating "sit!"

But what if your dog becomes submissive when you try to force it to sit? What if your dog responds aggressively when you touch its rear? What if your dog couldn't care less if you sat on him? Like people, dogs are individuals, and they have unique personalities, idiosyncrasies, and behavioral responses. K9 Living, in conjunction with Kathy Santo, knows that decoding these individual characteristics — which are unrelated to the dog's breed — unlocks the secret of successful canine training! Learn more about your dog's characteristics with our exclusive Dog Personality Quiz where you get instant results that give you a customized look at your pooch's personality.

Five Key Determinants of Dog Personality

According to the K9 Living methodology, there are five key determinants of a dog's personality.

1. Motivation

To keep a dog interested in learning, you must first understand what motivates him. Not surprisingly, many dogs are motivated by food, for example, a tasty bit of steak, cut-up hot dog or piece of cheese. For other dogs, however, food is not a strong motivator. Toys or physical play may be more compelling rewards. Even the “non-motivated” dog will respond to something. The Kathy Santo K9 Living training method explains how to discover your dog's motivation and use it appropriately within a training regimen.

2. Energy Level

There are people who like to play sports, people who like to attend sporting events and people who like to watch sports on TV. Dogs too exhibit a wide array of energy levels. To effectively train them, it's important to address their energy level. Some dogs, for example, may need better nutrition or more exercise to build up endurance. For perennially low-energy dogs, a short session, preceded by some “away time,” is often the best approach. The key is to adjust the duration of the training session to the dog's energy level.

3. Work Ethic

Different from energy level is a dog's work ethic, which includes its attention span and willingness to engage in a rigorous training regimen. High work ethic dogs need less cheering and rewards, whereas low work ethic ones need lots of encouragement, particularly in the early stages.

4. Emotional Make-Up

Dogs have temperaments – from the dramatic to the disinterested. In a stressful situation, the “sensitive” dog will slink around the house and hide in a corner, whereas the “drama queen” dog will act hysterically. In training, sensitive dogs require a lot of success. Even when making an error, they may need to be praised for their efforts. On the other hand, high-strung dogs benefit from an upbeat, tougher approach. Knowing your dog's emotional make-up greatly facilitates the training process.

5. Physical Sensitivity

Dogs register different levels of physical discomfort. This is not a breed or size-related issue. When the time comes to correct a dog – and dogs do need to be corrected for not obeying a command – the correction should be done appropriately, with a clear knowledge of the dog's physical discomfort level.

Making the Most of Each Training Session

Accurately “typing” your dog’s personality is the first step in beginning a training program. To help pet owners conduct an assessment, K9 Living directs users to record a series of observations and conduct several experiments with their dogs. The results set the stage for developing a highly customized regimen. Then, to make the most of each training session, Santo offers these tips gleaned from her many years of experience:

1. Ideally, a dog should be hungry, lonely or bored prior to a training session. The dog that has just eaten a large meal, has been interacting with the family or has had an hour of playtime is typically not going to be interested in working hard.
2. Teach new exercises/behaviors in a quiet location where you and the dog are free from distractions.
3. Know your training goal and make it attainable. Decide ahead of time what you want to accomplish during the session, and try and stay on that path. But be flexible. Sometimes the best-laid plans need to be modified on the fly.
4. Time your session. Decide how much time you are going to spend in the session and stick to it. Adult dogs typically train best for 15-20 minutes a day. Puppies benefit from shorter sessions of 10-15 minutes (twice a day, if desired). If your dog starts getting tired, end the session sooner. The best rule of thumb is to quit when the dog is still looking to do more.
5. Train when YOU are happy. If you’re not feeling 100 percent, then re-schedule the session. If your dog senses that you’re having a bad day, your training efforts will go downhill fast!

A Well-balanced Team

Ultimately, the goal of the K9 Living approach to training is for the dog and its owner to become a well-balanced team that enjoys a long-lasting relationship. Underpinning this bond is a full appreciation of the dog’s personality and, importantly, recognizing how its individual characteristics link to a customized training regimen.

From instilling rudimentary housebreaking “rules,” to teaching basic and advanced commands, to curbing problem behaviors, the K9 Living methodology represents a fresh, exciting, innovative approach to dog training for millions of pet owners.