

Genius Dog Newsletter

GENIUS DOG TRAINING

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole." Roger Caras

Management vs. Training

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It's important to recognize that in some situations managing an unwanted behavior may be preferable to training.

As a dog owner myself, I sometimes have to decide how best to deal with a behavior issue with my own dogs. Yes, even my dogs have behavior issues that need to be dealt with from time to time.

Whenever possible, I like to teach my dogs what the appropriate behavior should be in a given situation before a problem arises. For instance, the proper behavior in our household while we are eating dinner is to sit or lie quietly and not "beg" for food.



This was never really an issue in our household because we started off with strict rules in the beginning, such as no feeding the dogs from the dining table or kitchen counter. This is the best way to prevent unwanted behaviors from developing in the first place.

However, once a problem does arise you need to decide how best to handle it. If everyone isn't on the "same page," it will be difficult to address the problem effectively. It can also cause stress and frustration

among couples and/or family members, not to mention your dog.

There are several ways to teach your dog not to "beg" for food. One suggestion is whenever your family is eating at the dining table teach your dog to go to his or her bed and lie down until you are done eating. This is something you will need to train your dog to do. This isn't going to happen overnight and may take some time.

Although this may seem like the obvious thing to do, I have learned that this may not be the best decision for everyone.

Here are a few reasons why some dog owners choose not to modify their dog's behavior:

- It takes too much effort.
- We're too busy with work, school, sports, vacations, etc.
- Someone sneaks food to the dog while we are eating.
- We don't all eat at the dining table or at the same time.
- It's too difficult with more than one dog.
- We're not consistent with training.
- Disagreement over how to train the dog.

Given these reasons, another choice may be to manage the behavior for the time being. For example, here are two management techniques you can try during meal times:

1) Feed your dog in his or her crate.

OR

2) Put your dog outside in the back yard to play.



It is important to realize that you aren't really training your dog not to "beg" for food. You are just keeping him or her from practicing the unwanted behavior. More than likely, when you decide to bring your dog back inside during meal times; he or she will start the behavior again.

However used as a short term solution, management may allow you the time needed to address some of the obstacles (e.g., everyone agrees not to feed the dog at the dining table) that made previous attempts at training your dog unsuccessful.

This is just one behavior issue that you could apply this concept to. If you would like to learn more about this topic, send an email to info@geniusdogtraining.com and reference this article.

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We're on the Web!

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REFERRAL PROGRAM

Anyone (excluding Villaggio Family Pets employees) who refers someone for training is eligible for the referral program.

- If the person you refer signs up for an orientation, workshop, group training class, private, in-store training, or private, in-home training (excluding consultations), you will receive a \$5 gift card (see below for details).
- Available \$5 gift cards: Starbucks, Jamba Juice, Target, Walmart, or other retailer. Choice of gift cards is not guaranteed.
- Gift cards will be mailed out (within 14 business days) after the first appointment.
- Gift card recipients are responsible for any lost or stolen gift cards.

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Wylie's Corner

Here are Sydney's suggestions for what to do this summer:

Clean out the garage...



Take a dip in the pool...



Hang out at the beach with a friend and search for buried treasure...



Go to a local dog park and take turns playing Frisbee...



Get involved in a dog sport (e.g., sheep herding)...



"Have a fun & safe summer!"



*"The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed in this article are my own and do not necessarily reflect that of **Genius Dog Training**." – Wylie, CEO*