

FABULOUS FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS



MONTE



NYX



THEIA



ISABELLA



SONNY

All of these pets were rescued and are living happily ever after in their forever homes.

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR DOG ATTENTIVE THROUGH TRAINING SESSIONS

By Kristy Fike

Have you ever felt like you are dragging your dog through training sessions? Have you ever experienced the frustration of your dog not being a team player when you are trying to progress their training? Most dog owners have. There are actions we can take to keep our dogs attentive through training sessions.

Release Pent Up Energy

Prior to diving into training sessions, give your dog a

few minutes to be a dog and burn through any pent-up energy that they may be overflowing with. This may mean allowing your dog to tool around your yard for a little while. For others, this may mean playing fetch or a game



Ready to Learn



Narah & babies

Handle every stressful situation like a dog.
If you can't eat it or play with it,
Just pee on it and walk away.



Get More Quotes @ thedailyquotes.com

of tug-o-war before training. Think of this as a pressure release valve for your dog.

You will notice a positive difference in their performance and willingness to work with you if you allow them to be a dog prior to training sessions. This is not to say that we should only expect our dogs to be attentive after they have had their fun or when they feel like it. Instead, this is advising that our dogs need time to be dogs. You cannot expect your dog to give you their undivided attention and be robotic when they have been cooped up all day or confined while you are at work.

This is especially true for younger pups and working breeds as they need time to release energy that could produce unwanted behaviors during training sessions. You know your dog best and must gauge when to allocate your dog the free time they may need prior to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

KITTENS GALORE!

Since the beginning of this year GRI has taken in 5 mammas with litters and 4 momma's who have delivered in our foster care. This is our most recent delivery. She came in with her 4 six month old kittens and the night of her intake she delivered 4 more! These kittens were born early and only weigh 2 ounces. She is a wonderful momma and the kittens are doing well. This is a good outcome for the kittens because they are in a safe environment. Reproduction cycles happen very quickly so it is vital to spay/neuter all domestic and community based cats. In the wild the survival of kittens is low due to predators (eagles have been observed retrieving them), disease, and lack of food. YOU can help reduce the suffering of homeless cats by being observant and when you see homeless cats, speak with the landowner to get them spayed/neutered. AWL will help with spay/neuter costs, 804-435-0822. If they do not want to keep the cats they can contact GRI and we can support fostering to adopt.

 **Garfield's**
Rescue, Inc

DOG ATTENTIVE,
CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 26

training.

Clear and Consistent Communication

One thing that my father taught me regarding my communication, is that less is more. The same thing applies to dog training. Avoid speaking sentences to your dog with a command somewhere in the midst. You only need one or two words maximum for your commands. Speaking multiple sentences at your dog will allow them to become uninterested in what you are attempting to teach them.

Don't change up the words you use for commands. For example, if you are teaching your dog to jump up in your vehicle, don't command PLACE one time and LOAD UP another. Pick one word for every command you have. Everyone in your home should be on the same page with what those words are.

Time Matters

Most training sessions should be thirty minutes or less depending on what you are working on. This helps keep your dog engaged and looking to you to see what is next.



Say What?

Have an idea of what you want to teach your dog and the drills you want to run before working with your dog. This will keep your training session organized and prevent you from wasting time.

When teaching your dog something new, once they get the hang of it, repeat it a few times and be done for the day. Repetition is an important key to progression, but there is a line to cross especially when repeating the same command over and over in one session.

Considering the length of your training sessions is crucial for younger dogs and puppies. Typically, the younger the dog, the shorter the training session. This does vary according to what you are teaching your dog, your dog's attention span, your training methods, and other factors.

You know your dog best and need to evaluate when your dog has had enough for the day. Sometimes maximizing the length of your session can reverse the commands or manners you are teaching your dog. In many cases, it is ideal to have your dog craving more training time when you finish your session.

Change Things Up

If a teacher provided their students with the same homework every day, how long would it take before the students become disinterested? It would not take long at all. Would the teacher's students benefit from having the same homework every day? No, they would not. The same logic applies to your dog. You cannot expect to have an attentive dog and progression when you are training in the same place using the same drills every session.

Not to go down a rabbit trail, but you are also limiting your dog's performance when you do these things. If you limit your dog's training to the yard, how do you think your dog will act or perform when you take them into a store? Most dogs would misbehave given the scenario because they have not been introduced to that environment.

By holding training sessions at the store, at the dog park, in a group atmosphere, and using various drills, you will keep training fun and set your dog up for success.

Strengthen Your Bond

Many owners will see an increase in their dog's interest during training sessions when they have a deep bond or a positive relationship with their dog. Time spent with your

dog does not always need to be grinding through training. Spend quality time with your dog aside from training even if you must schedule it.

This does not include scrolling through your phone outside while you wait for your dog to relieve themselves. Go for long walks. Take your dog for car rides even if they are short. Sit down and love on them for more than two minutes. Play their favorite game with them. Investing in a relationship with your dog will equate to a dog that is attentive to you and your desires.

We all have training sessions where we feel like our dog is on a completely different planet than us. That is okay and normal. Capitalize on ways you can both keep your dog engaged and set them up for success. You want your dog excited for training. Have fun with it. Trust me, your dog knows when you are not.

RICHMOND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2:

funeral being only the week before. Mr. Coates had been in touch with the Sentinel and his research notes were provided by Mrs. Coates and are incorporated in a front page article in this edition.

Mrs. Coates thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them and advised the Board that the Constitution granted freedom of religion and that government had no right to interfere with that freedom or religious practices. She further noted that 35 states, 14 counties in Virginia and 21 counties in Maryland have recognized that right.

She continued: "My question to the Board today is why are we, the great county of Richmond County, saying that you cannot go to school in accordance with their beliefs?" She further stated that her husband had done extensive research on how much money the County has saved due to the fact that the Amish and Mennonite communities do not use public schools, social services, welfare and the health department. These families do not use any of those services. She added that the Board was well aware of this.

She also advised the Board that these families pay state, local and federal taxes and that "they ask for nothing in return". Their only request, she added, was that they be allowed to build their schools according to their beliefs.

She also noted that she was skeptical of claims of health concerns of outdoor bathrooms as "they are a very neat and clean people." She also noted that the County had many more serious health concerns to consider. In referring to the previous presentation, Mrs. Coates observed that many of their ancestors had fought and died to secure the religious protections that they were now denying to the Amish and Mennonite communities.

Mrs. Coates concluded her remarks by reminding the Board that both religious and constitutional rights were being denied and implored them to reconsider what she considered to be an unjust decision.

***EDITORS NOTE: DUE TO A MALFUNCTION IN OUR AUDIO RECORDING SYSTEM THE WESTMORELAND REPORT IS NOT INCLUDED. IT WILL RETURN IN JUNE**

The Pet B&B, LLC

Now accepting applications for new canine and feline clients. All canines must be non-aggressive as we are a social kennel and all new clients must be up to date on shots and pass an interview prior to confirmation of reservations. No pitt bulls.



Alison Kimmitt
2097 Folly Road
Heathsville, VA 22473
(804) 453-7111
PetBandB.com
Facebook.com/PetBandB

