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For some patience seems to be genetic, for others, it takes great effort or is non-existent. I'm talking both about dogs AND people. I'm a people trainer as well as a dog trainer, but I prefer to talk about dogs. Instead of hollering or physically manipulating your dog's body into being patient try some of these simple techniques.

NO FREE FEEDING...

You should be feeding your dog 1 to 3 times a day . (Dig out your past newsletters if you don't know why.) Most dogs enjoy eating and get pretty excited. So, use that to your advantage. You know what your dog wants...food. It's your food. You get to control food and everything/body that is involved with food.

1. Present the dish with food.
2. Tell your dog to sit, stand, or down if he knows the commands, otherwise say nothing.
3. Start lowering the food dish to the floor.
4. If he starts to move toward it, stand up with the food dish and start over. You can even put the food back on the counter. Don't YELL! Calmly repeat the command.
5. Continue moving the food dish to the floor. If your dog gets up, the food "goes away".
6. Work up to getting the food dish on the floor then give your dog PERMISSION to dine. (it might be awhile before he gets to eat, but once you start practicing this, they catch on quickly).

GOING THROUGH DOORS/GETTING INTO THE CAR

You know what your dog wants...to GO! So, it's your "go", you're in charge of go. You get to control go and everything/body that's involved with go. Assuming your dog likes to go outside or get into the car (or get out for that matter)...

1. Go to the out or in door and tell your dog to sit, stand or down.
2. Start opening the door. If your dog moves, close the door and start over. DON'T YELL! (see where we're going with this?) Calmly repeat the stationary command.
3. continue opening the door and, gauging your dog's patience, work up to getting the door all the way open. Releasing your dog to go through.

Tips for all patience training:

-use a release word to give your dog permission to move.

-"working up to" and "gauging" means watch your dog. If you know he is getting edgy and is going to break his stationary position, release him even though the door may only be half way open or the dish is only half way to the floor. The next time see if you can go a little further. You want your dog to have success. Gradually increase the difficulty.

-if your dog is jumping or unruly. Walk away, leaving him in the room (use a barrier or door to shut your dog in). Count to 30 then return and try again. After all, you don't engage with rude behavior, so LEAVE.

-don't try the "going out the door thing" if your dog has to pee really bad.

Do you get it? You know what your dog wants. If you don't get patience in waiting until you say OK, the thing your dog wants 'goes away'. Besides training for patience you are also training stay AND you are giving the idea that you are in charge. AH, the benevolent calm leader that you are shines through. Gee, I guess this is patience training for people too. See? Controlling your

Send your obedience questions to Corinne

Email her at doglearningcenter@yahoo.com

Your question might be answered in a future

edition of The VOICE

