

ESSENTIAL TRAINING PRINCIPLES



What and Why Do We Need Them?

Essential training principles were developed from decades of animal science studies, pioneered by legends in the field like [B.F. Skinner](#) and [Ivan Pavlov](#). Following these guidelines will make training easy and ensure reliable behavior from your dog, allowing you to keep them and the people in your life safe and happy. Learning for dogs, like humans, also provides enrichment.

10 Essential Training Principles

- 🐾 Begin training and socializing your puppy at 8 weeks or ASAP.
- 🐾 Use high-value treats and carry them at all times. This is a **MUST**.
- 🐾 Order of operations:
 - *Success*: Cue → Behavior → Verbal Praise → Reward (within 2-5 seconds).
 - *Failure*: Cue → No Response → Turn away for 2 seconds → Try Again.
- 🐾 Begin in a distraction-free space, gradually increasing complexity and distractions.
- 🐾 First establish behavior with physical cues, and then add verbal cues later.
- 🐾 Consistency is a key to success. Inconsistency will make unwanted behaviors worse.
- 🐾 Positive punishment will teach your dog to fear or avoid you. i.e. Yelling or saying No!
- 🐾 Slowly increase distraction and introduce new environments over time.
- 🐾 Learn dog body language to understand what your dog (and others) are telling you.
- 🐾 A well-exercised dog is happier and less likely to destroy your home.