



OUR TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

PITBULL ADVOCATES FOR COMPASSION & KINDNESS

Operant Conditioning

PACK uses operant conditioning (the use of consequences to modify the form and occurrence of behavior) and classical conditioning (in this case, making positive associations) while providing education on how to enhance the Pit Bull Owner relationship by building a long-lasting and trusting bond. Our training programs prohibit techniques that cause pain, discomfort or fear in Pit Bulls. By helping owners learn how to use leadership through positive reinforcement (not through intimidation), owners will gain cooperation from their Pit Bulls using a reward-based training program while establishing leadership and discouraging inappropriate behavior at the same time.

"Nothing in Life is Free"

Owners learn how to handle their Pit Bulls at home, as well as in public, by using the "Nothing In Life Is Free" program. This program enhances your Pit Bull's willingness to work by using his obedience skills to receive food, toys, affection and activities such as daily walks. If your Pit Bull wants the front door open for a walk, tell him to sit first, then open the door. He will get the idea soon that good things happen in his life when he acts appropriately.

The Law of Effect

Thorndike's Law of Effect, which states that behaviors that are rewarded increase in frequency, intensity or duration, is a proven learning principle that is very reliable. PACK's training methods use this principle and rewards from three categories: Food, Toys and interactions. Not only are Pit Bull owners taught how to use these rewards but when NOT to use them!

Basic Manners Classes

Our Basic Manners classes begin with a one-hour orientation for humans only. Not only is English a second language for dogs - canine body communication is a second language for humans. It is beneficial for both dogs and humans to learn how to communicate better before starting training, and it helps to speed up training and make it an interesting learning experience for Pit Bulls and their owners. Many of our training exercises are in the form of real life situations, making training fun AND practical! After initial training, your dog may also test/train for his Good Canine Citizen certification.

Marthina McClay

Dog Trainer/Behavioral Counselor

Certified Canine Good Citizen Evaluator

Tester/Observer for Therapy Dogs

Int'l Association of Animal Behavior Consultants