

UNDERSTANDING YOUR DOG



BREED:

Knowing your dogs breed (or mixes of breeds) can help you determine an appropriate and safe exercise and training plan.

LEARNING STYLE:

Yes! Dogs do have different learning styles and preferences. Some dogs have a high frustration tolerance and are excellent problem solvers, some are easily overwhelmed. If you are always trying to teach in a way that doesn't make sense to your dog, it won't work.

MOTIVATION:

Dogs have different things that motivate them to engage and work. What works for a Border Collie probably won't work for a Bulldog. Motivation and Rewards are closely connected because your dogs motivation can be their reward-basically, what are they willing to work for?

REWARDS:

What is important to your dog? What do they consider high value? This is not what is important to you or what you think is important to your dog. What do they love? Take the time to figure that out and use that as a reward!

- What food do they like?
- What toys do they like?
- What games do they like to play?
- What activities do they like to do?

PERSONALITY:

Who is your dog as an individual? Are they a social butterfly? Are they loud and bark a lot? Are they more shy and reserved? How does your dog communicate with you? Is it subtle or not so subtle? Some dogs are more resilient and bounce back easily while some are more sensitive and take more time with things.



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