

PICK OF THE LITTER



DOG TRAINING

POSITIVE LEADERSHIP

● **"Nothing in Life is Free" Program**

Develop a list of the items or events that are most valuable *to your dog*. Often this is when your dog is at his worst behavior. Establish a system that requires your dog "ask permission" to earn access to those items or events. Consistently ask your dog to sit or lie down before your dog is allowed to enjoy those events. Here are a few examples:

- at mealtime
- at doorways or gates (entry door, back door, garage door, etc.)
- to gain access to certain rooms or certain areas of the house
- before putting on or taking off the leash
- before interacting with another dog or person
- before a toy is thrown
- before you interact with your dog
- before your dog is allowed up on the couch or bed

The reward is the event itself, so no treats are necessary. If your dog does not respond to your first command, simply walk away and return again in ten to fifteen seconds to try again.

● **Exchange Game**

Can you take a valued item away from your dog? Teach your dog to willingly drop any valued item (food, toys, bones) in exchange for a treat.

● **Teach "Off"**

Teach your dog to get off the couch or bed when you ask by simply throwing a treat off the couch or bed (or lure with a treat) and using the command "off".

● **Control Mealtimes**

Control your dog's food intake by feeding in two equal meals per day. Make sure that mealtime is on your terms by limiting the period of time the food is available.