

OFF-LEASH TRAINING?

If you have to ask....your dog's not ready. Off leash problems occur when owners test their dogs to see if they will listen. While still a pup the owner will tell the dog to come, the dog will look at them like they are crazy and understand that when he is off the leash there is no correction and their master cannot control the dog's behavior. I firmly believe no dog should ever be off the leash (indoors and outdoors) until it is 1 year old (including potty time). Puppies are constantly testing their owners and if proven that maybe they can get away with it they will try and disobey. The leash is your way of controlling your dog's behavior, take it off and you lose control (its like driving without a steering wheel). Yes, it's inconvenient. Yes, your dog might chew it. Yes, you do have a life outside of training your dog. Yes, take that leash off and you will have a miserable time training your dog off leash - guaranteed.

Off leash training should not begin until the dog is responding on leash in a consistent manner, without a correction. Basic common sense, if the dog's is not responding perfectly on leash what makes you think he will respond at all off leash? No testing is needed. If you're still correcting for a straight come, for pulling, or for no sit in the heel position what makes you think he is going to respond at all off leash?

Don't rush the off leash training. Keep that leash on indoors and outdoors (only when you can supervise so he doesn't get caught on something) and only start off leash work when your dog is working consistently (no correction) on leash. I'm not making this up guys. I've proven it; I live it with my dogs and my client's dogs. Don't make off leash training hard. Just pay your dues and put in the time.