

Dog Training Articles
By Beth Bradley

Constructive Play

Dog's love to play so make your play session into a training session. Make sure you are in a fenced area for safety. Play ball or Frisbee and while your dog is chasing it (either in air or in your hand) give him a command (i.e. sit). Be sure the object is still when you command. Once your dog responds, verbally reward and throw the object. If your dog ignored your request, give him a verbal correction and repeat your command, repeat until your dog responds (i.e. "No – Sit – No – Sit"). It may take some time but your dog will realize he gets what he wants when you get what you want. Once your dog responds to sit immediately move on to down, come, heel, etc.

This way you can still allow the dog to have a good time and play but he realizes that there are rules. If your dog habitually ignores your request, then I would put a correction collar on him and a long line and be prepared to follow up on your verbal correction with a physical correction.

Your dog must know how to play with you, this is important for all training down the road. He must want to interact with you than anyone else, especially another dog. 98% of my clients don't know what motivates their dog, how to play the way their dog wants or how to motivate him. Before you begin training, understand your dog and how to play. And don't be afraid to do more playing than training, it will be worth it in the long run.