

Dog Training Articles
By Beth Bradley

HOW AND WHEN TO PRAISE AND CORRECT

I believe training should be 95% praise and 5% correction. Your correction should immediately stop unwanted behavior and strong enough to make an impression on your dog. The type of correction depends upon the dog (read positive v. compulsion training). Correction should come immediately when the dog does something wrong along with a verbal correction. Then you should immediately repeat the command to your dog (I.E. “No – leash correction – Sit”).

Most of my clients do not praise enough. Praise should be given for good behavior as and acknowledgement of what you want (mark the behavior). Usually I will praise and repeat the command (i.e. “good sit”). Praise can also be given when your dog is trying or as reassurance for confusion or stress. Praise should also double the amount of correction. If you give a leash correction and then repeat the command, once your dog responds to the command you should have a ‘party’ for the dog, play, throw his toy reward with a lot of food, etc. Don’t just say good boy and make him repeat it again. His obedience to your command after the correction was an invitation to celebrate.

All behavior must be acknowledged and marked verbally and physically if needed either with praise or correction. If it is clear to your dog what you want and what you like training then becomes black and white and clear to your dog. Then your dog will always respond.