



## Getting Started With doggy lama pet coaching

### **Your Roles as a Pet Person**

**IN THE EYES OF THE LAW** – You are meant to be responsible for and in control of your dog. You are expected to be kind and humane, and to provide for your pet's health requirements.

**IN THE EYES OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC** – When out in the world with your dog, other people, whether dog people or not, expect you to manage your dog responsibly, and to minimize the impact your dog has on the environment and on other creatures. If your canine friend is a little more than feisty, takes you for a walk, or plays poorly with others, I can give you the knowledge to help you dog to understand what to do.

**IN THE EYES OF THE FAMILY** – Regardless of current theories about 'pack behavior', you are by definition your dog's leader. It is up to you to recognize his or her natural need to do a good job of being a companion animal. This 'job', should occupy your dog physically and mentally, and be positively rewarding. A disciplined dog is a happier dog and it is up to you to help him or her succeed.

### **I'm here to help you to help your dog be good**

Our pets communicate and respond differently than we do. In fact, instinctual human communication is the *exact* opposite of instinctual canine communication! Patricia McConnell, a noted dog behaviorist, says that the fact that our dogs EVER respond to us is nothing short of a miracle. We rely so heavily on the vocal cues that our dogs simply cannot understand. Dogs rely on non-verbal clues -- like your energy, unconscious muscle twitches and emotions. No dog, no matter how smart, has the cognitive ability to learn your extensive language and vocabulary, so it's up to you to learn what your dog is telling you through behavior and misbehavior.

### **Positive Reinforcement**

I never use force or pain when handling an animal.

Strong, assertive energy is one thing. Anger and fear are quite another.

Not only do I reject the idea of being angry at an animal for exhibiting instinct, but centuries of scientific observation suggest that negative reinforcement simply doesn't work in the long run. Punishment only teaches your dog to be afraid of you.

I use small food treats as positive reinforcement. With each new success, toys, praise and 'life rewards' can intermittently replace treats, but I like the way Pat Miller puts it in *The Power of Positive Dog Training*. [paraphrasing] "I don't know about you, but I LIKE getting paid for my work and when I don't get paid, I tend to stop doing it!"

I will teach you the 3Ps...pride, patience and persistence. With these principles, you will get the behaviors you want, when you need them.



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# doggy lama pet coaching intake and evaluation

## Information form for: Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ May I add you to my list?

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Pet name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Other pets in the home \_\_\_\_\_

Brief History: How did your dog come to you? At what age?

Training & Health History:

Best behavior traits:

Issues to be addressed:

**\_\_\_Agreement:** I understand that coaching will include homework assignments, exercise, and otherwise acting in the best interests of my pet relationship. I understand that I am entirely responsible for my actions and that of my pet and that I will always make the final decision about what is right for us as we work with our coach. (please initial to indicate agreement)

Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_