



Domesti-PUPS

**2021 Service Dog
Training Camp Manual**

2021 Domesti-PUPS Service Dog Training Camp

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How To Modify Negative Behaviors

- **Corrections**
 - **Learn correct behaviors**
 - **Not punishment (definitions)**

- **Firm “no” plus redirection**

- **Set the dog up for success**

- **Reset their brain**

How To Modify Negative Behavior [Instructor:]

Up to this point camp training has focused on learning commands and bonding with your service pup. We have stressed the importance of setting up leadership within the relationship, and also the importance of positive praise. In the last lecture you learned about challenge and resistance, and you are probably still a bit worried about how to handle it.

Let's talk about modifying negative behaviors through corrections. First, "correction" is not a four-letter word. Many people think that correcting their dog is awful. They use excuses such as "Oh, he can't help it when he jumps on people. He just gets so excited, and he is just a dog... and besides he's so little and cute, everyone loves him." Correcting your Service-PUP for misbehavior teaches him to be a good canine citizen. Not EVERYONE wants Foofy to jump on them.

Second, and most important, CORRECTION is different than PUNISHMENT. The definition of punishment is "to cause one to undergo loss, pain or suffering for a crime or wrongdoing." The definition of correction is "a change that makes something right, true, accurate, etc." When your Service-PUP needs to be corrected it is not punishment. You are not trying to make your Service-PUP suffer. You are simply trying to change his behavior or direction, nothing more or less. Corrections should not be drawn out and should NEVER be given with emotion, anger or frustration. Do not give corrections with shame, guilt, negative body language or disappointment. Simply say "NOT THAT WAY."

Begin with a simple, firm "NO!" From there move to slight leash corrections. A quick jerk and release of your Service-PUP'S lead as you firmly repeat a command may be all it takes to get his attention. Domesti-PUPS uses the theory that natural consequences can also work as training corrections. For example, when walking down the hallway and your Service-PUP is laying in the way. Bumping him with your foot, along with using his name with the command "Fido move" will encourage him to get up and move so you can walk down the hall without stepping over your dog. The next time you tell him to move he will do it on the first try. The trainer did not want him to get stepped on or tripped over, however, this correction has taught this dog a valuable lesson without anger or emotion from the handler. The next time you give the command and the PUP gets it right, you will be able to give the dog much positive praise, reinforcing your bond, and setting the dog up for success at the same time.

Summary

Correction is different from punishment. Never let emotions play a part in correcting your Service-PUP. Don't shame your Service-PUP: don't feel guilty for correcting your Service-PUP. Use natural consequences to help with correcting your Service-PUP, and always start with "NO" before moving to more severe corrections. Remember to always end on a good note and to set your Service-PUP up for success.