



**Domesti-PUPS**

**2021 Service Dog  
Training Camp Manual**

## **2021 Domesti-PUPS Service Dog Training Camp**

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## **Don't Take IT Personally**

- **Who is the boss**
  
- **Refusal to follow commands**
  - **Don't take it personally**
  - **Why isn't he obeying**
  - **Don't get angry**
  
- **Correction**
  - **Voice – leave no doubt you are in charge**
  
- **Playfulness**
  
- **Destruction of property**
  
- **Resistance**
  - **Passive**
  - **Active**
  
- **Don't ask for forgiveness**

## **Don't Take It Personally**

Who's the boss? This issue must be settled with your Service-PUP. Your Service-PUP is going to challenge you. Challenge and resistance will happen. It is natural, common dog behavior to challenge and resist at some point. You say, "SIT" and your Service-PUP looks at you with a blank stare, as if you were speaking in an alien tongue. Make no mistake his challenge is a direct straightforward test of whether or not you have what it takes to be the "leader of the pack".

So, here you are at the local 'Stop and Shop' and your Service-PUP refuses to follow through when you give the command to "STAND" "LET'S-GO", preferring remain in a down stay on the cool tile floor where you recently placed him. What should you do?

The ABSOLUTE MOST IMPORTANT #1 THING to do is... DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY! Your Service-PUP doesn't have a vendetta against you. He isn't trying to make you look bad. To the canine brain his challenge is part of his ability to survive. This trait is hard wired into his cognitive make up. He MUST learn that you have what it takes to be in control of every situation. Including him. Don't let emotion enter into the situation PERIOD. Anger on your part will only serve to weaken your bond with your Service-PUP, and will not make effective training. Crying, whining, and pleading with your Service-PUP won't solve the issue either. These techniques only further convince him that you are not an effective leader, and therefore he must take over that role himself.

Meet your Service-PUP's challenge with a straightforward direct correction. Do not show emotion. Be very matter of fact. Use an authoritative voice that leaves no room for doubt that you are in charge. Remember that you are giving a command, not a request.

Dogs challenge us in many different ways. Service-PUPS challenge in non-threatening ways, and often the ways that they challenge go unrecognized. People have no trouble understanding that a dog that is barking and growling at them is challenging or daring them to cross a line, and we have no trouble recognizing the challenge of a dog that refuses to "SIT" or "DOWN." Listed below are some easy to recognize and some not so easy to recognize ways in which a dog might challenge, and how to respond to it:

1. Refusal to follow through on a command — Give your dog a moment to follow through on the command. If your dog does not follow the command, use a happy voice using their name and repeat the command. Always remember, an angry voice will not encourage a dog to complete the command. Once the dog has followed through on the

command, give appropriate praise. If he does not follow through, do it again with a leash correction and a stern voice. Once the dog has followed through give him much praise for his effort.

2. Playfulness - you give a command to your Service-PUP and he reaches a paw out to shake your hand. Everyone loves to shake, right? Not in this situation. Your Service-PUP just conned you into letting him not follow through on a command. To correct this type of challenge, ignore the playful behavior, say "NO" and repeat the command in a matter of fact voice. Always praise your Service-PUP once he complies. If appropriate, you can praise him by allowing the behavior he wanted to do initially.

3. Destruction of personal property - this can happen when you leave your Service-PUP unattended for long periods of time. The best way to avoid this type of challenge is proof training (to be covered later) and to crate your Service-PUP if he cannot be with you.

RESISTANCE - although a form of challenge, resistance is a bit different because it has issues that other areas of challenge do not have. Resistance is the direct result of your Service-PUP refusing to be pushed or pulled into following through on a command. Just as we don't like for someone to push us or pull us along by the arm, dogs don't like to be pushed or pulled either.

When you try to get your Service-PUP to follow you by pulling him by his lead, he will automatically pull back and put on the brakes. Seventy to eighty-five pounds of dog begins to feel more like a ton as he pulls against the lead and refuses to budge. The loving dog that just "PAWS-UP"ed on your lap now refuses to get down so you begin to push against him. "Hey" he says, "don't push me" and leans in against you harder, and the push and shove war is officially on. In the end, there will be no winners.

There are two types of resistant behaviors in dogs, passive and active. Active resistance is easy to recognize. The active resistor is the dog that is barking at you, growling at you, tugging your sleeve, pulling away, running from you, playing, or physically grabbing your body, clothes or any other handy item that will distract from what you actually want him to do. You ask your Service-PUP to "DOWN" and he puts up a paw. That's active resistance.

Passive resistance is the more difficult form of resistance to deal with. The passive dog is given a command and he just stands there with a vacant stare, as if his feet are glued to the ground and he has been struck deaf. His tail may be slightly tucked or slightly

wagging. His attitude will be one of, "I just can't, can't, can't." He may even lay down with his feet in the air. Either way he will be grounded to one spot.

Typically, resistance happens when you have violated him by pulling or pushing him either emotionally or physically. This can be avoided by using an authoritative voice when giving commands that leaves no room to doubt your abilities.

**MOST IMPORTANT — DO NOT beg for forgiveness from your Service-PUP. This only serves to make it worse. Smile and play with your Service-PUP for a brief moment, give him a short break. Move away from the spot where the resistance took place and give the command again. Praise him as soon as he has followed through. Use motivation, not force to get your Service-PUP to work for you. This may take a bit more time in the beginning, but the end your Service-PUP will perform better for you, and you will have a more solid bond with your Service-PUP.**

### *Summary*

Challenge and resistance will happen, and usually takes place when you are at your weakest. The best advice is to not take it personally, and never let emotions get involved in the situation. Deal with the conflict in a straightforward, matter of fact way, letting your dog know that even when you are feeling bad you are capable of being the leader. Resistance is a form of challenge that usually happens as a result of the handler pushing or pulling on their dog's lead too much rather than using firm-toned voice commands. Of the two types of resistance, active and passive, passive is the most difficult to deal with.