

# Positive Reinforcement Training Dynamic/Taking it into Real Life

## Can't dogs "just behave"?!

Do you police your dog's behavior, always ready to say "No!"? Why can't dogs "just behave"? Through training, it's possible to evolve from a dynamic of policing to one in which your dog knows to respond with the behaviors you want. All you have to do is PREVENT other bad behaviors, TRAIN & PROOF the behavior you want, and then NOTICE & REINFORCE that good behavior so your dog keeps it up!



### PREVENT

Every time a dog performs a behavior, they are practicing it—especially if the behavior is fun for them to do! Don't let "bad" behaviors reinforce themselves into bad habits. Use management techniques that prevent the dog from indulging in behaviors you do not want.



When you say "no," ask yourself: what would you like your dog to do instead? Teach your dog to do just that in training sessions, gradually increasing the level of distraction until your dog can easily perform the behavior even in "real life" conditions where it's often most difficult.

### TRAIN & PROOF

### NOTICE & REINFORCE

If policing has one advantage, it's that we're always keeping an eye out to react to bad behavior. Be proactive and set your dog up for success. Prepare your dog to do what you've trained and proofed. Be just as vigilant about immediately reinforcing good behavior.

By preventing undesirable behavior through management, and only reinforcing desired behaviors, you achieve a new dynamic where your dog actively seeks to offer behaviors you've trained. Replace policing with coaching. Set them up for success and reward their good behavior to keep it strong.

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