Command List

Keeping in mind

Timing (1.3 seconds)

Motivation (positive – petting, food, play. Negative – leash pop or button)

Consistency (always having the same rules and expectations for you dog).

Good – marks when a dog does something we want. Good – then reward.

No – marks when the dog does something we don’t want. No – then leash pop or button.

Free – ends and exercise. The dog can now do what they want to (minding their standard set of rules). With all commands there is no “stay” command; the stay is implied and it is up to you to make sure you are clear to your dog by freeing them from positions when you aren’t going to watch them to make sure they stay there.

Climb – putting the dog on an elevated surface. Your pup can do whatever they want aside from bark or get down. The dog can only leave the Climb if you call them to you or free them from it. If your dog breaks the climb mark “no” pop back towards the climb, and re-command “Climb”. Once all four feet are back on the climb mark “good” and reward.

Sit – butt on the ground. Sit means sit until you free the dog or give another command. Be sure you are, again, using the free command for your dog if you are not going to reinforce the sit. If your dog breaks the sit mark “no” pop back up above the dog’s head, and re-command “Sit”. Once the dog is back into the sit mark “good” and reward.

Down – butt and elbows on the ground. Down means Down until you free the dog or give another command. Be sure you are, again, using the free command for your dog if you are not going to reinforce the position. If your dog breaks the down mark “no” pop down towards the ground in front of the dog, and re-command “down”. Once your pup returns to the down mark “good” and reward.

Come – dog comes to you and sits in front of you. Come is not just the dog running towards you then need to sit in front of you and wait for you to direct them. The recall (come command) is the single most important your dog knows. Make it fun, and always reward! If you call your dog to “come” and they do not mark “no”, pop the leash towards you and re-command “come”. Once your dog gets to you and sits in front of you mark “good” and reward.

Heel – dog walks on your left side with their shoulder in line with your leg, should never be in front of your toes. Heel is a position just like the others, only you and the dog are moving. In other commands the dog understands what it should be doing by certain body parts being in certain positions (Ex: sit = butt on ground, down = butt and elbows on ground). Your dog also understands the heel position as their relationship of the dog’s shoulder to your leg. It is your job to reinforce this understanding. When ready for your dog to heel say “heel” AS you take your first step. Once your dog is in position mark “good” then reward. If your dog breaks the position mark “no”, turn 180°, pop the leash and re-command “heel”. Once your dog is back in position mark “good” and reward.

Everything your dog knows is due to setting expectations and you reinforcing those expectations consistently. There is not a dog trainer on earth that can train a dog and send it home without the owners needing to reinforce what has been taught. Most importantly know that all I expect is for you to try your best – that alone will be good enough for your dog! I am ALWAYS here for you if you have questions or need additional help. I want you to be successful!

Happy Training,

Sabrina

The Defiant Dog Training and Rehabilitation

\*\* Any dogs using the remote collar you should be sandwiching the button between the “no” and your dog’s leash pop. Once your dog starts beating the leash pop you know you are ready to phase out the leash in situations your dog is ready to handle. Continue training your dog in different levels of distraction.