



# Do You Really Know What You Want From Your Dog?

Often people are so busy focusing on behaviour that they don't like that they have never even considered the alternative – much less trained an alternative.

In our questionnaire for new clients we ask the following question:

*What would you most like to get out of training classes?*

The response to this question is almost always:

*“An Obedient Dog”*

or

*“To stop my dog Jumping Up” (or Barking, Digging, Escaping etc)*

While we understand the frustration with a rambunctious dog that won't stop jumping up or pulling on lead etc it is important to understand that this way of thinking is negative and, of itself, will do absolutely nothing to change the undesired behaviour.



Similarly 'An Obedient Dog' does not explain exactly what you expect of your dog. If YOU can't decide on what to expect then how can your dog be expected to know. For any type of training to be successful you need to have goals in mind and work diligently toward those goals.

In order to change behaviour you must have a clear vision of the behaviour you do want and work towards achieving it. You must be willing to change the way YOU think and behave. Rather than wanting to stop your dog performing undesirable behaviours, decide on the behaviour you do want the dog to perform instead. Put your energy into training your dog to perform the desired behaviour.

We have outlined some solutions to common problems below:

**Problem (Negative Thinking)**

- Jumping on People
- Pulling on Lead
- Not Coming when Called
- Barking at Fence
- Digging
- Destructive Chewing
- Toileting Indoors
- Hyperactive Dog

**Solution (Positive Thinking)**

- Teach dog to Sit for Greeting
- Teach dog to Walk at Heel
- Teach dog to respond to 'Come'
- Teach dog to Quiet on Command
- Teach dog to Dig in Certain Spot
- Teach dog to Chew Appropriately
- Teach Dog to Toilet Appropriately
- Teach dog to Settle on Command



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