



Train The Dog in Front of You

By Diane Richardson



frontierrots@msn.com

www.frontierrots.com



Anyone who has had several dogs of the same breed over several years develops a distinct preference for the type of dog they like (look, temperament, training aptitude, etc.), as well as developing a training style and methodology that is “what works for them.” They buy pups, they raise them in their normal way, they train them in their normal way, and get—for the most part—what they expect in the end.

However, when purchasing puppies, regardless of the background research you do on the pedigree and parents, it is not like buying automobiles of your favorite brand. Someday, sometime, in spite of all the research and observations, you will get a puppy that is not what you were expecting it to be.

Many people will rush to return such a puppy—now a young adult—to its breeder, or will place it, particularly if the person has very high or very specific goals for each puppy they buy. I may be the “odd man out,” but in my mind there are very, very few situations where there is a legitimate reason to return or place this young dog that you purchased and raised. I do not consider not wanting to rotate dogs or not wanting a dog that might end up as a pet to be legitimate reasons.

I will agree that there are situations where placing or returning the dog is best for all (i.e., where unexpected financial distress occurs, where legal dog limits dictate, where there is a real danger to household children or the public, or where the dog will be relegated to a crate or kennel with limited human interaction, to name a few) but generally what is best for the dog is to remain with the people who have raised it for months and whom it loves.

To me, this is a case of “train the dog in front of you, not the dog you wished that you had gotten.” This may take some changes or deep thinking on your part.

If the puppy was purchased as a conformation show dog but is not a good prospect for that venue, there are many other sports you can do with the dog (obedience, rally, tracking, agility, herding, scent work, etc.). There is a venue suitable for almost every dog.

If the puppy was purchased for a specific sport and you are having trouble getting the dog engaged or the dog fails to seem to enjoy or do well in this sport, look first at your training methods, equipment, and your attitude. Not all

methods or styles work for all dogs—shocking, I know. But if what you are doing is not working for this dog, try opening your mind to other methods or styles that might suit your dog’s temperament or needs better and give them a try. Look at your attitude and how you come across to the dog; perhaps the dog needs you to be more animated (or less animated, or happier, or quieter). If these things fail to work, then try a different sport or different segment of this sport.



Lastly, there are things far more horrible than being a spayed/neutered companion (pet) dog that goes for hikes, walks, swims, and fetches a ball for fun. There really are dogs for whom being a house pet is what makes them happiest!

Owning a dog should be fun and enjoyable for both the dog and the humans. Resenting a dog for what it is not is not productive and is not good for the minds of either dog or humans! “Train the dog in front of you”—study the dog and find out what makes it tick and what makes it worse, open your mind to new ideas and sports, and don’t be afraid to admit when you must that occasionally there really are dogs that want to warm your couch and go for hikes as their sport venue of choice.

LOOK AHEAD TO SUMMER 2012
JOIN US & PLAN TO BE PART OF A GREAT EVENT!

CORK-CANADA BREED SHOW BREED SURVEY & IPO TRIAL

Central Ontario Rottweiler Klub

JUNE 9, 2012 - JUNE 10, 2012
ONTARIO
JUDGE: ANTON SPINDLER (ADRK)
CONTACT: BRENDA BURGGRAF KONIGLICHE@GMAIL.COM
ENTRIES: WWW.RKNAONLINE.COM
FACEBOOK: ROTTWEILER KLUB OF NORTHAMERICA

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!