


Obedience Training Guide

for livestock guardian dog breeds

A large, fluffy white livestock guardian dog, possibly a Great Pyrenees, is sitting in a grassy field. The dog is looking off to the right with a calm expression. The background is a soft-focus landscape of green grass and trees under a cloudy sky. The dog is wearing a dark, patterned harness or vest.

How to kindly raise
effective working dogs
and well-mannered pets

AFFILIATE DISCLAIMER

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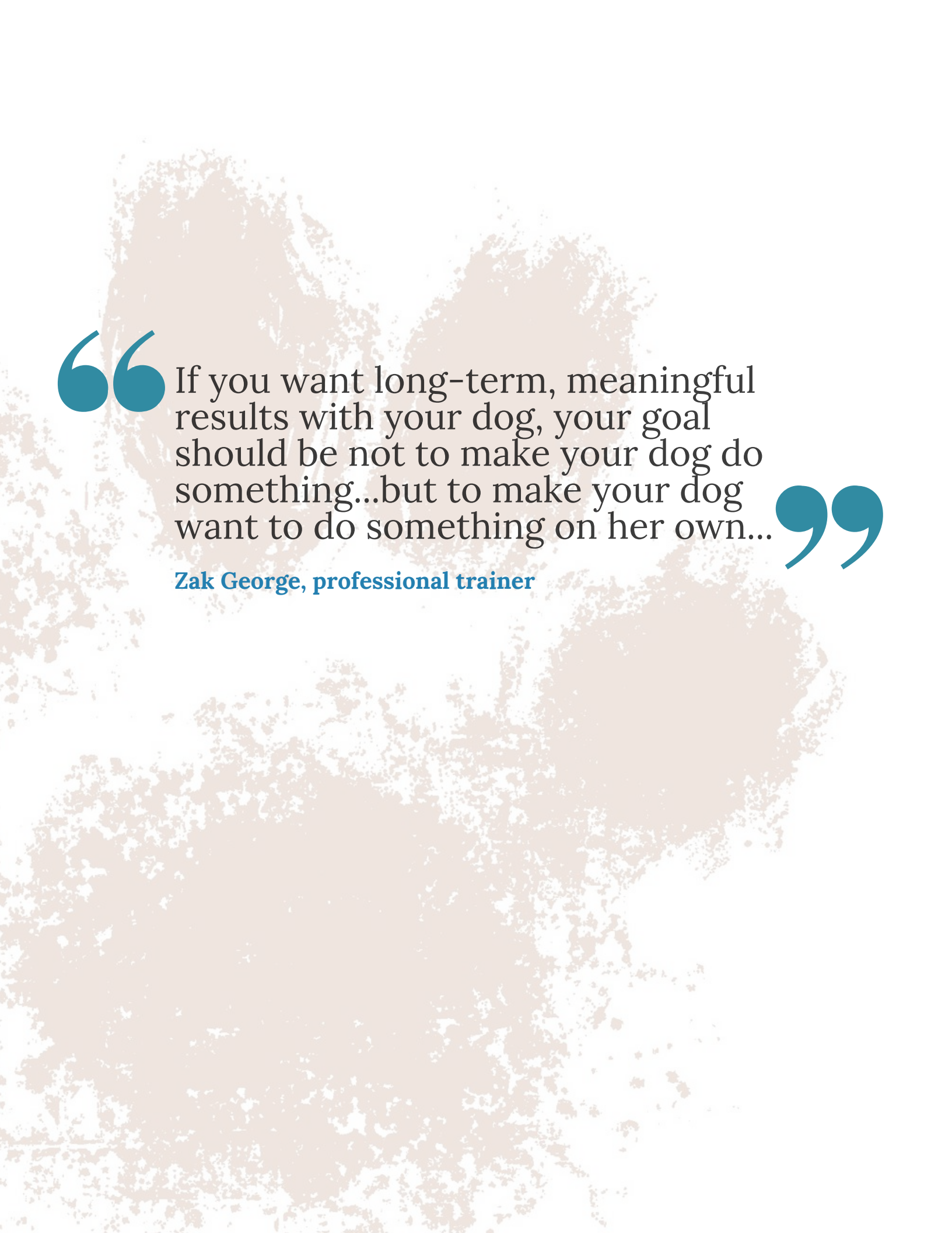
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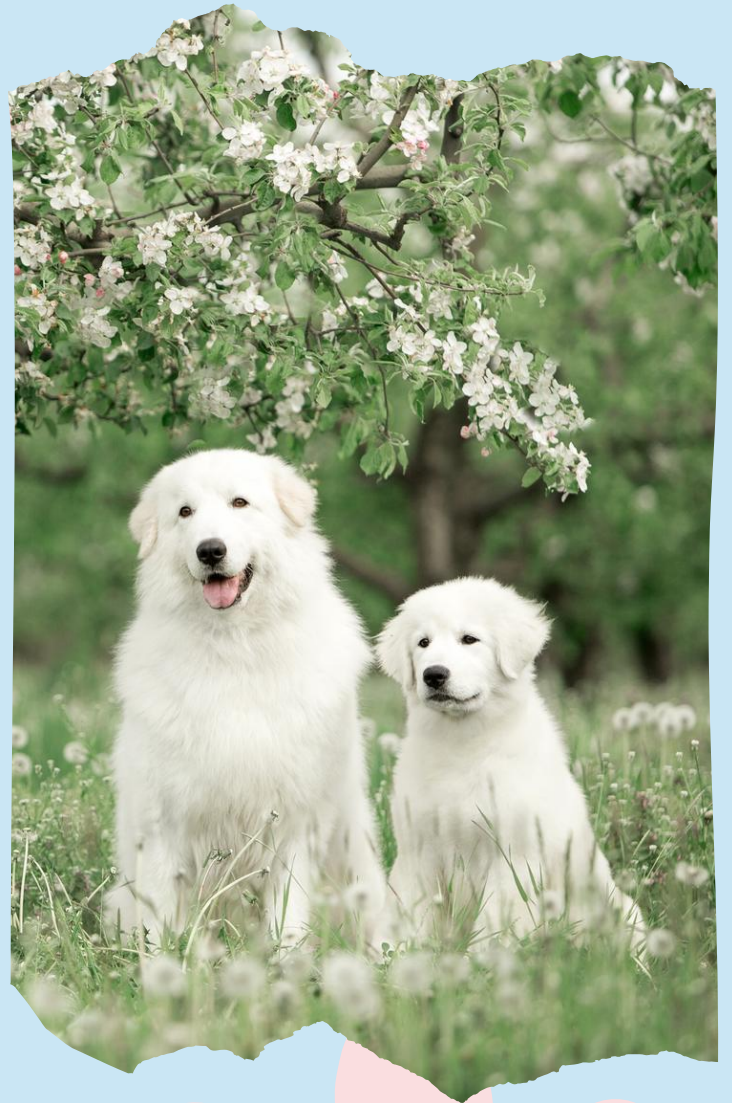
Need more help?

Brain Training for Dogs online course



“If you want long-term, meaningful results with your dog, your goal should be not to make your dog do something...but to make your dog want to do something on her own...”

Zak George, professional trainer



CHAPTER 01

Why obedience train
livestock guardian dogs?



So, you've got a dog from a livestock guardian dog breed, and now you want to know how to make her into a good guardian or pet.

But you've heard arguments that livestock guardian dogs work instinctively and independently, and are, therefore, incapable of being trained. I'm sure you've heard they're "too stubborn" to learn any kind of obedience.

This is not true. Whether you're keeping your dogs as guardians or as family pets (or both!), you're setting them up for failure if you don't train them.

For centuries, these dogs worked alongside shepherds to keep their livestock safe. They spent a large portion of their day with their shepherd and learned from the experiences they shared with their caretakers. Dogs and shepherds frequently worked as partners, not independently. Only when the shepherds weren't present did the dogs make all their own decisions.

Obedience training your dogs is time consuming, but it's also essential. The most important reasons you need to train your dogs are for effectiveness, safety, and bonding purposes.

OBEDIENCE TRAINING FOR SAFETY

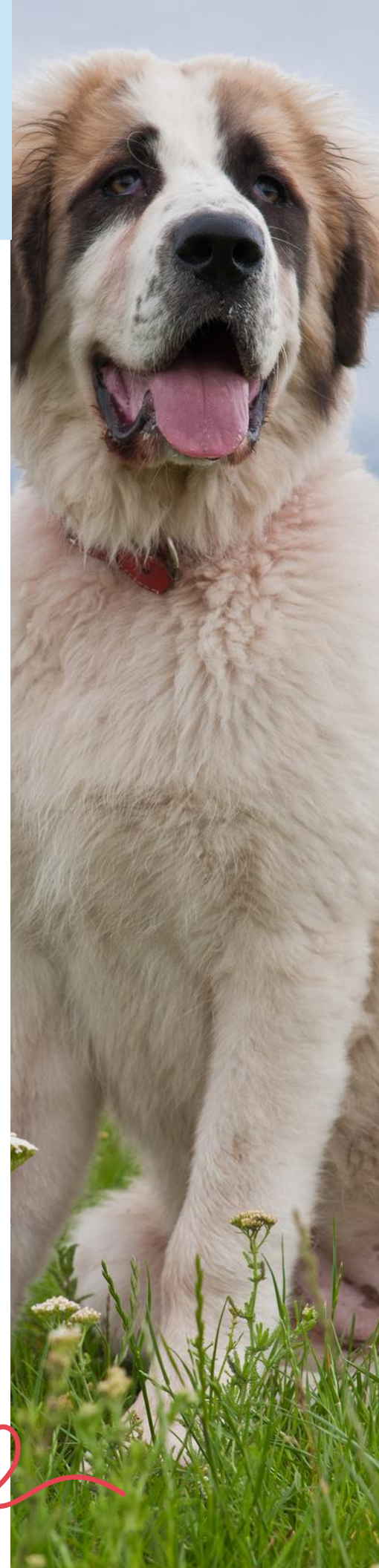
The most pressing and obvious reason to obedience train your livestock guardian dog is for safety.

Your dog's size could potentially be a huge problem if you have not obedience trained him. Think of how large your dog is (or will get, if you have a puppy) and think of him jumping up on a toddler or your elderly aunt. Someone is going to get injured. Imagine trying to pull your enormous dog off of another dog or a person he's found threatening. And what happens when your dog takes on a predator that is too large for him, but he won't back off? In all of the above situations, it's imperative that your dog has a good recall and will respond to "come."

There are other instances where your livestock guardian dog may kill or attempt to kill newborn livestock if he is still young or inexperienced. He doesn't understand yet that these animals are new additions for him to protect, not tiny invaders.

Your dog's ability to respond to your commands can save your livestock's lives. It could potentially save your dog's life at some point too, either from a predator or from euthanasia - which is, sadly, what tends to happen if you are unable to reel him in from an aggressive encounter with another dog or human.

Obedience training is a must to keep everyone (including your beloved dog) safe.



OBEDIENCE TRAINING FOR BONDING



Your relationship with your dog is just like any other relationship. If you want your dog to listen to you, she not only needs to respect you, but she needs to have a close bond with you. Trust is an absolute must.

You need to be your dog's partner and her champion. She needs to know you always have her best interests in mind. What you give to your dog in love and respect, she'll give right back to you.

One of the best ways to form and solidify this bond is through obedience training, or what I would rather refer to as "partnership training." You are teaching your dog how to work with you at the same time she is teaching you how to work with her.

By working together and by training in a way that is either fun or rewarding for your dog, you will get the obedience you are seeking.

The "obedience" is actually just your dog's trust in you and her desire to please you as you are her partner and dear friend.



CHAPTER 02

TRAINING WITH POSITIVE METHODS



WHAT ARE POSITIVE TRAINING METHODS?



Dogs who are trained using negative or harsh methods may listen to you in a desperate attempt to avoid punishment. If dogs are trained using positive methods, on the other hand, they will be more likely to make good decisions even when you aren't around. They are responding out of logic, love, and habit instead of fear.

You train your dogs what to do (not what *not* to do) by making them want to do the thing you are asking, not through force, punishment, or shame.

By using positive reinforcement, you make training interactions fun, and you always treat your dog respectfully.

Some dogs respond to treats and others to praise. Others just want you to play with them. You'll need to discover what your dog wants most and utilize that in your training sessions as his reward for obedience.

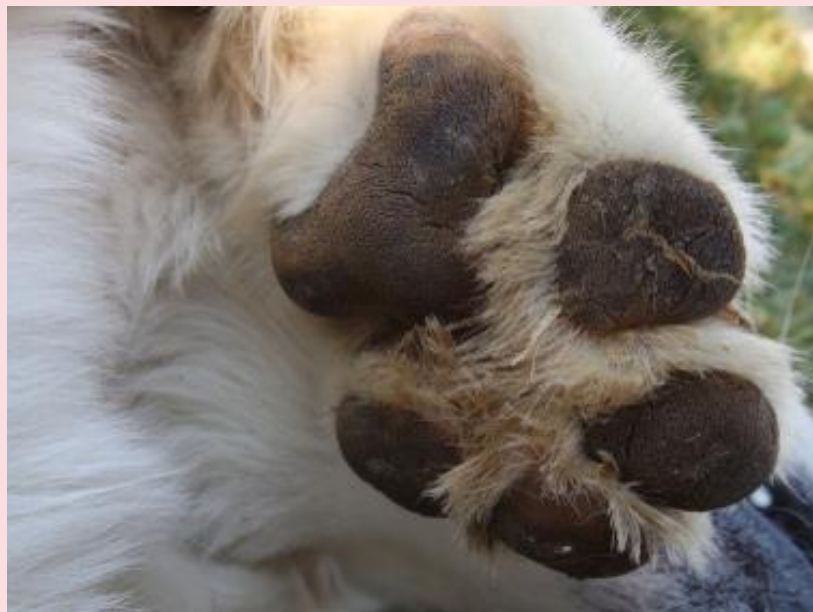
Your dog will then view training and "obedience" as fun because he associates these with the things he loves most in life.

You are making the actions you want your dog to do worth his while, so the training is mutually beneficial. By using positive reinforcement, you learn to communicate with each other.

WHY USE POSITIVE METHODS?

This is incredibly simple. Use positive training methods because they are both ethical and effective. You always treat your dog with kindness and she learns to obey you.

She obeys you not because she is afraid of you, but because she trusts you, views you as her partner, and wants to please you.



CHAPTER 03

GETTING STARTED WITH OBEDIENCE TRAINING



CONTROLLING THE ENVIRONMENT

Obedience training is not always easy, even though the steps are simple. However, controlling your dog's environment can make training much easier.

"Environment" means not only the physical space, but also your dog's mental state.

You should *always* take the following steps to control your dog's training environment:

- Exercise your dog before each training session
- Exclude all distractions when starting training
- Make training fun
- Figure out what reward your dog wants most - some are food motivated while others prefer a quick round of "tug"
- Take a break when you need to (go ahead and step away when either one of you starts to get frustrated!)

After your dog masters a skill in her initial training environment, you will want to work on that skill in another setting (for example, if you taught your dog to sit on the porch, try to get her to sit in the field - she won't always get it right away in this new setting!).

After your dog masters a skill in multiple settings, you need to slowly add in more distractions. Teach her that the commands are not context-dependent. She'll gradually learn to listen to you no matter what is going on around her and no matter how she feels.



HOW LONG DOES OBEDIENCE TRAINING TAKE?

Obedience training may take a long time. It really depends on how receptive your dog is and how skilled you are at communicating with your dog. (Remember, you're both learning from each other here). Here are three ways to ensure training success for you and your dog in the shortest time possible:

1. Make sure your dog is motivated to learn (with the right reward)
2. Always be consistent: your dog must follow your command every time
3. Understand that your learning process has ups and downs

The bottom line - you will likely need to consistently train your dog for months. Some commands (like sit, down, and stay) may come more quickly to your dog than others. Other commands (like stand, off, and speak) may take more work. Or vice versa!

And your dog will forget commands she was once a pro at - yep, you'll need to retrain her. Yes, it can (and likely will) be frustrating. Just know this is all normal. **And don't give up.**

When in doubt, **REWARD, REWARD, REWARD.**





CHAPTER 04

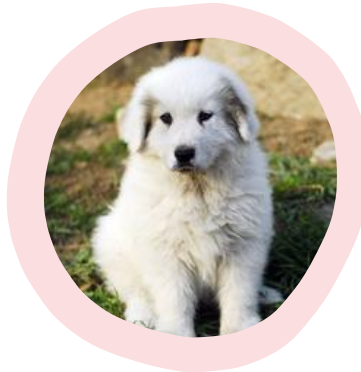
MANDATORY & OPTIONAL
TRAINING COMMANDS

MANDATORY COMMANDS



LOOK AT ME

Use this command to distract them or prevent them from doing something you don't want them to do



SIT

This command is not important by itself but is a precursor to "stay" as dogs are better able to stay in a sitting position



STAY

When you want your dog to stay back for her safety or the safety of others, a good "stay" response is vital



COME

A good recall is the best, safest, and easiest solution to getting your dog out of a negative situation



LEAVE IT

Can protect your livestock or others from your dog, or can protect your dog from predators or other harmful situations



OFF

This is the command to give when your dogs jump up on you or others. Eventually, they will learn to stay down and the command may become obsolete



OPTIONAL COMMANDS

The following commands aren't essential for your livestock guardian dogs, but they can round out your training program. Remember that training helps you bond with your dogs, is fun for them (if done correctly), and the more you train your dogs, the better success you'll have with obedience.



DOWN

The best reason to teach a dog "down" is so you have him "stay" for a longer period of time while comfortable.

STAND

While this command may seem odd, it's actually important if you are having to examine or groom your dog.




SHAKE

Great pyrenees will enjoy this command as they are naturally always touching you with their front paws anyway

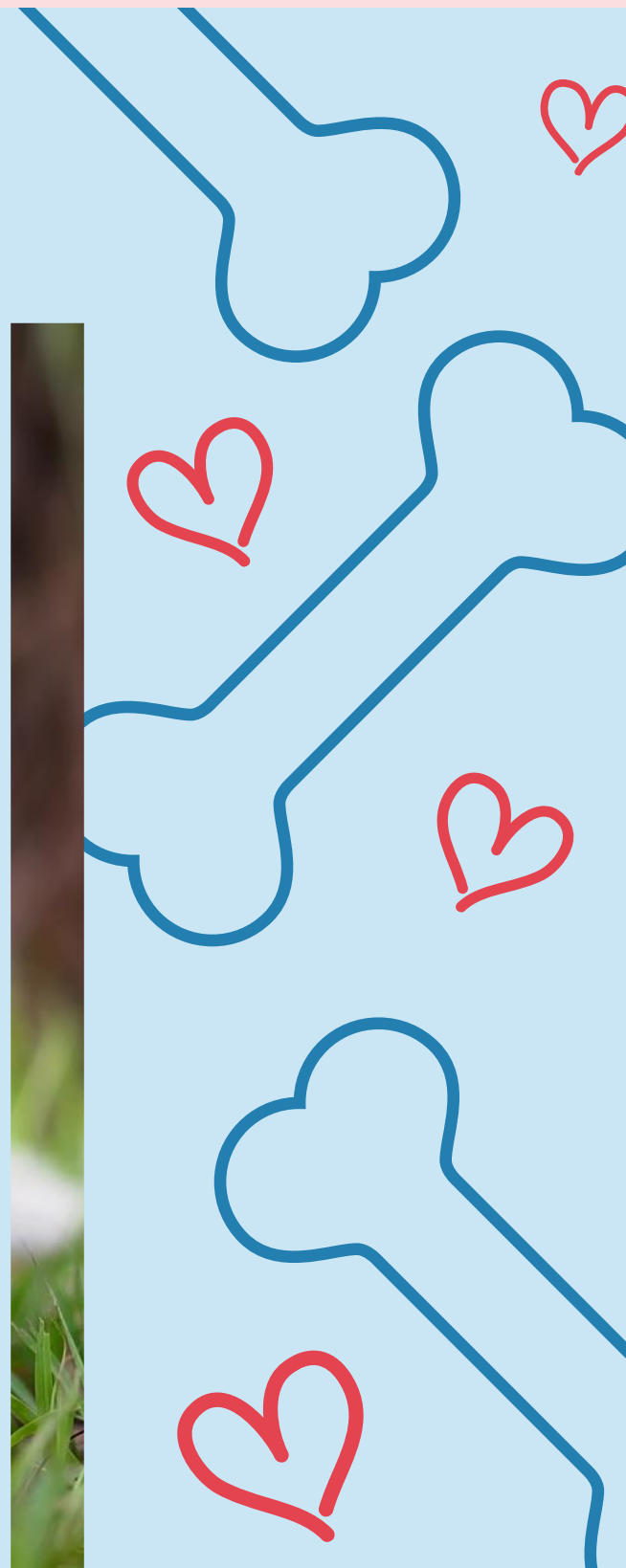
SPEAK

In order to eventually teach your dog to "be quiet," you first will need him to learn to bark on command



CHAPTER 05

STEP-BY-STEP TRAINING



LOOK AT ME

1

- Sit on the ground and give your dog a treat
- Hold a treat between your eyes
- Say "yes, good" and reward when she looks
- Practice this step until mastered

2

- Hold a treat in one hand
- Hold a treat between your eyes with the other hand
- Say "yes, good" and reward when she looks
- Practice this step until mastered

3

- Hold your finger between your eyes
- Say "look at me" as soon as your dog follows through
- Reward when she looks

REINFORCE THE COMMAND

Practice, practice practice!

SIT & STAY

SIT

- Place treat between pointer finger and thumb
- "Tether" the treat to your dog's nose and move it up over the bridge of her nose and continue up from there
- When your dog's nose is pointed at the ceiling, he will typically sit on his own
- Say "sit" and release the treat

STAY

- Get your dog into a sitting position
- Take a small step back, if your dog stays, reward
- Continue to take steps back, reward with each step
- When your dog moves, go back to the sitting position and start close again
- Once you are confident your dog will stay after 8-10 steps away, introduce the word "stay"
- Repeat the above steps, simply add in the "stay" command as you step back, continue to reward

REINFORCE THE COMMAND

Practice, practice practice!

COME

1

- Place your dog between you and another person
- A long lead leash is fine if training alone
- Show your dog you have a treat
- Call your dog enthusiastically
- As soon as she takes a step in your direction, say "yes, come!" as excitedly as possible and reward with treat

2

- Increase the distance when your dog starts coming consistently
- If your dog stops coming to you, reduce the distance
- Practice this until your dog will come with reliability in your controlled environment
- Remember to reward with a treat

3

- Teach the command outside
- Put your dog on a long lead leash
- Ask your dog to come, reward with a treat
- If your dog is having trouble in the new environment, run away and make it a game of chase, when your dog catches you, say "yes, come!" and reward

4

- Teach the command in an even more distracting environment (with another person or animal around, with noises present, etc.)
- Follow the same steps above
- This provides an extra test to make sure your dog will still come with increased distractions
- Continue increasing the distractions until perfect

REINFORCE THE COMMAND

Practice, practice practice!

LEAVE IT

1

- Hold a treat in your hand, palm up
- Close your hand as soon as your dog tries to get it
- As she moves away on her own say "yes good"
- Reward with a treat
- Practice until this step is mastered

2

- Place a treat on the floor in front of your dog
- As soon as your dog tries to get it, cover it up with your hand and say "no"
- When she backs off, say "yes, good" and reward
- Practice until this step is mastered

3

- As you drop a treat on the ground, say "leave it"
- Pick the treat off the floor and give it to your dog
- Practice until this step is mastered
- Increase the time you ask your dog to show restraint

REINFORCE THE COMMAND

Practice, practice practice!

OFF

1

- Slowly approach your dog
- If she jumps at all or shows that she might, say "off" and step back
- When your dog hesitates at all and does not jump, praise enthusiastically
- Reward with a treat

2

- Have a friend try to get your dog to jump up on them
- Tell your dog "off"
- Make her do a "sit and stay"
- Gradually increase the number of distractions to try to get your dog out of the sit and stay

REINFORCE THE COMMAND

Practice, practice practice!

DOWN & STAND

DOWN

- Starting from a sitting position, tether the treat to your dog's nose
- Lure your dog into a down by moving the treat slowly to the ground
- As soon as your dog is in a "down" position, say "down" then release the treat

STAND

- From the sitting position, tether the treat to your dog's nose
- Take the treat and slowly pull it away from your dog's face but in a slightly upward motion
- The dog should rise onto all fours
- As soon as he is in the standing position, say "stand" and release the treat

REINFORCE THE COMMAND

Practice, practice practice!

SHAKE

- 1** Get your dog into a sitting position
- 2** Gently tickle the back of his leg to induce a little paw movement
- 3** When you see movement, praise him with an enthusiastic "yes" and release the treat
- 4** If you do this enough, your dog will begin to learn that the movement of her paw pleases you and will start to offer more movement
- 5** When confident your dog will offer her paw, say "shake" just before your dog moves his paw
- 6** Some dogs will offer one paw or the other or will alternate - reward for both paws or teach both

REINFORCE THE COMMAND

Practice, practice practice!

SPEAK

1

- Get your dog's favorite reward ready
- Choose a treat like real chicken or cheese so she is extra motivated (or a favorite toy if they prefer)

2

- Wait for your dog to make a sound, any sound
- Hold the treat out in your hand just out of your dog's reach
- Look at your dog and wait for him to make a sound
- Ignore other behaviors
- Reward for even the smallest sound and say "yes, good"

3

- Teach your dog to make louder sounds
- Keep rewarding for any sounds he makes and continue to say "yes, good" after each
- Once your dog lets out a bigger bark, give several treats in a row

4

- Once your dog has the bark sound down, you can start to add in the command "speak"
- Say the word "speak" right before your dog barks or as he is barking
- Repeat the exercise until you're confident your dog understands the word

5

- Say "speak" and reward your dog when he barks
- Only give a treat when you specifically ask him to speak
- If it takes a moment, you may want to go back a step

REINFORCE THE COMMAND

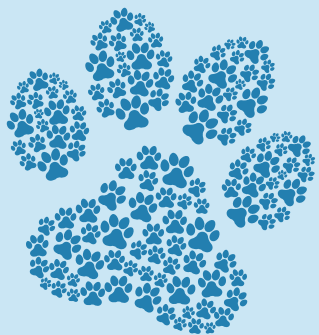
Practice, practice practice!

BE QUIET

- 1** If your dog is barking, wait until there is a moment of silence, then say "yes, quiet"
- 2** Ask your dog to "speak" and reward her when she does
- 3** Then say "quiet" and reward your dog when she does not bark
- 4** Do this back-to-back many times so your dog starts to understand the difference between both commands

REINFORCE THE COMMAND

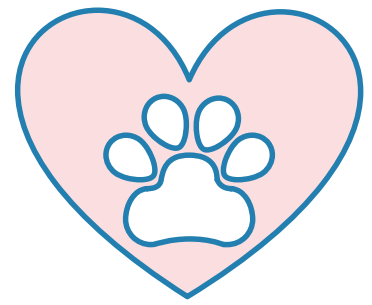
Practice, practice practice!



CHAPTER 06

SPECIALTY TRAINING

SPECIALTY TRAINING



01 LEASH TRAINING

Learn how to condition your dog to wear a harness and walk on a leash as well as how to correct a puppy or dog who pulls

[CLICK HERE](#)

02 POTTY TRAINING

Learn how to control your puppy's environment, teach him where to go potty and learn your puppy's tells so you can prevent accidents

[CLICK HERE](#)

03 CRATE TRAINING

Learn what crate to use for your dog, how to introduce him to the crate and how to make him as comfortable as possible in his space

[CLICK HERE](#)

04 MUZZLE TRAINING

Understand the reasons for using a muzzle, the importance of having a muzzle-trained dog, and how to train your dog to wear one

[CLICK HERE](#)

05 BARKING PREVENTION

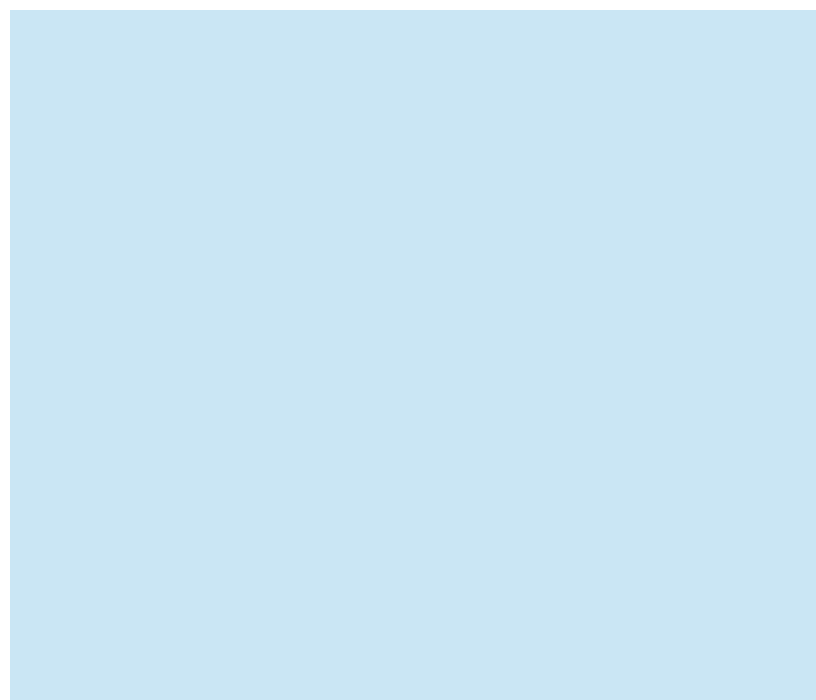
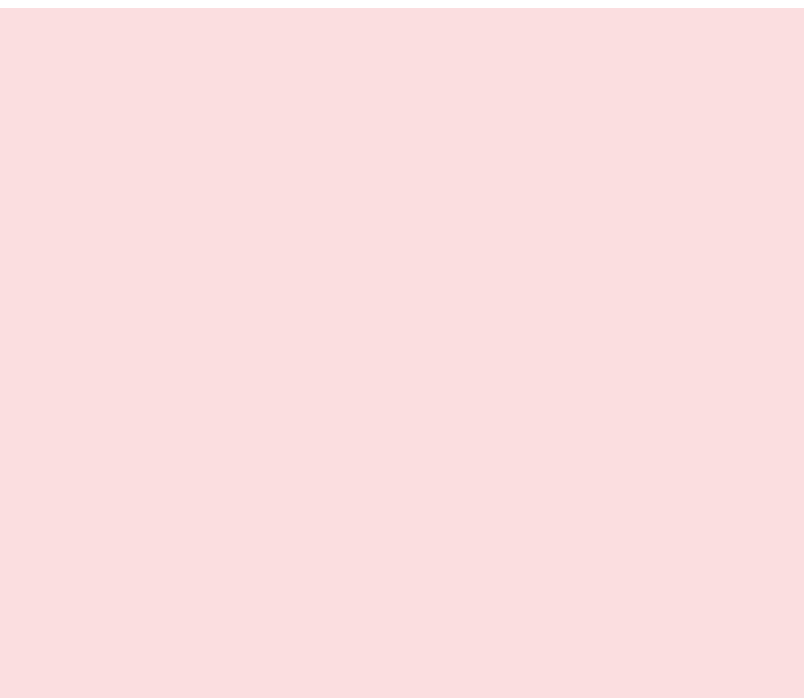
Livestock guardian dog breeds can be an issue when it comes to barking "excessively," learn how to end the unwanted barking

[CLICK HERE](#)

06 ROAMING PREVENTION

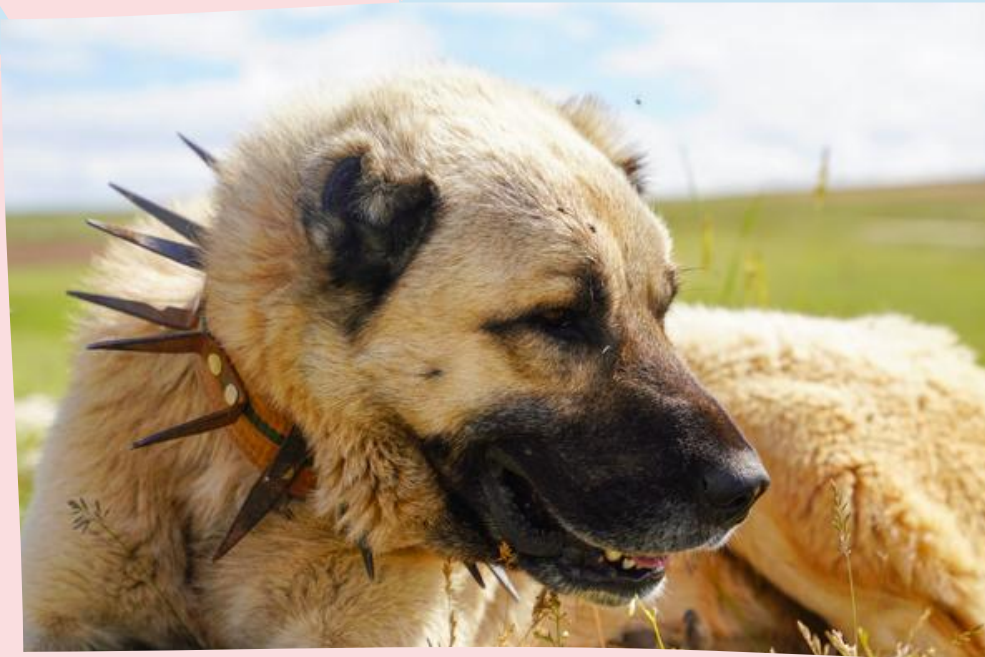
Livestock guardian dog breeds instinctively roam - learn the best type of fencing for your situation and how to boundary train your dog

[CLICK HERE](#)



CHAPTER 07

TRAINING GUARDIAN DOGS TO LIVESTOCK



LGD-SPECIFIC TRAINING

TRAINING TO LIVESTOCK

Getting started

How to train to livestock

Preventing aggression

How to keep your LGD from playing with livestock

Introducing to livestock

[CLICK HERE](#)

TRAINING TO CHICKENS

Best LGD breeds

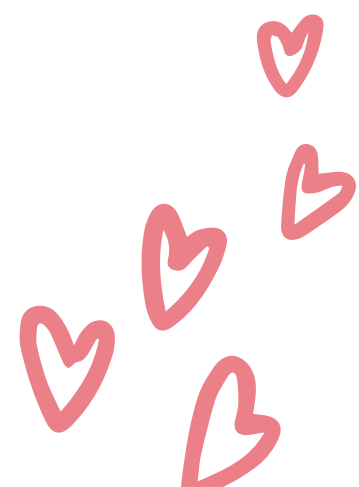
How long it takes to train

When to start training puppies

Step-by-step guide

Problems with LGDs and chickens

[CLICK HERE](#)





CHAPTER 08

MORE HELP & RESOURCES



NEED MORE HELP?

Perhaps, despite your best efforts, some of the following sounds familiar to you...

- Your dog doesn't listen to you
- You're struggling to train your dog
- Your dog barks uncontrollably, pulls on the leash, jumps on people, or chews on things he shouldn't
- Your dog is aggressive
- You're frustrated with your dog
- You feel some regret about getting your dog
- You're worried you might have to give up your dog because of behavior problems you can't handle
- You feel helpless to control your dog
- You tell your dog "no" with no success
- Your dog gets over-excited and is hard to settle down
- Your dog is whining constantly
- Your dog has a fear of certain sounds or stimuli or suffers from anxiety
- You want a dog who obeys you
- You want a better bond with your dog
- You want less stress

If any of these circumstances describe you, then check out the online course [Brain Training for Dogs](#), a training program created by world-renowned positive methods dog trainer, Adrienne Farricelli.

**GET THE
COURSE NOW**

BRAIN TRAINING FOR DOGS INCLUDES...

- Obedience Training 101
- 7 Modules of Brain Training
- Access to Adrienne's in-depth training archives
- Access to Adrienne herself!

The best part about the [Brain Training for Dogs](#) program is definitely the personal access you get to the world-famous trainer, Adrienne Farricelli. You can ask her questions and get her personal advice in the member's forum.

When I trained my farm dog, Sage, I found this exclusive access to Adrienne's expertise is worth more than the price of the course.

ADRIENNE
FARRICELLI



Adrienne is a professional CPDT-KA certified dog trainer who is passionate about dogs and dog training.

In addition, she has also:

- Had her work featured in *USA Today* and *Every Dog* magazine
- Contributed to eHow and *AllExperts*
- Helped thousands of struggling dog owners all over the world
- Run a successful cage-less boarding and training company
- Provided training to service dogs for military veterans

GET THE
COURSE NOW

BRAIN TRAINING FOR DOGS

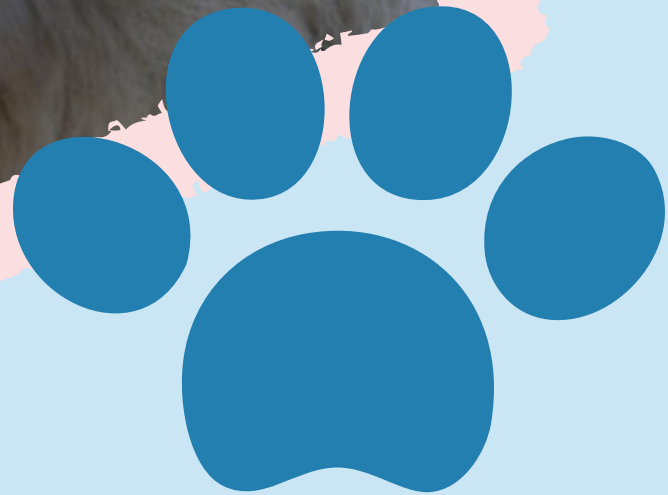
In Adrienne Farricelli's [Brain Training for Dogs](#), you'll get:

- Cutting-edge dog training science and techniques
- Gentle, force-free techniques ONLY
- Clear instructions with pictures
- Troubleshooting segments in the [Brain Training course](#) for difficult dogs
- Video demonstrations of the brain training games
- A HUGE archive covering almost every dog behavior problem you could think of
- Tailor-made solutions for behavior problems which tackle the root cause
- Exclusive information from a certified professional trainer with years of experience
- Ability to submit questions directly to Adrienne for support
- A private forum where you can discuss dogs and dog training or just chat and connect with like-minded people
- An online member's area, which means you can easily access all of the information on the go
- **A 60-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!**

**GET THE
COURSE NOW**







"We are truly blessed to
have these dogs in our lives."

- Jackie Church, LGD trainer

www.forloveoflivestock.com