

Management vs Training

When being with your dog, your time is often split between letting them be a dog, training them and managing their behavior. When they're being a dog they're hanging out or doing their own thing. When you're managing them, you may be using a device to ensure they don't pull on walks or you may be giving them a slow-feeder so they have something to do for 20 minutes or any one of hundreds of strategies available to dogs and their families.

Although different for everyone, I believe it can be broken down roughly into:

- 75% of the time you're Managing
- 20% of the time they're being a Dog
- 5% of the time you're Training

Let's face it, most people have a lot going on in life and finding time to train the dog is a luxury. Others are so frustrated with bad or unruly behavior they cannot figure out where to start.

So, cut yourself a break. If you don't have time to train or if you're not in the mood to train, don't do it. But manage your dog's behavior so you can still go out on a walk or bring them places. Using something as simple as using a belly band can change your walks completely and allow you to feel less frustrated.

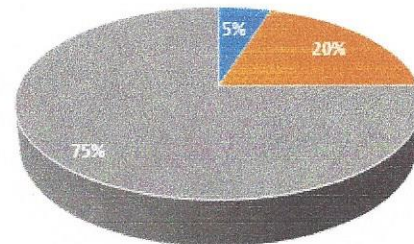
Other management devices I often recommend are: puppy pacifiers, parking your dog, walking at times when you don't run into people or dogs, walking in unpopulated areas, interrupt escalating behavior, etc.

A crate is a typical management device used to housetrain puppies (both to go to the bathroom outside and to not eat/destroy the house). Many dogs take right to crates and especially like the calm and consistent atmosphere inside.

If you have a highly reactive dog, one that barks a great deal or lunges at people or dogs then I recommend using a Gentle Leader head halter. These management devices give you control over your dog's mouth – and stops them from pulling. Often, you'll find that if you take the mouth out of the equation, then the dog is forced to try other behaviors.

Distance – this is one of the best management devices we have at our disposal, especially if we have a reactive dog. Always get your pup enough distance that they'll take a treat.

A Dog's Day



■ Train ■ Allow to be a Dog ■ Manage



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