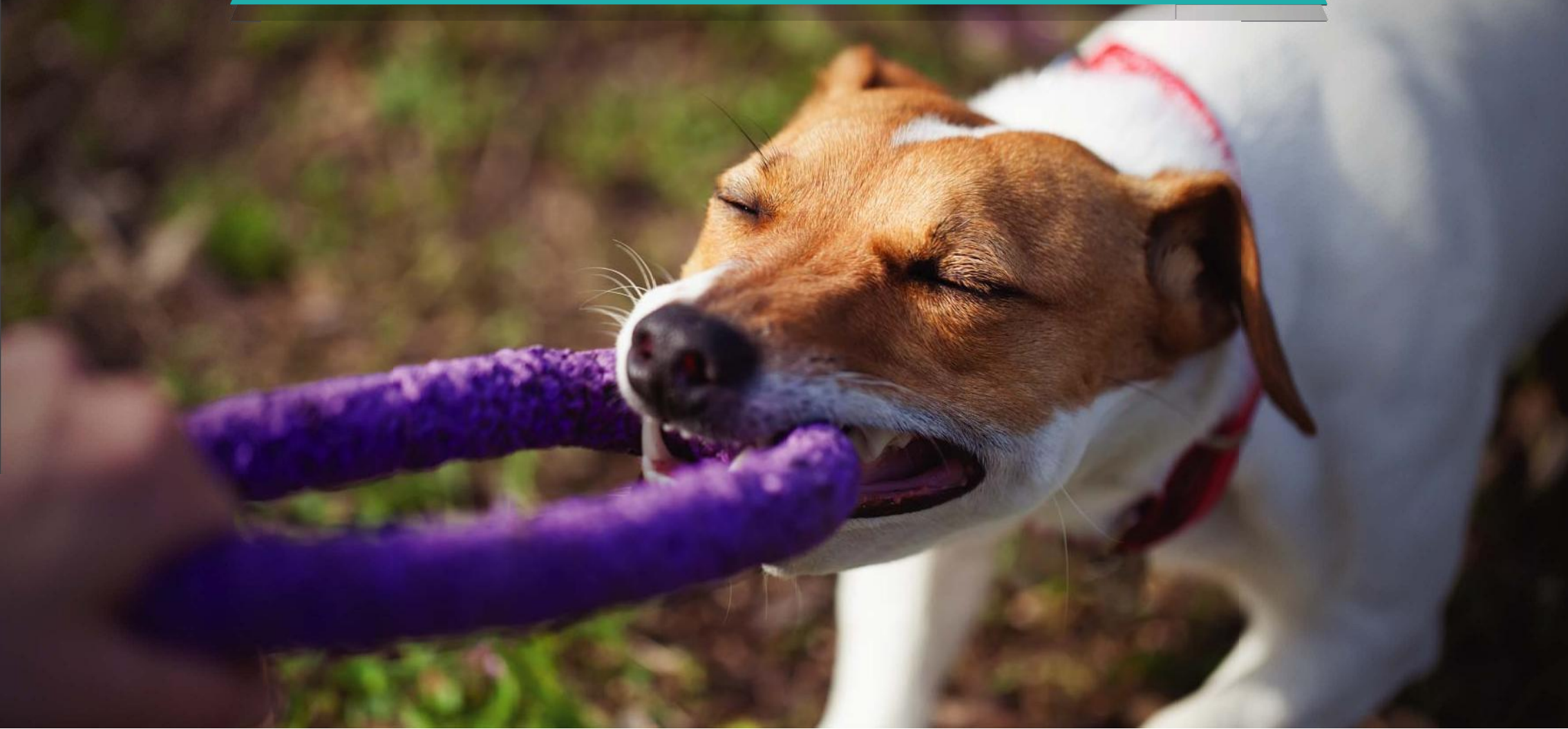




# 7 Mistakes Dog Owners Make & HOW TO AVOID THEM

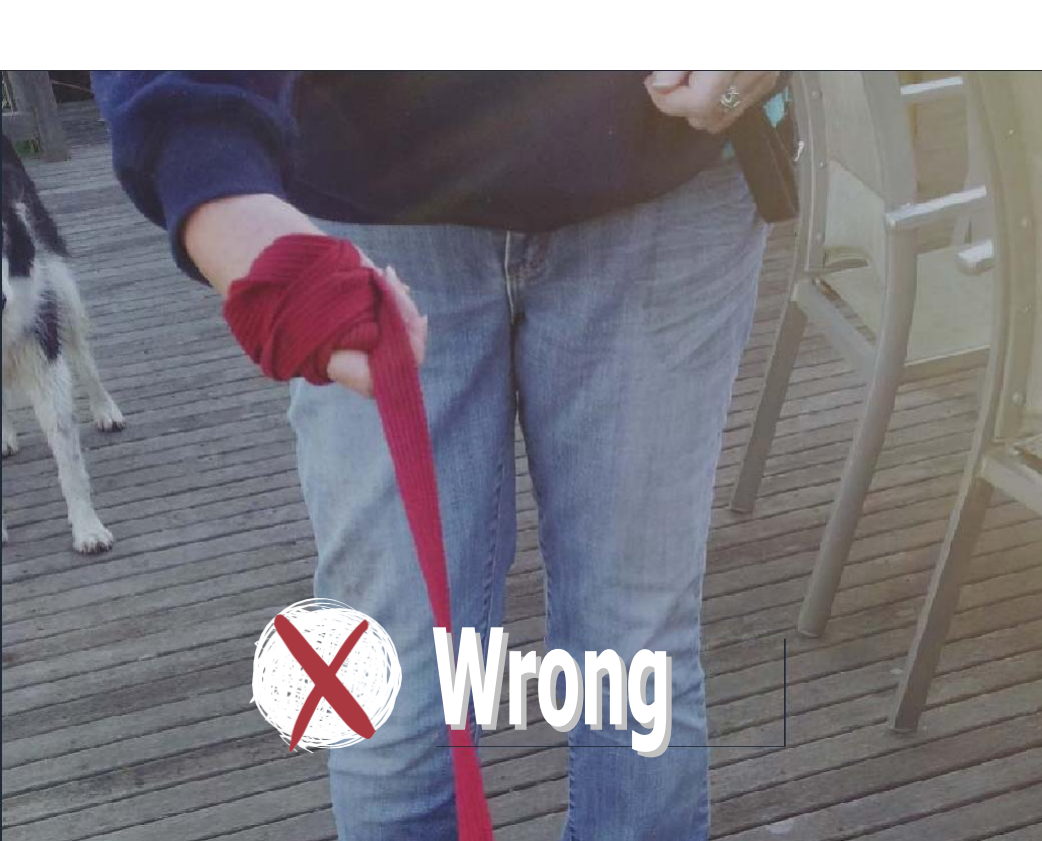


# 1

## LEAD HANDLING:

### Wrapping the lead tight around your hand and wrist

This can be dangerous especially if your dog hasn't learned to not pull on the leash. If they decide to pull you across a road and you fall, you won't be able to unravel the lead to release your hand. There is a safe and correct way to hold the leash; I can show you how so you have control over the dog.





# 2

## TREAT SIZE/TEXTURE:

### Too big-too hard

When using food for reward, size matters. Too big a piece and your dog can get full fast or might accidentally choke while wolfing (no pun intended) the treat down. Smaller treats can be given in rapid succession and therefore, more repetitions in. The softer and more stinky the treat, the more likely your dog will be interested in earning their reward. Lastly softer food rewards are fast and easy to swallow and easier to break apart than hard biscuits. Harder treats also take longer to eat.



# 3

## TREAT TYPE:

### Boring dry food, same as their meal

Food is a form of canine currency. Think of your dog's kibble as being equivalent to 25 cents. Whereas a piece of cheese or chicken might be closer to \$50. Trying to keep your dog interested in a new lesson or experience, you will be hard pressed to get them to "pay" attention (pun intended) to you if your treat type is not high value enough. Remember Scooby Doo? Sometimes he wouldn't continue on with solving the mystery unless the gang paid him more than just one Scooby snack. 2 Scooby snacks are better than 1 and chicken and cheese beats kibble any day of the week. Be creative and find out what your dog is willing to work for.





# 4

## TIMING OF REWARD: Too slow or not enough

In the beginning when your dog is first learning something new, reward delivery should follow immediately after the behavior is performed. Once your dog can demonstrate fluency, that is, performing the behavior correctly 8/10 tries, you can then move to a variable or intermittent schedule of (reward) reinforcement.

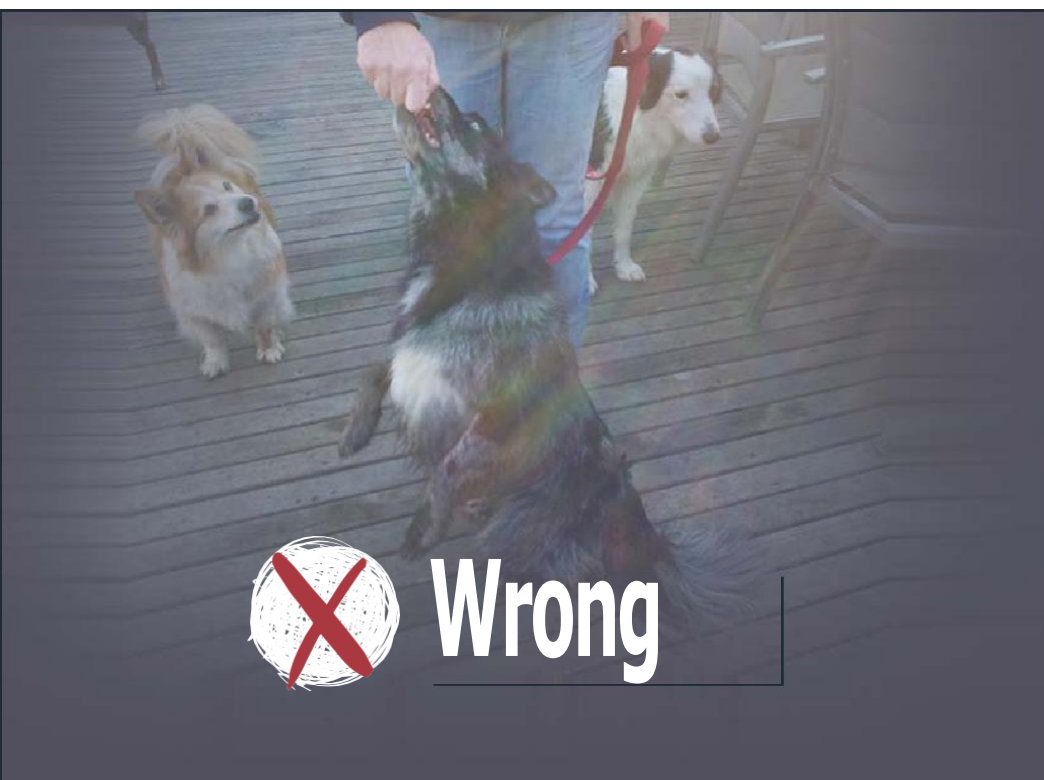


# 5

## TREAT DELIVERY PLACEMENT:

### Holding a treat too high above your dog's nose

Can induce your dog to jump up for the reward. Depending upon what behavior you're shaping, you might inadvertently be rewarding your dog for jumping when your intention was to lure your dog in to a sit. Pretend the treat is a magnet and so is your dog's nose. The two should stay closely connected during lure and reward training. If your dog should "fall off the lure" try moving your hand more slowly.



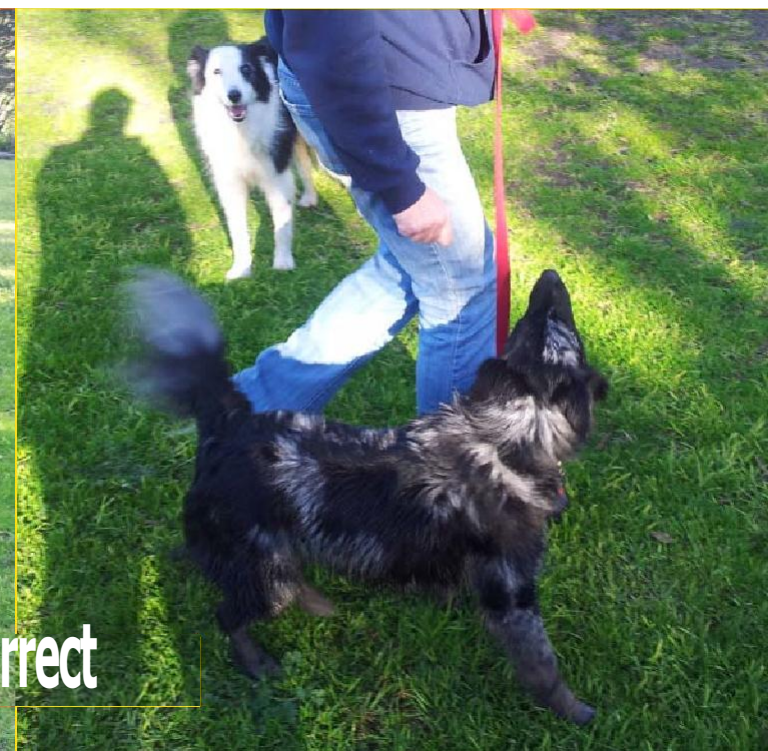
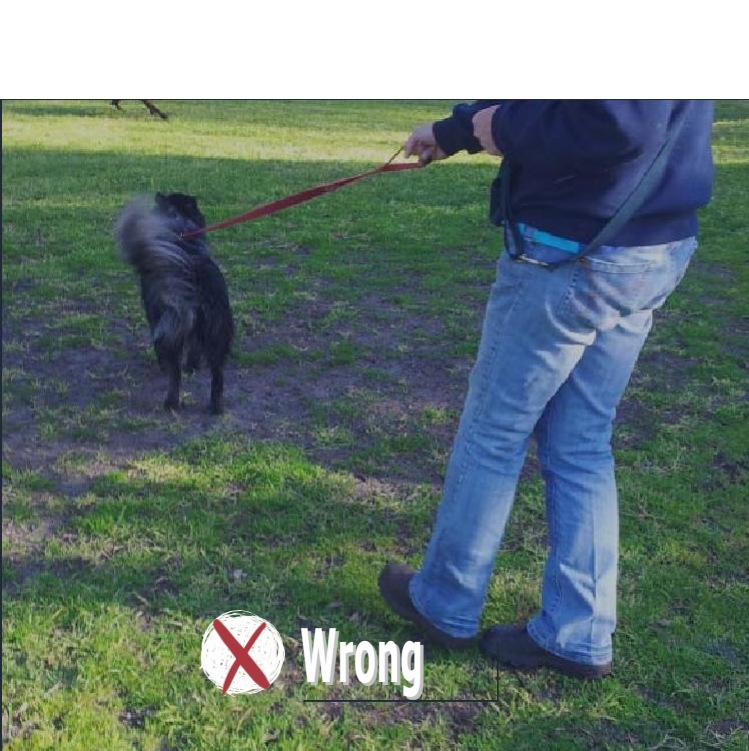


# 6

## WALKING YOUR DOG ON LEAD:

### Allowing your dog to pull forward

The goal here is to teach Fido that it is his job to pay attention to where you are, not the other way around. Dogs can pull on leash for a number of reasons, but namely, because pulling has been reinforced at some point. All dogs are born with an opposition reflex and need to learn how to yield to leash pressure. My suggestion would be to practice left side loose leash walking. Grab a bag of treats and start walking with your pup on your left side in a low distraction area. Show your dog you have treats and use a marker word like "yes" that predicts the food reward is on its way. Toss a treat just behind you so Fido goes to eat it and then move out the range of the leash until it's taut. When Fido turns to come back to you mark "yes" and place a treat down by your left heel. Repeat this process as many times as you can in 5 minutes and as Fido begins to figure out that he is being rewarded for moving in to heel position, take more than 1 step and see if he hold position. If he makes it 2 steps try 5, then 7, ect. Then change directions turning 180 degrees away from him to the left and to the right. Most dogs learn to respect the leash quickly. Practice multiple short sessions. Dogs learn best through repetition, not duration.





# 7

## THE 3 D's: Distraction, Duration, & Distance

**Start first with no D's and when you see consistency, train each separately.**

Dogs are very smart, but they don't generalize behavior well. In order for a behavior to be considered proofed, they need to be able to demonstrate it under 3 pieces of criteria: distractions, duration, and distance. Start first with low levels and as you're seeing reliability, increase your criteria. Take sit for example. If your dog can sit under the distraction of a ball rolling by (a distraction), for a duration of set time (until you release them with a release cue like "free!") say, 10-30 seconds, and at a distance away from you (usually behavior breaks down outside the range of the leash because the dog hasn't learned that it's obedience behaviors still mean the same thing at a distance). Through successive approximations, you can integrate the 3 D's and proof any obedience behavior!





# Thanks For Taking Time To Read These Tips.

I hope you found them useful. If you would like me to train your dog and you live in the Austin, Texas area click the button below or give me a call...

[SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION](#)

or

**Call 1- 512-710-8482**

(M-F, 9am-6pm, CST)