

## Training is about Relationship Building

Training strengthens the bond between a dog and his owner. It builds communication, understanding, mutual respect, and subtly but effectively demonstrates that you're in charge. If your dog doesn't respect you, you may both be in big trouble, particularly if he's a bit rowdy or assertive by nature. All relationships require you to work at it--that includes the one you are creating with your dog. If you have a strong relationship, your dog is more likely to be responsive to you in a variety of situations--he will think you are the best thing since sliced bread!

When your dog obeys the simple request of 'come'™ and 'sit,' he is showing compliance to you. It is NOT necessary to establish yourself as top dog or leader of the pack by using extreme measures such as the so-called alpha rollover. You CAN teach your dog his subordinate role (to defer to you) by training obedience, manners, and/or tricks. Not to mention that this way is more fun for the human! Remember, having a dog in your life is about laughing and enjoying the moments.