

Spring Is In The Air

With the nicer weather around the corner, getting back outside with your dogs can be lots of fun. There can also be some pretty intense moments too.

Outside is distraction central. There are other dogs to bark and lunge at, cats that pop out of nowhere, bikes or skateboards to chase and a plethora of other distractions that catch the dogs attention before they catch ours.

All of these distractions can be stressful, embarrassing and upsetting to have to endure while you are out trying to enjoy a walk. With a little preparation and training you can avoid most of these situations.

Teaching your dog a few simple commands could save you embarrassment and upset. Look, Sit, Heel and Come are some of the solid commands that if used correctly during a walk, will make it a lot more enjoyable.

Used in the proper order these commands are life savers. It requires us to pay attention to our surroundings so we see the possible distraction first. You know your dog best and can figure out what bothers them the most.

Once you see the problem, stop and have the dog sit beside you, give them the command to look at you and then praise them. Turning to walk away from the problem give the command to come with you. As you leave the situation have the dog in the heel position. Keeping them close to you is the best way to have the dog continue to focus on you.

Some people may think this is situation avoidance but it's actually setting the dog up for success if you haven't got any rewards.

When you do have rewards with you, there is always time to train getting closer to the problem situation. Training sessions are different than walking for enjoyment.