

## **'Do No Harm' Statement**

DogHaven supports a policy of 'do no harm'. If you feel that the exercises suggested by the trainer will cause harm, stress, reactivity or any other issue, stop the exercise immediately. Talk with the trainer to express your concern and work toward a resolution.

In the group class environment, the trainer has only been with your dog for a very short time. It is impossible for the trainer to understand the dog's personality, temperament, home environment and past experiences that affect your dog's ability to respond to training exercises in that short of a time. It is up to you, the dog owner, to advocate for your dog and decide whether the training exercise is appropriate for him, whether it will cause stress, frustration, reactivity, aggression, panic or any other inappropriate response.

In private training, the trainer has more time to get to know your dog through observation and conversation with the dog owner, but even with this extra insight, dogs will sometimes be on their best behavior during the training session causing the evaluation to become skewed. It is the dog owner's responsibility to recognize this and communicate to the trainer what he feels is inappropriate for the dog and the situation at hand.

There is no one training method that works for all dogs equally. If the initial training method isn't appropriate or doesn't elicit the correct response from the dog, the training can be modified taking into account the dog's initial response, his age, temperament, environment and past history to form a plan that will work for the dog.

Always protect your dog and do no harm.