



SAN TAN CANINE TRAINING NEWSLETTER

NATHAN BRAATEN • 602.320.2890 • By Appointment



Interacting With Your Pet

No matter the breed, dogs provide multiple ways in which we can interact with them. Here are just a few:

OBEDIENCE TRAINING

The goal of obedience training is not only to have a well-mannered pet, but to give you an opportunity to bond with your pet and spend more time together. Many dogs actually relish the time they spend in obedience training and are so happy when praised for obeying a command. Some of them literally jump for joy.

AGILITY TRAINING

Agility training is a newer way of working with dogs, and helping them learn new commands. In agility, dogs are asked to climb stairs and ramps, go through tunnels and literally jump through hoops. These types of exercises can be more difficult for a dog to learn because they are less like the activities a dog would normally perform. This activity really helps build trust between the owner and the dog. The dog must believe the owner is not requesting him to do anything that would hurt him.

DISC HANDLING COMPETITIONS

You may have seen dogs and owners playing Frisbee. There are actually disc handling competitions in which the dogs are given a certain amount of time to make running catches. The owner and dog are also judged on a throw and catch routine in which they can demonstrate their prowess. As you can imagine, this takes excellent timing and hours of practice to do well. All the while the owner and dog are having fun and growing closer together.

CONFORMATION & 4-H SHOWS

Cats, dogs, horses, rabbits, cattle, sheep, and other animals can be shown in conformation competitions. These can vary all the way from a dog in the premier Westminster Dog Show, to a sheep in the local 4-H competition at the county fair. Many animal owners spend hours teaching the animals

(and themselves) the proper way to show off the animal's best qualities. In 4-H shows, the youth are often asked questions about feeding and husbandry, so as they prepare, they learn more about how to care for their animals.

DOG SLEDDING AND SKIJORING

Some dogs love winter, and enjoy cold weather activities like pulling sleds through the snow. Skijoring is rather a new sport in America. This involves placing the dog in a harness and having the dog pull you while you are on skis. You better have taught your dog 'whoa' before you start this sport.

CANINE FREESTYLE

According to the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc., canine freestyle 'is a choreographed performance with music, demonstrating the training and joyful relationship of a dog and handler team. Every movement is accomplished through the subtle use of verbal cues and body language. The emphasis is always on the dog, with the handler accompanying the dog in a harmonious performance.'

FIELD WORK

Retrievers and spaniels are dogs bred for field work. To them it is not work, but an enjoyable time. This type of activity requires excellent verbal and nonverbal communication between the owner and the dog. It takes a lot of time together to make a good team.

GENERAL RECREATION AND PLAY

Sometimes, the best activities are just a walk through the woods, playing together with a favorite toy, or having a good grooming session. Simple pleasures are often the best.

**GIFT CERTIFICATES
AVAILABLE, CREDIT CARDS
ACCEPTED**



**PROFESSIONAL &
EXPERIENCED
LICENSED & INSURED**

Resource: Pet/Education.com

