



## **Implementing Structure**

Speaks to creating 'rules' and 'boundaries' for your dog upon their arrival home.

For every stimuli, environment, and circumstance you expose your dog to, you should have some sort of idea and expectation of behaviour from your dog.

This does not mean expecting your dog to 'know what you want' in each circumstance, but rather than *you* know what you want of your dog, therefore you will provide the structure and direction for each circumstance so that eventually your dog will respond or act in that way eventually.

Some examples of boundaries in the home;

### **The Door**

Your expectation is for your dog to greet your guest politely at the door.

Your dog's current behaviour; jumping up on people as they enter.

Teaching your dog the 'rule' that he is not allowed to greet your guest until he is seated; creating structure. The expectation is now; your dog sits when someone enters (a leash will help to reinforce this), your guest does not greet your dog unless he is seated.

Eventually, your dog will offer a SIT in order to greet your guest faster.

You have now created an expectation of your dog's door greeting behaviour by providing structure and rules in the form of training.

### **The Couch**

Your expectation is that your dog does not jump up on the furniture, instead she goes to her own bed.

Your dog's current behaviour; inviting themselves up on the couch.

Teaching your dog the 'rule' that she has her own bed to lay on and therefore not allowed on the couch, is creating structure.

The expectation is now; your dog goes to her BED anytime she looks to get comfy (a leash will help reinforce this), she gets lots of praise each time she chooses her BED over the couch.

Eventually, your dog will choose her bed *over* the couch as it will be more reinforcing to her to receive your praise on her bed, rather than being directed OFF the couch.

You have now created an expectation of your dog's resting behaviour by providing structure and rules in the form of training.

### **Support:**

Our Behaviour Support Team can help to provide resources and tips if you experience concerns in the home environment. With your adoption the GTHS will provide an over the phone consultation in order to provide you with tips and resources to set your new dog up for success. In all cases of dog adoptions, the GTHS recommends hiring a professional dog training or behavioural consultant

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## **Georgian Triangle Humane Society**

549 Tenth Line, Collingwood ON, L9Y 0W1 705-445-5204 | info@gths.ca | www.gths.ca Registration Number 86800 4185 RR0001



to ensure your relationship with your new dog starts off on the right paw! A list of local trainers is enclosed in your adoption package.

Our Behaviour Support Team can be reached at [behaviour@gths.ca](mailto:behaviour@gths.ca)

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