

Dog Training Articles
By Beth Bradley

HOUSE LEASH

I firmly believe no dog should ever be off the leash (indoors and outdoors) until it is 1 year old (including potty time) or proven it will almost never disobey. Puppies (until 1 yr. old) are constantly testing their owners and if proven that maybe they can get away with it they will try and disobey. The leash is your way of controlling your dog's behavior, take it off and you lose control (its like driving without a steering wheel). This is called a house leash and will make your dog understand he can never disobey. Off leash problems occur when owners test their dogs to see if they will listen. While still a pup the owner will tell the dog to come, the dog will look at them like they are crazy and understand that when he is off the leash there is no correction and their master cannot control the dog's behavior.

Basic common sense, if the dog's is not responding perfectly on leash what makes you think he will respond at all off leash? If you're still correcting for pulling, or for no sit in the heel position what makes you think he is going to respond at all off leash?

So folks, don't rush the off leash training. Keep that leash on indoors and outdoors (only when you can supervise so he doesn't get caught on something) and only start off leash work when your dog is working consistently (no correction) on leash. I'm not making this up guys. I've proven it, I live it. Take your dog off the leash too early and you will make off leash training impossible. Just pay your dues and put in the time.