

Personal Protection Training

Most people don't understand the difference between having an aggressive dog that is reacting on his own judgment and out of control or a dog that is being raised as a personal protection dog.

With any type of aggression, your dog must think you are taking control of the situation and he is your 'back up'. A dog that is aggressive and will react on his own must be under a command and corrected for breaking that command but not for being aggressive toward a stranger.

Many people who buy a dog for protection think they can never correct their dog for barking or growling or raising its' fur to a stranger. What good is a personal protection dog that you cannot control and must keep away from strangers? What good is a personal protection/aggressive dog that you cannot take out in public or walk in your neighborhood for fear of 'meeting' someone on the street and not being able to control him?

A stranger may seem friendly at first, and once he gains your confidence and you put your dog away, may become 'not so friendly'. Also, if your dog is aggressive by nature or if you have done personal protection with your dog, you don't want him to 'meet' everyone nor have strangers touch him. He is not a 'greeter' he shouldn't think he should trust people who are not permanent fixtures in your life. By keeping him under a command, he is learning to ignore the stranger but keep a watchful eye on the person and you should tell the person, when asked, that your dog IS NOT friendly. I would never allow a personal protection dog, or an aggressive dog, to meet anyone that was not living in my house; they may get hurt or your dog may stop believing you have control of situations.

If you follow my advice, when you need him, your dog is right there at your side and if the person has 'bad intentions' he will not attempt anything while the dog is near you. He is your 'body guard' and should act the way a human bodyguard would, stay in the background and watch.

Also, many dogs will not get aggressive, even if trained, with someone whom YOU have allowed in their life or allowed to have control of your dog (i.e. reprimand him, walk him, play with him). The relationship is established between the two and your dog will not understand that this person is no longer welcome.

This is how I recommend you handle your personal protection or aggressive dog if your dog is in your yard and a worker is there to speak with you or you are walking him down the street and you meet a stranger. Your dog is barking or reacts to the

stranger: (1) praise your dog (2) call him to your side and (3) place him in a sit/stay at your side. While you speak to the person, your dog should be in a sit/stay at your side and remain there until released. He should not bark or growl, a sit/stay is just that, no barking or growling. If your dog barks, growls or breaks the command, he should be corrected and then re-commanded to Sit/Stay, this way he is being corrected for breaking a Sit/stay and not being defensive. If your dog does not have the training to be that close to the person, place him in either a sit or down about 4 feet behind you and keep yourself in between your dog and the person but keep an eye on your dog.

If you follow my advice your dog will (1) understand he must wait for your judgment or an aggressive move on behalf of the stranger, (2) understand that he is not being corrected for being aggressive but rather being corrected for breaking your command when there is no aggressive move on behalf of the stranger and (3) be able to be out in public and around strangers and be your bodyguard. This will make it very clear to your dog how you want him to behave and when there is no question in his mind, or inconsistency on your part, your dog will not only be well mannered but there for you if you need him.