

Unleashed Potential Canine Teaching and Behavior
Pam Booras, Teacher, Behavior Consultant
1768 N 2759th Rd
Ottawa, IL 61350
815.433.5433
unleashed_potential@yahoo.com
unleashed-potential-dogs.com

Bonding

The definition of bonding is:

The formation of a close relationship (as between a mother and a child or between a person and an animal) especially through frequent or constant association.

As we look at bonding from the perspective of one who fosters dogs, we realize, to do the job we hope to do, we must form a bond between us and our foster dog.

So what does it take to form a bond?

First and foremost, I believe it takes patience on our part as the foster raiser or the foster family. Patience is the ability to remain calm and not become annoyed when waiting for a long time or when dealing with difficult problems or difficult people (dogs).

To patiently work with our fosters through behavior concerns or training skills is what will make them adoptable to their forever homes. What we have to give to these dogs that come to us for our care, is the beginning of a new life. We need to help move them toward feeling comfortable in all situations that they might encounter in their future of freedom.

Those of you that foster know that every dog is different, maybe requiring a different set of skills than the last. They are all unique and come with varying degrees of trust. Trust is what must be developed in order to help the foster feel safe within their foster home environment and brave in their big new world.

Everything we can introduce our fosters to in a positive way is adding to their ability to draw from things that are positive. We need to work on positive experiences on a level the particular foster that is in our care can easily adjust to.

A few tips to help your foster adjust to life on the other side
(Love Has No Age Limit, Patricia McConnell, Karen B. London, 2011)

Commit Time For At Least the First Few Days.

Don't Scare Your dog!

Give Your Dog Some Space.

See the Dog, Not the Story

Learn to "Read Your Dog."

See the Dog, Not the Story is perhaps one that we should look at as fosters. Most of our fosters come from commercial kennels and have led an unhappy existence up until their release. It doesn't benefit them for us to think of their past and pity them. We need to move on from there and take it to present time and work toward a wonderful future.

Just Remember, they are all so different!

Happy Teaching!

Woof!

Pam