

DOG SENSORY *Input & Output* DIAGRAM

SENSORY STIMULI



Sights



Sounds



Scents



Surfaces

(aka vibrational)



BEHAVIORAL OUTPUT



Great



Good



Neither good or bad



Not so good



Bad



"Pants on Fire" bad

The Bottom Line

Behavior can be active (i.e. movement) or inactive (i.e. lying down or sitting still). Observe behavior in context of environment and select your choice. Remember what the dog's choice is always going to be. .



HOW IT WORKS

The Six Pillars of Dog Training Wisdom takes a positive and proactive approach to fixing or preventing "problems" with behavior. The hardest thing to teach your dog to do is absolutely nothing no matter what is going on. Which is harder to do than you think. Many people instinctively find that when their dog exhibits what they consider to be negative behaviors, the best thing to do is just avoid those problems that triggered the behavior in the first place. But the reality is that dogs do not see their behavior as anything other than "good" at any one point in time. Dogs live in the moment. It is the subjective and individual dog owners' opinion - or the opinions of others in proximity to the owner on occasion - that defines whether a certain behavior is "good" or "bad." If your tendency is to avoid conflict, you might begin creating a smaller and smaller universe for your dog who then might show more problematic behavior because of such a limited world view and no way to know what to do. This descent into unmanageable is done without intent but can often cause a dog to lose his home for nothing less than a gaping communication gap.

This chart is intended to help you navigate in training your own companion or working dog. If you are consistently choosing the last two arrows, try this experiment. Ask yourself which arrow you would select if you saw someone else with a dog who exhibited some "negative" behavior (i.e. barking in public, jumping up on someone, pulling on a leash, etc.). How would you rate them?



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