



POSSIBLE CAUSES FOR YOUR DOG MAKING MISTAKES

One very important aspect of training your dog is to recognize why your dog is making mistakes.
Once you understand why your dog made a mistake, it makes it much easier to fix the mistake.

1. **There are too many distractions** – When you are training your dog, you will want to start training in a very undistracted area and then once they are 90% efficient with no distractions you can then up the distractions slowly.
2. **Your dog may not be motivated** - For your dog to perform a command there must be something in it for him of equal or greater value. You may need to up the value of your treat to get a better result and/or not allow him to get “FREE TREATS”. Also be sure to train before meals so they are eager to earn your treats.
3. **Your dog truly may not understand what you are asking of him** - This is typically due to your pup not having had enough experience being guided and prompted into the behavior with a food lure. Remember we are conditioning their mind with food until the command becomes a habit.
4. **You are not giving your dog clear signals** - Your dog speaks through body signals. Because of this, it is very important to keep you hand and body signals consistent with what you have taught her. A slight change in your hand position can mean something completely different to your dog than what you think you are communicating.
5. **The exercise is too difficult for the dog** – You may need to make the exercise you are working on easy enough for your dog to be successful the majority of the time, otherwise she may become disinterested and/or frustrated.

For successful training....

1. Make sure you train your dog in the beginning without major distractions so your dog can focus and learn.
2. You will want to make sure you have a reward in the form of a treat, toy, or activity that will motivate your dog to work.
3. Once that is set into place you need to make sure that you are communicating with your voice and hand signals clearly and consistently.
4. Work the exercises at an easy level until your dog is 90% successful, then increase the difficulty by adding a single or multiple variable of distance, duration, or distractions.
5. If your dog is not succeeding at a certain level of training, even though they have proven they can do it in the past, set them up for success by making it a tad bit easier and work up from there.