

What Is Value?

Dogs are very good at showing you what they value. Their choices are based on what is valuable to them. What they like most is what they choose. So as you get to know your puppy over the next few months, you will learn what is valuable to your dog. Use this knowledge to your advantage.

What you value and what your puppy values are very different. The desire for a well-mannered dog means that you are training out many behaviors that are natural to your dog: jumping and mouthing, to name the big ones. So, to have your dog like the behaviors you like, you need to put value in them. And it would be best if you "pay" well; the better you pay, the more value you build. If your dog knows she can do a better job at rewarding herself, why listen to you? Don't be stingy with your rewards. You only have so many ways and opportunities to reinforce what you want, so use everything you can wisely.

Where to Start Putting Value

As you go through each day with your puppy, be aware of what you want from your puppy in any given situation. Place value in the things that are important to you, so they become important to your puppy. This is real-life training, and training in the moment, so your dog learns what her "job" is during certain events of the day. It is not a separate training session. Instead, utilize the opportunities as they arise and reward your dog for all the little decisions that are the right ones. It can be simple, like four paws on the floor (standing), sitting, lying down, or looking at you. It can be more complex, like

Dogs make hundreds of decisions throughout the day based on **VALUE**. You use rewards to increase the value of cued behavior. You need to also do this with choices your dog makes - behaviors you don't cue.

Decide Where You Want to Place Value:

- ✓ basic manners
- ✓ concepts for good behavior to handle the world
 - ✓ good behavior in various events
 - ✓ play with you
 - ✓ self-control
 - ✓ calmness
 - ✓ ability to be alone and not cry
 - ✓ potty training
 - ✓ walking nice on leash
 - ✓ good choices

orienting to you, returning to you, or waiting inside or outside an area. Being proactive in your training prevents problems down the road. It also gives you a strong foundation to fall back on when challenges arise. Better four paws on the floor for food (from you) in the kitchen than two paws on the counter for food! Don't wait for things to be a problem. Reinforce proper behaviors right from the start, so they become the desired choices and have value, so your dog doesn't have to find other ways to get rewards.

Capture moments in time and reward your puppy for good choices so that it will happen again and again, until it is automatic. Reward your dog with things your dog loves. Use food, use praise, use

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affection, toys, and play to your advantage. You can even stack your rewards and use multiple ones. It all depends on what is important to you and how important you want it to be to your dog.

How to Use the Value

Your puppy naturally likes things and loves things. Food is a necessity, but it also can smell and taste good. In the beginning of training, you start with food because it is easy to work with, and your puppy has to eat.

Over the first few weeks, you are building food drive and teaching your puppy to work for the food. It is no longer always free (in a bowl) and available when the puppy desires it. Use your food wisely. Use it in your training; in your games and cues. Use it for any moment in the day your puppy makes the right decisions. Put food in treat toys for the crate and ex-pen to build value in those areas, teach self-soothing and self-entertaining skills, and to build value in calmness.

How much your puppy values something contributes to your puppy's motivation, the desire to have it, and work for it. Motivation is essential for training. Drive and desire help your puppy choose certain things over others, putting the energy into doing what it takes to get what they want. This is how you use positive reinforcement training works. Rewards, including the anticipation of a reward, drives your dog to do what you want, so she gets what she wants.

As you go through each day with your puppy, you will also learn other things besides food that your puppy likes and loves. Make a big part of that play with you. Use specific toys, as shown in your Fetch Fun and Toy Switching games, and suggested in your Chew, Play, and Training Toys handout. Put training toys away when done. Please don't leave them out to get chewed on and destroyed or to lie dead on the floor and become boring. A big part of the value of these toys is you! Keep it that way.

The simplest place to start is with food.
You only have so much food you should give your dog per day.
There are so many things you need to put value in.
Don't waste it all in a bowl!

No Free Lunch: The policy that your dog needs to earn what he wants and needs in life. Things can be earned through a simple behavior or a more complex chain of behaviors. This is the beginning of the **Premack Principle** and how you teach your dog the importance of listening to you and following your lead.

You will be building on these games in future training and learn how powerful they can be when paired with the Premack games.

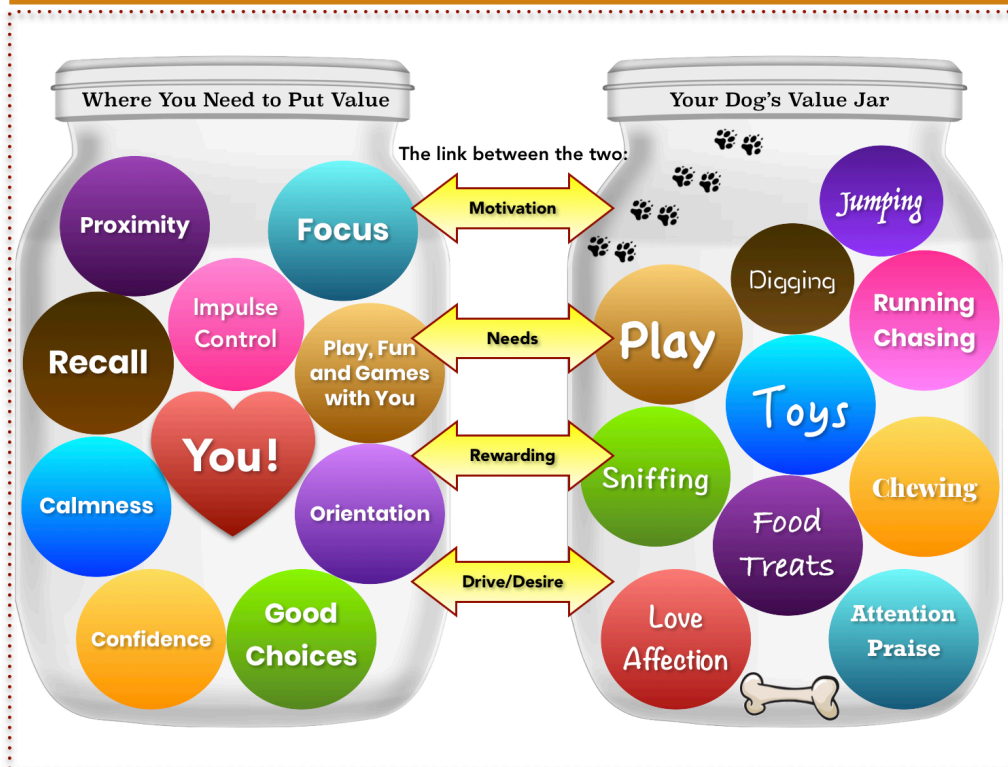
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WHERE TO PUT VALUE

There are things your dog naturally loves to do because he is a dog. There are also things you want your dog to do because you want a well-mannered dog.

What you value and what your dog values can be very different!

Dogs show you what they value because they will choose it!



Use the things your dog wants, to put value in the behaviors you want. The more value you put into the behaviors you want, the more your dog will begin to choose them over other things.

Live in each moment with your dog. Notice the quiet, good behavior and reward it. Dogs don't work for free, nor should they get the things they want for free. So pay well and build a ton of value in the behaviors you want from your dog now. With value, the things you want will become your dog's default choices in the future.

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