

Training the Jump and the Wall

Here is how I train the jump, again every dog is different, what works for one may not necessarily work for another. In training dogs, you should be open to new ideas.

Dogs will jump around is not the same as teaching them to jump an obstacle. An obstacle requires thought, on your part and follow through from the dog.

As always start with little and built up, leave the dog wanting more.

Start when the dog is about 2 years old, why? Bones need to set, in young dogs it takes about 2 years, the larger the breed the longer it takes.

Start your jump at one foot using a retractable leash go with the dog to the jump and say "jump" once he jumps mark the success with good or yes and give a soft tasty treat. Repeat the jump on the way back and mark the success with good or yes and give a treat. Do this every other day, for about a month before increasing the height. Increase the height of the jump slowly, about one foot a month until you get to the schutzhund height.

Repeat this step about 6 times and then play with your dog. Some studies show that playing after training helps the dog remember the lesson learned.

There is no need to jump the height requirement all the time, all you need is muscle memory so jump the required height once learned, about once or twice a month and then once or twice only.

Once the dog has learned the jump introduce the dumbbell. Remember that every time you raise the jump bar you have to jump a few times before introducing the dumbbell again.

The above idea can also be used to teach the wall, the only change is the retractable leash to a 15 foot leash and run along with the dog as he goes up and down the wall. Bring the wall down as far as you can, **DO NOT LET THE DOG JUMP DOWN**, have a treat ready to give to the dog once he gets to the other side. This will teach the dog to climb up and down the wall and avoid injuries. (use a bowl with some treats and the dog will get the idea).

Start the wall as low as you can with a 15 foot leash go with the dog to the wall and say "wall" once he goes over the wall mark the success with good or yes and give a soft tasty treat.

Repeat the wall on the way back and mark the success with good or yes and give a treat. Do

this every other day, for about a month before increasing the height. Increase the height of the wall slowly, about one foot a month until you get to the schutzhund height.

Repeat this step about 6 times and then play with your dog. Some studies show that playing after training helps the dog remember the lesson learned.

There is no need to climb the wall height requirement all the time, all you need is muscle memory so climb the required height once learned, about once or twice a month and then once or twice only. Then you can leave it half way up to except for those seldom times you raise it to full height.

Once the dog has learned the wall, introduce the dumbbell. Remember that every time you raise the wall you have to have the dog climb it a few times before introducing the dumbbell again.