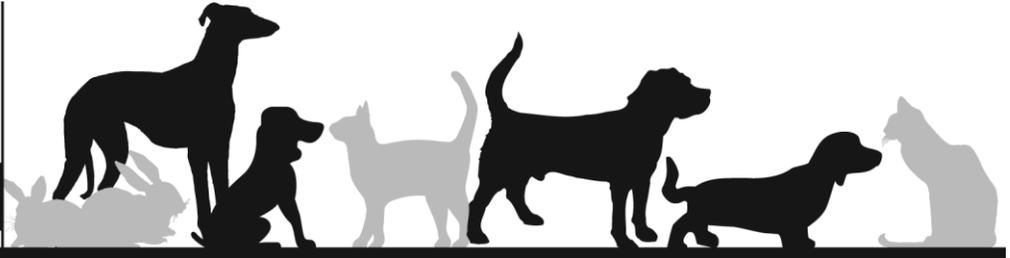




DOGS



Who's a Good Dog?

There are lots ways to define "good dog" or even "well-trained." The answer for a service dog would be different than for a herding dog or a working police dog--or a family pet.

To make your dog into a great companion for your family, you'll need to give them some simple boundaries and skills. Dogs don't come with this knowledge, so take the time to teach your dog positively and consistently, and your reward will be a member of the family you can enjoy and be proud of.

A well-trained family dog:

- ◆ Knows the rules of the house and can spend plenty of time inside with the family.
- ◆ Has learned which things are theirs, and which are off-limits.
- ◆ Complies with simple requests to pay attention, sit, and drop and disengage from objects.
- ◆ Allows you to handle any part of their body that needs it, whether for routine care or to check for or treat injury or illness. Accepts handling from veterinarian, groomers, friends, and friendly strangers.
- ◆ Walks politely on leash so that walks are enjoyable for you both.
- ◆ Comes to you when you call.
- ◆ Isn't rude, pushy, or demanding of your attention, and respects your personal space.
- ◆ Is a welcome visitor to friends and family -- greets people politely and settles in a designated spot when asked to do so.

If your dog is missing some or all of these skills, or if your dog is brand-new to your household, you can learn how to teach your dog in a positive obedience class (see classes offered by the Sacramento SPCA at www.sspca.org) or at home.

For more information on behavior and training for dogs and cats, please visit our web site at www.sspca.org/pet-carebehavior/.