

ROWDY

HOUND

To build community

A photograph of a man with sunglasses and a jacket riding a motorcycle. A dog is sitting on the back seat, wearing goggles. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

MOTORCYCLE DOG TRAINING



WELCOME!

Howdy, and welcome to the adventure that is the Rowdy Hound lifestyle.

This packet is a carefully crafted manual intended to keep you and your dog safe as you ride life's highways together. It will include foundational dog training and motorcycle-specific-in knowledge and skills to give you the greatest success with your dog.

Every dog is different, and not every dog will enjoy the ride. However, in my professional experience, dogs naturally take to motorcycle riding, as I and thousands of others have found. It is truly a joy that I hope to share with you.

Humbly,

George Kittridge the Dog Trainer
Founder and CEO
Rowdy Hound



TABLE OF **CONTENTS**

03

The Foundation of a Balanced Dog

04

Leadership Program

05

Building a Language: +1, 0, -1

07

Principles of Training

Gear List - Curriculum Outline

17

Puppy Body Language

18

**Layered Stress Model and
Preventing Aggression**

20

The Pyramid of Dog Training

THE FOUNDATION OF A BALANCED DOG



LEADERSHIP

Be someone worth following. Provide the good stuff.

LIFESTYLE

Physical, mental, social, energy & fulfillment

TRAINING

Language (+1, 0, -1)
(Yes, 0, No)

SOCIALIZATION

Dogs, People,
Motorcycles, and Gear

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Leadership is about controlling +1

NOTHING IN LIFE IS FREE

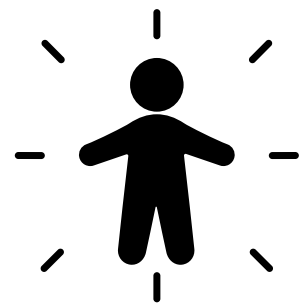
The most important things are...



FOOD



AFFECTION



FREEDOM (SPACE)

BUILDING A LANGUAGE: +1, 0, -1

(+1) POSITIVE MOTIVATION CONTROL

HOW TO TRAIN

1. Place the dog's daily ration into a treat pouch that you keep handy any time you are home with the dog—specifically around your motorcycle.
2. As you go about your lesson, look for opportunities to reward your dog for good, desired, trained, or pleasant behaviors. This will reinforce the behaviors and put you in a position of leadership as the resource provider.
3. If your dog does not want to work for food, do not force them. Let them be hungry.
4. If at the end of the lesson, the dog has food leftover, put it in a treat, toy, or bowl (e.g. HUNGER vs. motivation graph)

(0) FAILURE/NON-EFFECT

This is most easily done with the LEASH. This is how we stop the dog from doing what we don't like. Just interrupt and give them something better to do.

90% of Problem behaviors in dogs under 9 months could be resolved by consistently using a crate or leash to make undesired behaviors ineffective.

"Uh-uh" is the command most commonly used. Use it after your dog is starting to stray from the correct command and do not move, praise or treat until the dog is on the correct behavior again.

This, along with +1, will take up 80% of your training.

Verbal → Spatial → Contact

(-1) NEGATIVE ONE

This element of training is not relevant to riding.

THE PRINCIPLES OF TRAINING

MARKING

There are several key approaches to teaching your dog to ride a motorcycle. They consist of:

Marking: Identifying to the dog that a reward has been earned. A clicker or word such as “yes” or “good” works best.

Habituation: Training a dog to be comfortable with a stimulus before they have a negative association.

Desensitization: Overcoming a dog’s sensitivity, fear, or anxiety around a sensitivity.

Counter Conditioning: Associating negative or neutral stimulus with something positive such as a doctor with the lollipop.

3Ds: THE PRIME FACTORS

DURATION: Length of time exposed to stress

DISTANCE: The proximity of the stressor

DISTRACTION: The intensity of the stressor

REWARD LEVELS

EASY: Kibble

MEDIUM: Training Treats

HARD: String cheese or hot dogs

We do this to keep our dog's attention and reinforce the more crazy and difficult areas alongside proper techniques. **DO NOT GIVE THE HIGHER VALUE TREATS IN THE LOWER VALUE AREAS.** Once you leave the public area or event, no more string cheese. This makes sure you do not devalue those high value treats.

Finally, whenever learning or practicing new tricks, increase one of the Ds of dog training.

Distance, Duration, and Distraction.

Though your dog may know the trick, you're expanding the trick by making sure your dog can sit for 10 seconds, can sit from 3 feet away or can sit in the middle of a shopping center. Increase one at a time and go slowly. By focusing on one, you can make a more well-rounded dog.

A BASIC TRAINING UNDERSTANDING

Our goal is to make the dog have a positive association with the sounds, sensations, and processes of riding in the Rowdy Hound.

To do so, we reward the dog in and around the stressors (motorcycle engine firing up, loading into the Rowdy Hound, sensations of riding, etc). Rewards can include food, affection, freedom, and fun. For our purposes, freedom and food are your best rewards.

For the greatest training effects, take two weeks to hand feed your dog its meals exclusively through Rowdy Hound training. This will teach your dog to associate motorcycle riding with its meal times, which is the most inherently powerful motivator for dogs.

High value rewards can also be used throughout the training process. I recommend string cheese as it is practical and very rewarding for the dog.

If at any point in the training process your dog is refusing food, it is an indicator your dog is stressed beyond their ability to accept and positively associate the stressors of motorcycle riding.

TRAINING PROGRAM

1. **Desensitization**
2. **Gear**
3. **Stimuli**
4. **Sensations**

TRAINING PROGRAM

1. **Desensitization**
2. **Gear**
3. **Stimuli**
4. **Sensations**

To begin desensitization, I recommend starting with gear as it is the easiest and will build the humans skill and dogs confidence simultaneously.

A harness, ear muffs, and goggles are the primary gear for your riding dog.

- Present the gear on the floor 1-3 feet from the dog. Begin marking and rewarding the dog for even looking in the direction of the piece of gear your working with
- Progressively raise the criteria for the reward as your dog becomes more confident or accepting of the gear. Provide frequent breaks from your dog to get the most out of training. Leave them wanting more
- In the beginning have training sessions be no more than 5 minutes at a time, and work your way up to 20 minutes at a time over 2 weeks. And, then, up to an hour+ after 6-8 weeks
- Multiple small sessions on a daily basis is the best training approach

SAMPLE PROGRESSIONS

1. GEAR

Harness - Lesson 1 Session 1:

- Lay harness on floor. Mark and reward dog 5-10 times for engagement
- Pick up harness and reward dog for engagement at distance intervals of 2 feet down to 2 inches

Lesson 1 Session 2:

- Lay harness on floor. Mark and reward dog 5-10 times for engagement
- Pick up harness and reward dog for engagement at distance intervals of 2 feet down to 2 inches
- Briefly touch dog with harness and mark/reward several times
- Put harness on dog for 1-3 seconds, mark/reward and remove. Repeat 3-5 times

Lesson 2 Session 1 & 2:

- Pick up harness and reward dog for engagement at distance intervals of 2 feet down to 2 inches
- Briefly touch dog with harness and mark/reward several times
- Put harness on dog for 1-3 seconds, mark/reward and remove. Repeat 3-5 times
- Introduce longer periods of wearing the harness up to 30 seconds at a time. Practice this any time throughout the lesson working up to intervals of 5-30 minutes as your dog gains comfort

SAMPLE PROGRESSIONS

Lessons 3-7:

- Put harness on dog for longer periods up to 30 seconds at a time. Practice this any time throughout the lesson working up to intervals of 5-30 minutes as your dog gains comfort

Lessons 8-14

- Have dog wear harness for 5-60 minutes at a time while rewarding frequently
- Begin to apply pressure to the harness while rewarding the dog
- Begin to use the harness to lift the hoist or assist the dog onto objects including motorcycle while continuing to reward for effort and success

Same procedure for Ear Muffs and Doggles with considerations

This gear is more distressing to the dog so the training process may go slower. Recommended high value rewards, shorter sessions, easier criteria, and more patience.

Giving the dog a cue for gear going on such as “lets get dressed” is a great way to give your dog agency and the ability to express enthusiasm or hesitation which you can interpret and train accordingly

Training your dog on a place cot or happy place can assist the process tremendously. **The Order of operations should be:**

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Harness | Harness > EarMuffs |
| 2. Ear Muffs | Harness > Doggles |
| 3. Doggles | Harness > EarMuffs, Doggles |

SAMPLE PROGRESSIONS

2. SOUND

- Remember the 3Ds and start with the lowest Ds possible. Ease the process by practice outside, at a distance, or with the earmuffs on to aide your dog
- With your dog at a distance of 10-25 feet, briefly start your motorcycle and shut off after 1-3 seconds. Mark and reward your dog. Repeat several times. A second handler can be very helpful at this stage
- Begin to leave the engine running for longer intervals of 5-30 seconds, repeating short sessions of 5-10 minutes for 2-3 times per lesson for as long as needed for your dog to show no signs of distress
- Once your dog is comfortable with duration, begin to introduce distance. Walk yourself towards and away from the motorcycle only going just past the point where your dog is comfortable and working with them there briefly before allowing them to retreat
- Progressively work the dog closer and closer to the motorcycle until they are comfortable with the bike's noises, marking and rewarding for effort and success
- If your dog is struggling, you can repeat this process with the motorcycle off
- Dogs thrive on predictability. Make a big show of indicating to your dogs that you are in control of the loud noise and that the motorcycle is predictable.

SAMPLE PROGRESSIONS

3. SENSATIONS

- The first sensation is loading onto the motorcycle. Whether you have received your Rowdy Hound unit or not, you can practice this
- The key is stability and to not let your dog have a bad experience in the first place
- Set your dog up for success assisting them as much as necessary to load onto the seat or into the kennel. For athletic dogs, this may be just holding the dog open, for other dogs you might fully lift and place them where you want them
- Regardless, give them a cue. I use “One, Two, Three, Hup” and give Piglet a little lift using the back strap of her harness to guide her into the kennel, where she can turn around and settle herself before I clip her in
- Practice loading until you and your dog are confident with this step. This can take anywhere between 2 lessons to 2 weeks. Remember to get little wins and practice short sessions frequently
- Once loading is going smoothly, I will introduce swaying
- Leave the kickstand down and straighten the bike out. Return bike to stand and mark and reward your dog

SAMPLE PROGRESSIONS

- Repeat this while introducing progressively more swaying and minor motions such as a turning of the wheel
- As your dog gains confidence you can do longer sessions
- At this time, we introduce putting on the doggles and/or earmuffs while the dog is in the Rowdy Hound
- Combine the sound desensitization protocol while the dog is in the kennel to get the used to the feeling of the engine firing underneath them.
- Some dogs do better at this stage without doggles on, which also allows you to read their expression better.
- Begin to combine all stimuli as your dog is comfortable. When your dog will sit in its Rowdy Hound happily accepting food with the engine running and all its gear on, you know it's time to move.

RIDING WITH YOUR DOG

START SMALL. The first ride might literally be a 10 foot stretch. There will a lots of little rides to start with. Up and down the driveway or street is a fine ride to start. Reward frequently.

Recommended progression:

For the first week, keep it under 20mph and add 10 mph/week as your dog gets comfortable.

Taking 2 months to get up to highway speeds is worth it for a dog that is stable, confident, and secure.

Carry a treat pouch or rewards when you ride.

Additional weight on the rear tire increases traction—turning should be slow and progressive. The physics are similar to that of passenger riding

The more comfortable your dog is, the less they will shuffle around and the more safe and stable your ride. Make sure your dog enjoys the process.

**The work you do today,
you will see tomorrow.**

DOG BODY LANGUAGE

Although puppies may not be able to express what they want through written language, they do speak a language that we can understand! Body Language! When communicating with your puppy or watching your puppy, it is important to watch your puppy's body language to understand how your puppy feels in any given situation.

When looking at a puppy, don't focus so much on the tail. Focus on the...

Mouth, Ears, Eyes and Body Posture.

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



© 2011 Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net *lili*

LAYERED STRESS AND PREVENTING AGGRESSION

LAYERED STRESS MODEL

Stress is like a volcano. Although all you see is the eruption, there are so many underlying factors and reasons that cause the volcano to erupt. The Layered Stress Model explains this by showing the various layers in a dog's mind that can cause an eruption within your dog.

The layers are (in order of most important to least important):

- **Health:** How a dog feels physically such as physical pain or discomfort (e.g. a hurt paw)
- **Lifestyle:** How a dog lives lesson to lesson such as access to exercise and amount of sleep
- **Clarity:** How clear you are in communicating your feelings with and to your dog
- **Leash:** How the different leash tensions affect your dog's frustration and understanding
- **Triggers:** The various stimuli can set off your dog's underlying stress and anxiety



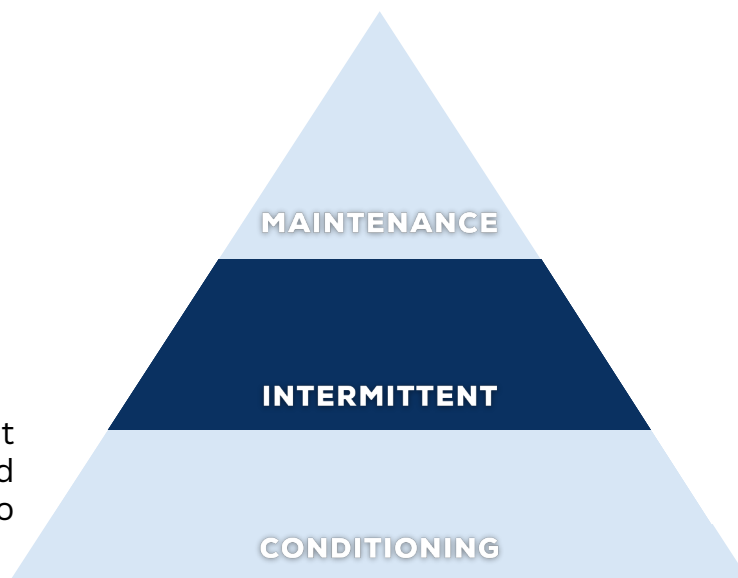
PREVENTING ANXIETY AND AGGRESSION

Most of the canine aggression can be blamed on poor breeding, medical issues, or a lack of socialization. But aggression is a normal response to stress even in well-adjusted dogs, which is why avoiding stressful situations is crucial in the first few weeks and months. Some pointers:

- Don't overwhelm your dog. Give him time to settle in
- Provide enough down time. Give your dog plenty of quiet time
- Monitor interactions
- Use treats liberally

THE PYRAMID OF DOG TRAINING

To the right is the pyramid that is used during training, and understanding it will help you to keep the dog going strong.



- **Conditioning:** The phase where you teach the dog the command or behaviors by constant repetition, treating and routine. During this phase, the dog has no idea what the command means so during this phase we use the marking, luring and shaping listed before to make the command understood and have the dog learn the behavior in a quiet and 0 distraction environment.
- **Intermittent:** This phase is when the dog is doing the behavior consistently so the training will take place during increasing distractions or with increasing freedom to make sure the dog fully understands the command. For instance, the command will be done without treating every time or in an outdoor environment that the dog is not familiar with. The commands will still be the same but the surroundings around the dog or the motivation to do the command may change. This will be the phase you are beginning to practice once you have a confident grasp of the command and have been practicing for a while. Do not jump into this phase unless you see the command being done 10 out of 10 times it is asked.
- **Maintenance:** This phase is marked by practicing every so often to make sure that the commands still stay fresh in the dogs mind and still behaves as expected. This phase is only when the dog is doing well in public settings and you have complete confidence in the command. If need be, you can return to the intermittent phase if you feel the command is losing its effectiveness. This phase will only be accomplished when your dog is older or you have been practicing for a long stretch of time. This will not be a phase that you will reach within a week.

STAY IN TOUCH



ROWDY
HOUND

 <https://rowdyhound.com>

 @rowyhoundbrand

 @rowyhoundbrand

