

Webster Animal Control



TRAINING METHODS:

- 🐾 The training methods that are most often used amongst professional trainers are positive reinforcement, positive punishment, along with negative feedback. Positive reinforcement training is reward-based and involves giving your dog praise, a toy, or a treat for exhibiting good behavior.
- 🐾 When your dog is barking, say “Quiet” in a calm, firm voice. Wait until they stop barking, even if it’s just to take a breath, then praise them and give them a treat. Just be careful to never reward them while they are barking, which could be petting them while they are barking. Eventually they will figure out that if they stop barking at the word “quiet” they get a treat. It is advisable to make this treat or reward worth more than barking and to only initially use this treat for the behavior of stopping barking (examples are chicken, cheese or hot dog pieces).
Practice these commands when they are calm, and in time they should learn to stop barking at your command, even when they want to bark at something.
- 🐾 The use of shock collars without a trained professional guiding you through the process is not recommended. Many good intentioned dog owners wanting a quick and easy solution to the barking problem actually unintentionally exchanging barking for a much worse behavior such as aggression, fear biting, anxiety, or mistrust of humans after the improper use of a shock collar.
- 🐾 There are very few pros to using a shock collar to control dog behaviors, but there are many cons and most trainers, animal behaviorists, and veterinary professionals will not recommend them. It is often considered the inhumane or lazy way to solve a barking problem when there are many other successful training methods available. But sometimes there are certain breeds that are harder to train and the use of a shock collar along with a trainer is the only solution.

