

## LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH!

[February 14, 2017](#)

Training Tip Tuesday: Love the one you're with!

It is said that you don't get the dog you want, you get the dog you need. Dogs have a way of finding their way into our lives when we need them most, and teaching us lessons we may have been struggling with (like patience, being assertive, being social, etc...)

Each dog is a unique individual and you must remember that! When you are training, it is unfair to compare your dog to one you saw on TV, or at a friend's house, or even to other dogs you've had in the past. You must also look at your dog day to day.... The dog he was yesterday might be a little different than the dog he is today. He might feel different physically, he may have had an emotional reaction to something over the last 24 hours, and he might even be having a mood swing. Evaluate your dog in the moment and adjust your training plan accordingly.

One of the most important aspects to training actually has nothing to do with teaching you dog. If you want to be successful, take the time to learn about your dog. Spend time just observing;



watching those little nuances... learn how he communicates, how he looks when he's happy, scared, frustrated, etc.. Learn what motivates him and what bores him. Learn how to help and encourage him, and how to redirect him. Learn how to tell the difference between a bad mood and a serious issue; between being scared and being bratty. Most importantly; love him for who he is. All dogs have their strengths and weaknesses; embrace what they're good at.

If you want to be successful, you must treat today's dog as his own being and love him for it!

Happy Valentine's Day!