# SUMMERWINDS NEWSLETTER
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## Training your dog with amazing result with the way dogs processes thoughts.

In today's current reccession amosphere and with so many people concerned about everyday money issues, one thing is certain, show dogs and showing dogs is very expensive and must be thought of as a luxury. If we are going to justify our passion of showing our dogs more inportant than ever is that we narrow the odds in our dogs favor in every way possible. One sure way to do this is to have our dog well trained so that their preformance will get the judges favorable attention. So that brings us to how to train our dogs. Every dog trainer has their own special way of training. I will be the first to admit there are many sucessful ways to achieve this goal. I am just going to share with you what works for me and how I believe dogs think and processes thoughts. Or how dogs learn whether it is a house breaking training, obedience or conformation, retrieving, or just a game. Understanding your dog and the way he thinks will get you amazing results and faster than many other methods in my opinion. Many owners/trainers do not credit their dog with having the ability to solve a problem mentally; to analyze a situation; to imagine ways to manipulate or control it, then take a pre-planned course of action toward a goal that was preconceived in the dog's mind. What every experienced handler knows - dogs are smart - dogs can work problems out. It is true that the dog's language learning skills are limited, but dogs are quick to learn the few sounds that are important to them. Dogs think in mental images (mental picture, a clear and telling mental image), and relate our "utterances" to mental images. They can even recognize "command words" when different people use them. A mature dog can associate images with more than 50 words. The inability to originate thoughts and express it in a spoken language and does not make dogs less intelligent. Dogs communicate their state of mind to other dogs predominately through body language and mental images not through verbalizing. We can learn and use some of this body language in our training. but we humans will never be able to understand all of its subtleties. Because dogs communicate very effectively in body language, we can use hand signals with and without the voice to communicate with the dogs.

When we speak of receiving and sending mental images, all animals have this ability and we, as humans, are no different. But instinctual animals have this natural ability and many of us humans have lost the ability to receive mental images. We can, however, easily learn to send mental images. It is also called Telegraphy.

Everyone has mental images. Often, just the thought of a loved one conjures up their image in our mind. This can apply to sounds and aromas as well. Think about your favorite musical song and you can often hear it in your "mind's ear". These are positive images. They are emotionally pleasant. At the other end of the scale, recalling a terrifying experience can create an example of negative, emotionally unpleasant images.

Every time we think, we conjure up a mental image. When we speak our thoughts the image is

stronger and clearer. For example, if we want the dog to come to us. When we say, COME (and say the dog's name), we see the dog coming towards us in our minds mental image.

So when we are training our dogs, we speak our commands and our wants that we see in our mind's eye of what it is we are trying to relay to our dogs. Our dogs, in return, have the ability to understand our wants because they then can read our mental images.

## How Do Dogs Think and Learn From Us?

First, for you to train a dog and get them to obey you, they must understand what it is you want them to do before they can oblige you.

Dogs think in images also so we can mold their behavior in hundreds of ways if we adjust our thinking to the same way they do. William Campbell has written an interesting article saying that dogs basically know what to do by picking up on human mental images, ("Behavior Problems in Dogs," 1995, Mosby Yearbook Publishers) and ("Owner's Guide to Better Behavior in Dogs," 1995, Alpine Publishers). See Campbell's Pet Behavior Resources on the Web.).

I believe that dogs have the ability to read our mental images when we learn how to strongly project our mental images for them. The best way to achieve this is by speaking to your dog. We all have known elderly people that others seem to think are a tat off because they talk to their dogs as if they were speaking to a child or person. Amazingly the dog seems to understand them completely. Not crazy at all... the dogs are reading their strong mental imaging.

I have been known to be able to get a happy performance out of a dog that many others couldn't. By speaking to the dog and telling the dog what it is I want the dog to do, but most of all telling him WHY. For example, if I have a dog that needs to have his tail up while moving in his performance, I will tell him, "TAIL UP". When I say, "TAIL UP", to the dog, I have a mental image seeing his tail up. Then, I also explain to the dog why I want him to raise his tail. I might say, I want you to hold your tail up high, so the

judge will see that you are happy and the most beautiful dog here today. As I am saying all this to the dog, I am seeing the dog and myself in the ring moving around and the dog is happily moving with his tail held high in my minds eye.

The "WHY" factor is very important when training. It's like a child, if you only demand and give no reasonable reason why you want the action, it will be meant with more objection. Instead, if you give a perfectly logical explanation the dog will be happier to comply. I know that some of you may think, why should I try to explain to a dog that can't understand or reason why I want him to obey me?  That could be why your not getting through to the dog or the dog is rebelling. By explaining to the dog not only helps to give a reason to the dog, but it will help you to conger a stronger mental image as you explain why you want the dog to do what it is you want. The dog can then see your mental image and understands completely what you are wanting from him. It works in almost every aspect of training and communicating with your dog, time and time again.

Telegraphy is a skill somewhat like playing golf, a musical instrument, typewriting, etc. It is learning a set of habits which can be called into operation whenever desired, and which work automatically and without conscious effort.   It has an active and a passive aspect. It is active when we are sending, and passive when the dog is receiving. The goal is to clearly send mental images so that the dog can easily receive the mental image.

Skill is developed by consistent, repetitive practice, and in the beginning is achieved by speaking out loud what mental image you want to send. Later, you will only have to think and concentrate on it, as your skill becomes better at sending your mental images to your dog. It will be almost second nature for you.  It does take some practice in the beginning, but after some time, you will see that it is very easy and the results will amaze you.