Temperament: This is your dog's personality, makeup, or nature that will determine its training process.

Disposition: Your dog's genetic behavioral tendencies that may determine its training process.

Reactive vs. Proactive Dogs This is in reference to Obedience Training): A reactive dog will wait to see a reward before complying with a command. You ask the dog to down, and the dog doesn't lay down. You then pull out a treat, and the dog downs; therefore, the Reward motivated the dog's behavior. A proactive dog understands that their behaviors affect their environment. With a proactive dog, the behavior is the driving force for the Reward. Meaning; They will do things even without the Reward readily visible.

Operant Conditioning: This is also known as instrumental conditioning, and in the dog world, is a method of learning that occurs through rewards and punishments for behavior. It's how a dog (or even a human) makes an association between a particular behavior and its consequence.

Classical Conditioning: A word or sound that predicts a reward or even a correction. At first, the sound is just meaningless stimuli, but if the sound always precedes a reward or a correction, the dog will learn what it means—and so the dog will become classically conditioned to the sound.

Positive-Reinforcement: This is when you reward your dog for performing a behavior that you would like your dog to repeat.

Positive-Punishment: This is when you use a correction (such as popping on the leash) to reduce the occurrence of a behavior.

Negative-Punishment: This is when you remove something of value from your dog. For example, you're petting your dog, and your dog jumps up, so you stop petting your dog. By removing the Reward of petting, you would be implementing negative punishment.

Negative-Reinforcement: This is when pressure is applied, and it is only turned off when your dog complies.

Primary Reinforcer: This will be the primary Reward you give your dog when they do a behavior you like. A primary reward can be food, a toy, or affection.

Conditioned Reinforcer (Mark / Marker): This is a word or sound that has been classically conditioned to predict a reward. It's called a marker because it signifies that you are marking a moment in time when your dog is right or wrong.

Continuation Marker: This is a sound that lets the dog know they will be receiving a reward. Sound = Reward

Terminal Marker: This is a sound that lets your dog know they will be receiving a reward, but it also guarantees a release. Sound = reward & release.

Non-Reinforcement Marker: This is a signal for negative punishment, which means withholding the Reward from your dog until your dog does the behavior correctly. This is for mistakes. Your dog must understand that they can make a mistake and try again. You never want your dog to be afraid of trying something new.

Conditioned Correction: This is a word or sound that lets the dog know they will be receiving a correction. Sound = correction

Distribution Hand: This is the hand you use to deliver rewards to your dog.

Supply Hand: This is the hand that you use to hold extra rewards for your dog. Keep in mind that your supply hand and distribution hand can be interchangeable.

Overshadowing (Pairing): When two or more stimuli are presented to the dog, one produces a stronger response and overshadows the objective. In other words, when teaching a dog a command, the command must come before the physical cue, or one will overshadow the other. This means all physical cues and commands must be performed separately from each other. If you pair your physical cue with your command, then the physical cue will override the command, and your dog will never learn the command. (For example: Telling your dog to go "down" while pointing to the floor at the same time. That would be incorrect. You would rather say the command down and then point to the ground. This is what creates a predictable pattern that the dog can learn from.

Luring: This is when you use food to guide your dog into the desired position, and once your dog is in that position, you would then release the Reward to your dog (positive reinforcement).

Chasing: This is when you make your dog chase food that is in your hand to increase food drive, prey drive, play drive, and make the training more fun for your dog. You can also have your dog

chase toys to build your dog's toy drive.

Physical Cue: This is a signal to perform a behavior. Such as with luring or leash pressure.

Fixed Shaping (also just known as Shaping): This is when you have a training goal in mind, but you're letting your dog figure out what you want instead of directly showing your dog.

Free Shaping: This is when you don't have a particular training goal in mind, and you're simply watching your dog to see if your dog will perform a behavior that you like. For example, your dog does a cute stretch in the morning when they wake up, and you can mark this action. After enough repetitions, your dog will start to offer up that behavior for rewards. This is also a great way to create a pro-active dog.

Leash Pressure: This is when we use the leash to guide our dog into specific positions. Once the pressure of the leash is turned on, it cannot be turned off until the dog complies. Once the dog complies, then the pressure must instantly be turned off. This is a form of negative reinforcement.

Command: A command can be physical or verbal. It is telling the dog they need to do what is being asked of them. A command is non-option for the dog and the human. Meaning; if you give your dog a command, you better be willing to reinforce that command if your dog chooses not to do it.

Leash Pop: This is when you make a snapping motion with the dog's leash to engage the training collar to give the dog a correction (positive punishment).

Value Transfer: This is when your dog has something of value, and you use something of equal value to get that item from your dog. It's like you're making a trade with your dog, so it's essential to give your dog the other item when you use this technique—otherwise, your dog can lose trust in you. Not to mention; It's also a great technique to teach the "drop it" command.

Counter Conditioning: This means training an animal to display a different behavior than its current reaction to a stimulus. Simply put, we take something that the dog may not like and change the way they feel about it by predicting something pleasant. For example, a dog that is afraid of the mail carrier can learn to enjoy the mail carrier if the dog is given a high-value reward every day when the mail carrier comes by. The dog would start to associate the mail carrier with the Reward.

Desensitization: This is the process of exposing the dog to a stimulus beginning at a very low intensity. As the dog gets more comfortable with the stimuli, the intensity can be increased. You have to be careful not to increase the intensity too quickly, or you could end up making the dog more sensitive to the stimulus. (for example; if a dog is highly reactive to other dogs, I may allow the dog to see other dogs walking around while standing outside a dog park for a few hours until they've been so exposed to other dogs it's not such an exciting stimulus anymore).