

# Management – Why Is It Important

The time between training sessions is just as important as the training sessions themselves. Managing the environment to prevent your dog from performing any unwanted behaviors is key to the long-term success of any training plan. Minimizing exposure to excess stressors also improves your dog's overall well-being and increases their ability to withstand stress.

## Environmental Variables:

- ❖ Visual
- ❖ Auditory
- ❖ Olfactory
- ❖ Physical



## Behaviors that get Rewarded get Repeated

- Recognize that rewards occur from the dog's perspective not from a person's perspective
- A reward occurs each time a behavior is successful
  - a. Barking at a bike passing makes the bike go away
- Certain behaviors can be self-rewarding
  - a. Barking
  - b. Using the bathroom



# ELEMENT DOG TRAINING

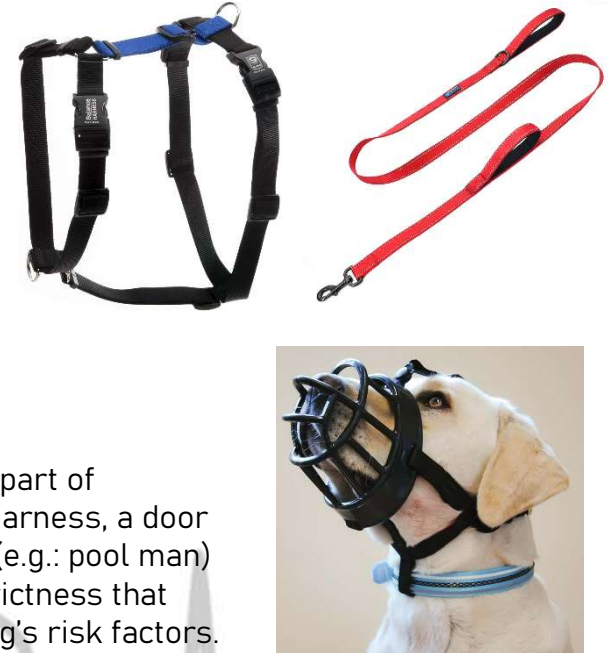
## Understanding Safety in Management

Management is a constant part of life if you own a dog. We use doors and fences to keep the dog in our home. We use leashes and harness to keep our dogs from wandering off when we take them for a walk. For day-to-day life management prevents our dogs from performing/perfecting unwanted behaviors and we use it to ensure the safety of our own and other people's dogs. While our dogs may be perfectly friendly (or not so much 😊) to strange people and dogs, not all people and dogs want to be friendly with our dogs. This is why we protect ourselves, our pets, and everyone else by managing where our dogs go and who/what they interact with.

Acknowledging that management can (and likely will) fail is the most important part of implementing management techniques. Whether that is a broken leash/collar/harness, a door that accidentally gets left open, or a surprise stranger entering the yard/house (e.g.: pool man) it will put our dog's behaviors to the test. The management requirement and strictness that those requirements need to be followed will be dependent on each individual dog's risk factors.

Management should strive to include 2 different levels of safety. The first tier of safety management includes maintaining distance, controlling access to a specific time of day, utilizing semi-transparent or unenclosed barriers, distracting your dog, and positioning yourself between the dog and the stimuli (only when safe). The 2<sup>nd</sup> tier of safety management includes leashes, harness, gates/doors, or portable enclosed barriers. The highest tier of safety management would be combining low and/or medium management items with crates, muzzles, tethers, locked doors and potentially medicine.

Management can be successful on its own but it is most effective when paired with training. Making good decisions on management techniques decreases the stress on our dog and significantly aides in the success of training. Management can impact your daily life which is why we combine training with management. The more successful the training, the less stringent the management requirements, and the less of a demand that is placed on both you and your dog.



# ELEMENT DOG TRAINING

## Management Options:

### ❖ Visual

- Fences/Barriers
- Doors
- Walls/Buildings
- Drapes/Sheets/Door & Window Coverings
- Vehicles
- Trees/Shrubs/Plants
- Dog TV

### ❖ Auditory

- Dog Ear Muffs
- Calming Music
- Training Music (Thunderstorms & Fireworks)
- Auditory Analogs (Door Knocking or Doorbells)

### ❖ Medical

- Consult veterinarian for options
- Pain, Fear/Anxiety, Arousal, Hormonal, Chronic issues, etc.

### ❖ Physical

- Leashes
- Harnesses
- Head Halters
- Muzzles
- Tethers
- Crates
- Barriers/Gates
- Exercise Pens
- Doors
- Distance
- Difficulty
- Duration
- Body & Head Wraps
- Toys
- Chews/Slow Feeders

### ❖ Olfactory

- Calming Sprays
- Pheromone Collars/Diffuser