



ACCLIMATION INSTRUCTIONS

FOR OWNERS OF A NEW DOG

This information can also be very useful for when you first bring a dog home.

This is included on our web site so you can get an idea of how we think and communicate with the dogs to get the best response possible from this member of your family.

Communication and praise are the keys.

In the Southernwind Shepherds' training program, we strive towards excellence through commitment towards quality in training your dog to become a better companion. Extreme importance is placed on the *come* or *here* command to insure your dog staying with you which assists you in having more control in handling your dog. If we do not over train your dog in staying close by, then your dog will start straying off. Upon the dog's return home and now being back in it's own environment, you can expect for the first few days it will seem to be a nuisance to you. This is because it has now been trained to stay right at your side and doesn't differentiate between its own space as being a dog and the dog's inherent need to please.

At this time you must be very patient with your dog and give *lots of praise* in a calming, yet strong, but not loud voice. The dog will be seeking instructions from you so communicate to your dog by letting him verbally know what you expect. If you should become upset with the dog it will also become upset and will become difficult to communicate with. The idea is to have a dog you can communicate with in a normal calm manner and for the dog to want to please you through his actions, thus, part of pleasing is listening to your commands.

Once the dog has been acclimated back into its surrounding and is feeling comfortable it will once again start getting into some of the old habits. When this happens a few times, let the dog get about 20 feet away and call the dog to you. Do not yell loud, do it in a calm but stern volume. Make sure you do this in a happy positive tone or the dog may have a propensity to avoid you. As the dog comes to you, praise the dog in a very energetic happy way. NEVER reprimand a dog when he comes to you.

Do not confine the dog to a lead. As you start to trust your dog more and your dog trusts you, try keeping it off the lead for longer periods of time. After awhile you will realize that just by your voice you will have more control than anything a lead could do. Again, a dog is a creature that wants nothing more than to please the owner. If you are strong, yet gentle

with your commands to the dog, it will want to please you more. The more you try to use a lead on your dog the more it will run away because it doesn't like the restriction of a lead. Besides, you do not want to have to keep a lead on the dog all day long in his normal environment inside your home. Your dog will also understand other such commands as heel and to automatically sit when you stop walking plus on command your dog will down, come, stay, get down and understand NO.

The first day home you should let your dog be a dog. You can feel free to give it lots of praise and let your dog know you are happy its back home with you. After the first day, start working the dog about 20 minutes a day on what you were shown. Practice should not be limited to outside the house, utilize the various rooms of your home. Example: while cooking, put the dog on a long sit in the kitchen. After about a week, you can use your commands in your daily routine and should get a positive response.

Understand, your dog may not be perfect when you first get him home. Just like children they are happy to be in familiar surroundings and may be very excited. After a few days of readjustment, your dog should become more secure and feel more comfortable in wanting to please you. Your dog will feel you out to see if you realize he knows the new commands, therefore, it is extremely important you reinforce the positive responses so your dog does not revert to his old ways because he does not think you expect him to obey your commands. If he does not obey a command, do not just ignore it, otherwise you are reinforcing the wrong reaction plus he will learn you are not sincere and will *go into avoidance*.

You need to work with your dog to understand the training mechanisms and how to get the best results out of your dog. Practice. Practice. Practice. Southernwind Shepherds strives not only to make the dog happy but also you. If you should have any questions you may call anytime.

Southernwind Shepherds wishes you happiness in your new relationship with your animal and wants life to be more pleasant and safer for both of you.