



# **TOP** Training **TIPS**

To Teach Your Dog  
in No Time



[www.michigandogtraining.com](http://www.michigandogtraining.com)



## **About Michael Burkey**

Michael Burkey is the President and Dog Behaviorist of Michigan Dog Training, LLC, a highly successful dog training company whose aim is to provide behavior solutions as well as fun adventures for your dog via dog sports. MDT specializes in working with high energy dogs so they can become ideal companions. Michael is a professional dog trainer, dog behaviorist, expert trial witness, movie set dog trainer, and a Certified Canine Good Citizen (CGC) evaluator for the American Kennel Club (AKC). He is a former Police K9 Ofcer, former Search and Rescue (SAR) K9 Handler and SAR Team Executive Director of Training, obedience and rally competitor and a former federal law enforcement ofcer, trainer and consultant as well as a social worker.

He volunteers his services as a Dog Behaviorist for the Humane Society of Huron Valley, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has trained their staf in proper dog handling, training, behavior management and behavior assessments. Additionally, he served as a board member for the Association of Humane Dog Training and was a founding member and Certified Dog Behavior Consultant and Ethics Committee Chairperson for the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants.

Michael is highly regarded by veterinarians, rescue organizations and clients. Many dog trainers and companies refer their aggression cases to Michael and veterinarians choose him to train their personal dogs. Michael trains all breeds large and small. His personal dogs have included German Sheperd, Belgian Malinois, Labrador Retriever, Miniature Schnauzer, and a Beagle/Rat Terrier mix.

Michael has always had a close kinship with dogs. In fact, it was a dog who taught him to talk as a child. No it's not a Tarzan story but it is an amazing story just the same. Michael explains, "As a young child, my inner ear canals were blocked due to environmental allergies. This condition went undetected for quite some time causing me to miss hearing beginning language sounds. The result was that I wouldn't try to talk with people.

The speech therapist advised my parents to obtain a dog that would sit and listen to me babble all day. The dog would have undying interest in my attempts to talk (in return for non-stop petting). The allergist, of course, recommended against the dog. Allergies were what caused the ear blockage in the first place.



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Fortunately, my parents listened to the speech therapist. They brought home a mixed Beagle/Terrier, named Princess that sat patiently each and every day, listening to me make beginning speech sounds as I petted my special friend. So that is how a dog taught me to talk. I have enjoyed a special bond with dogs ever since.”

With Michael’s close kinship with dogs from an early age and his professional credentials which include Police K9 Ofcer and Social Worker, he is the one to rely on to help you solve your dog training problems. He will teach you how to:

- \* modify your dog’s behavior,
- \* train your dog the right way, the first time, and
- \* have more fun with your dog.

Dog training is a complex science and art requiring knowledge of behavioral science and learning. You can rely on Michael’s experience, teaching methods, and integrity.

## TESTIMONIALS

*“Number 1 Dog Trainer hands down!!!!!!*

DR. CHERYL GOOD, Veterinarian, Dearborn Family Pet Care, Dearborn, Michigan

*“My dog, Rex, earned 3 titles after working a day and a half with Michigan Dog Training. Amazing!”*

TRISH SCHOOMER of Dayton, Ohio

*“Ginger is like a new dog...feels like a miracle. THANK you for all your help-it is so exciting to see how diferent she is and to know how much her life is going to change for the better.”*

KELLY HAMMILL of Ann Arbor

*“Great news-we had the MOST PEACEFUL walk in the park this evening. Other dogs around and Oaks (Poodle mix) had no reaction at all – she was at my side like glue. You’re an awesome trainer! Thanks!”*

KALIN TURRI of Canton, Michigan, Former Animal Shelter Director”

*“I would highly recommend Michael to anyone looking for dog training in the Michigan area. Not only is he very talented in working with the dogs, his expertise in helping clients achieve their goals is second to none. Michael is committed to the process of continually learning. I’d trust him with my own dogs and there are only a handful of people I would say that about!”*

ROBIN MACFARLANE, Professional Dog Trainer and President of That’s My Dog! in Dubuque, Iowa



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*"I would like to thank you again for the behavioral training on Abby, my Doberman. She is not my first Dobe but a hard headed one with lots of energy. She was a jumper and did not listen well. Michael cured Abby of her bad habits. I would recommend Michael to anybody that is in need of excellent training. "*

JOE AND NIKKI ROWANSKI of Westland

*"This evening my parents came over for dinner and came in my garage door without me knowing until I heard Ranger pounding down the hallway towards them. I could not see him but I yelled "Go to your spot!" (There is a spot for him by the garage door and the front door). He didn't even make it to my parents – who were just a couple of feet from his "spot." He immediately went to his spot and did not get of until I released him. Yay! I was just thrilled! I know that is very difcult for him with the excitement of company. Thank you so much for your help!"*

JENNY KING of Milford, Michigan

*"Dogs are very receptive to Michael Burkey's calm yet confident demeanor. Michael is quite personable with people as well, and let's face it, it is the owner who needs to learn how to improve upon and reinforce that which the dog is taught in class. My dog was already fairly well trained, but had some defensive issues when it came to unfamiliar individuals and dogs. Michael went the extra mile to help me recognize the signs and how to address them at the appropriate time and manner in order to correct this behavior and it worked brilliantly!"*

MARK M. of Michigan



## **Top Dog Training Tips**

As a professional dog trainer, and behaviorist I'm often asked what are the top 10 Dog Training Tips. It's hard to condense the science and art of dog training into only tentips as it really is a science and an art. But here we go, Michigan Dog Training's Top Ten Tips:

### **1. USE YOUR DOG'S DRY KIBBLE FOOD AS A MOTIVATOR IN TRAINING.**

Instead of your dog getting food for free in its bowl, place the daily food portion in a zip lock bag. If five out of seven days, your dog has to work for his/her food by showing good manners (sit, down, come, etc.), your dog's obedience will improve dramatically. Save the special delicious treats for times your dog has to work amongst high level distractions. This way you save money as you don't have to buy as many treats and your dog will eat a healthy meal throughout the day.

### **2. REWARD GOOD OR DESIRED BEHAVIOR VIA FOOD, TREATS, TOYS, CALM PETTING AND CALM PRAISE.**

### **3. TRY TO IGNORE UNDESIRE BEHAVIOR AS WHAT IS NOT REINFORCED TENDS TO GO AWAY**

A fair verbal correction can be given for something totally unacceptable but the focus should be on looking for and rewarding good behavior instead of focusing on correcting bad behavior.

### **4. IF YOU CATCH YOUR DOG IN THE ACT OF DOING SOMETHING UNDESIRE SUCH AS CHEWING A PILLOW OR MESSING IN THE HOUSE, YOU CAN VERBALLY CORRECT YOUR DOG AND THEN TELL THEM WHAT TO DO SUCH AS COME AND BE SURE TO REWARD THE COME.**

Then you have to better supervise your dog so it doesn't happen again in the future. If you don't catch your dog in the act (such as it occurred a few seconds ago and now your dog is starting to walk toward you) of the misdoing, it is too late to verbally correct your dog. If you do it at this late juncture, your dog will think it is being corrected for coming and not what he was doing that was bad a few seconds ago.

Correcting a dog for coming will teach him/her it is not always safe to come to you.

## **5. ALWAYS MAKE IT SAFE AND HAPPY FOR YOUR DOG TO COME TO YOU.**

## **6. INSTEAD OF INVADING YOUR DOG'S SPACE BY WALKING INTO YOUR DOG, GET THEM TO COME INTO YOUR PERSONAL SPACE FOR THINGS THEY WANT SUCH AS PETTING.**

## **7. WHEN PLAYING FETCH WITH YOUR DOG, USE TWO BALLS.**

Throw one ball behind you for your dog to chase. When your dog picks it up, call them to you by saying "come" and when they are about half way to you, throw the second ball behind you. Most dogs will drop the first ball to chase the second ball. You can then walk over to pick up the first ball and the game starts again.

This is a lazy way for you to play fetch with your dog and your dog learns to come toward you for things he or she wants instead of being taught to go away from you. Additionally, your dog learns that playing fetch is fun and playing keep away has no reward.

## **8. TUG IS A FUN GAME TO PLAY WITH DOGS.**

You've probably heard that it teaches aggression but it doesn't if done properly. Assuming your dog doesn't have resource guarding issues, tug is a great game. The secret is, to ALWAYS allow your dog to win. You've undoubtedly heard people say that you always have to win to establish your dominance. But it's not true. If you always win, you will either have a dog that won't play with you because it's no fun because you always win or a dog who will increase his/her intensity because they really want the tug toy. By allowing your dog to win, it's fun for your dog and your dog's intensity for the item will remain at an acceptable level. Once your dog wins the item, clap your hands and encourage your dog to bring it back for another fun game of low intensity tug.

This way, the game remains being all about the tugging process and not developing into a game of keep away.

## 9. WHEN DOGS ARE STRESSED, THEY DISPLAY STRESS RELIEVING BEHAVIORS.

These behaviors may include the following: looking away from a person or dog, becoming stiff legged or rigid, lowering their head, raising the fur on their back, producing more wrinkles on their face, leaning forward or away from a person or another dog, laying back the ears on their head, frowning, and showing the whites of their eyes from trying to look at two places at once. You can play detective and look for these signs of stress or an easier way is to recognize how relaxed your dog looks when he/she isn't stressed.

Then when your dog encounters a potentially stressful situation, you won't have to play detective to see how many stress behaviors you see. You can simply recognize that that isn't your normal calm dog and you need to give him/her some distance from the dog or person

## 10. A WAGGING TAIL DOESN'T MEAN A FRIENDLY DOG.

It means an aroused dog which could be "good" or it could be "bad." Dogs who bite typically wag their tails too. If you have ever watched protection dogs work with a decoy, their tails are commonly wagging because they are highly aroused. So it's more important to look at the carriage of the tail (a tucked tail means fear or submission and a tail held high is a sign of an extremely aroused dog or one who is trying to make themselves look bigger) and look for other stress behaviors than it is to simply go by whether or not the tail is wagging.

Well there you have it, 10 Top Tips to get you started on training your dog the right way, the first time. It will help you change your high energy dog into an ideal companion. Oh but wait, because we believe in providing all the help we can with our students, here's an extra top tip!

## 11. BE A TOUR GUIDE FOR YOUR DOG IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

Dogs need help learning how to behave in the "human world." You are already the leader or as some say, pack leader, because you control all the dog's access to it's resources: food, water, play, exercise, and affection. So instead of thinking of yourself as a pack leader, think of yourself as your dog's "Tour Guide" in the human world.

When you travel to a foreign land, you might hire a tour guide to help you see the fun sights and attractions, keep you out of dangerous locations, go to places that are hard to find, and to act as a translator so you can better understand the different culture.

That is how we should be for our dogs.



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We should be our dog's Tour Guide in the human world: a) Enrich their environment by taking them to fun places, b) don't place them in environments or situations that are dangerous or that they aren't ready for, c) and act as their translator and guardian.