President Kennedy said, “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country”. Even with people, not everyone is that noble. Dogs are not people. This is a give and take, a barter system that we use in training. We give our dogs a reason to perform. Otherwise, it is not fair to expect them to do as we ask.

As a leader, when we ask, we don’t accept “no” as an answer. No is a failure by the dog. Do your best to not allow your dog to fail. Give your dog only one option, Success. As a good leader we are going to ask our dogs to perform, accept only a successful performance and then reward our dogs for what they’ve earned. Rewards are food, toys, praise, petting, whatever is a treat for the dog. KEYWORD: Cookie, Tug, Duck, etc.

Training sessions are composed of exercises. It can be one or more exercises. When that exercise is completed (eg. After 5 repetitions of stay) the dog is given the Release word and Praise (and cookie or toy). In a sense, Release is a reward because the dog has been successful, has done its job and is now free. Between exercises, play with your dog. Talk to your dog between exercises and talk to your dog during exercises *only enough to keep Attention*.

Consistently follow this pattern in your training: Training Session - preferably 15 minutes, twice a day - before meal. Learning is enhanced by sleep. A good pattern to follow (especially for home training) with your dog is Train, Feed, Sleep. Session contains one or more exercises. Exercises are repeated 3 to 5 times. Always end the exercise with a successful performance. Always end with Release and Reward. Always end with an upbeat, happy attitude.

Flow Chart of Training Method