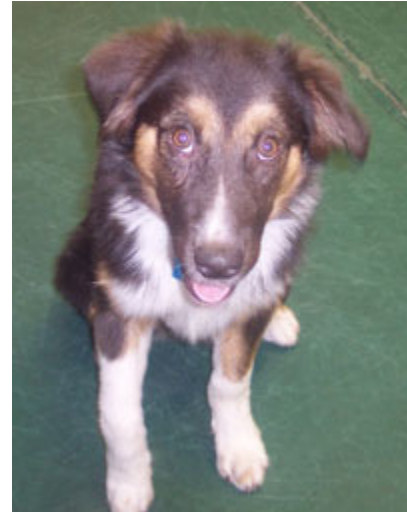


## Have Realistic Expectations of your Dog

Unrealistic expectations for our dogs seem to be a very common problem. **Training a dog takes time.**

People call me and say, my dog bites and I can't stop him. I ask how old is your dog? Answer: he is 11 weeks old. This is a teething time and needs be dealt with by providing things to chew on.

Another person tells me they can't housebreak their dog. As I listen I hear that she works all day and the 8 week old puppy is in a crate for 10 hrs. She explains there is something wrong with this dog, because the books say that dogs will not go in their crate. This is true - dogs don't want to go in their crate - but will if forced to. This person needs to have a friend come and let the dog out at least 2 times a day at this age to play and relieve its self. Older dogs have these same problems.



People don't know what to do. **Knowledge is a powerful tool.** Dogs do not think like humans; You are the teacher, if you do not know how to train your dog you must get help. Read or take lessons from a trainer with a lot of experience. Find a trainer that you are comfortable with. Some dogs are so smart they will learn in spite of their owners. But God help the ones that don't. Those dogs are in for a lot of stress as well as the owner. Sometimes they are given up, abandoned to the next owner and the next until, well for me that's too painful to think of.

The answer is knowledge. **Do not blame the dog, it is an animal!** You are supposed to be smarter. Sometimes finding the right person for that dog, is the gentler way for your dog. Finding someone that is able to train the dog and knows what they are doing. Some dogs are simply with the wrong person. Whatever the case may be, **be responsible** and spend the money to get help or find the right home. Unfortunately, we live in a throw away society but we must care for the animals that come into our lives. **These are living creatures that feel and they need to be respected.** Be kind and gentle, these pay great rewards. Having a great relationship with your dog will enrich your life as well as theirs. You will spend many happy hours together!

**Be Blessed and open to learn new things!**

Go after knowledge; it is a good friend!

Brenda