BEST PRACTICES AT HOME

1) All family members and guests must use the same words, commands, and gestures every time. This will alleviate confusion for your dog.

2) Remain calm and relaxed during every interaction with your dog. Dogs feel your emotions and will react in concert with them.

3) Use a conversational tone of voice for daily Interactions. Do not yell or shout. A raised voice will create stress and anxiety.

4) During training, use a happy "Mickey Mouse" voice. All dogs are more apt to respond positively to a happy voice.

5) Only say the commands one time. Wait for a response. You can lure him into position. Repeating a command teaches him to not respond until you say it x times.

6) Walk your dog at least twice per day, for about 30 minutes per time. All dogs need exercise. Walking with the family helps create a bond.

7) Practice obedience 3-4 times per day, for 10-15 minutes each time. Dogs learn best in short, but frequent intervals.

8) Monitor all interactions with children and your dog. Trust must be earned, from both the children and from your dog.

9) Watch for stress signals from your dog. When you see them, stop the current activity, and allow your dog to calm down. Remove him from the situation or have the person or persons back away from him. You will have less chance of biting and show him here are other ways to behave in stressful situations.

10) Give your dog the choice to leave the room. Provide him a quiet relaxed space, where he is left alone. Use a crate, a bed, or a rug. Do not allow the children in that space. All dogs have a "den instinct", it Is a place where they feel safe. This will allow your dog the opportunity to relax without feeling the need to be watchful.

11) Make sure your dog has a clean and safe space to go potty. Let your dog out frequently and watch her for signs that she is asking to be let out. You can even teach your dog how to ask (like ringing a bell, sitting next to, or placing their head against the door) so that there is no confusion.