**Obedience Tips**

* Make sure your choke chain fits around the dog’s neck with 1 to 1 ½ in. of chain hanging down when you pull it snug.
* Choke chain should form a “P” when held in front of your dog’s face. Slip it gently over your dog’s head until it hangs loosely around its neck.
* When the choke chain is positioned correctly it will only tighten when tension is applied. Keep your dog on your left side.
* Training should be a happy time for you and your dog. Be patient and calm. You may have to repeat a command many times before your dog understands.
* Correction and praise are important. Correct your dog immediately when it makes a mistake, and praise your dog every time it correctly follows a command.
  + Praise is saying something like “Good dog!” in a happy voice. Never use your dog’s name when praising.
* Keep your commands short. Use the same words every time. For commands that require the dog to move (“Come,” “Heel”), use its name first. Use only the command word when requiring your dog to stay put (“Stay,” “Sit,” “Down”).
* Speak in a firm, pleasant voice.
* **Never** hit or scream at the dog.
* Practice the commands. Repeat each exercise many times until the dog does it automatically.
* Work your dog everyday, but not too long at once. Two 15 minute sessions are better than one 30 minute session.
* End each training session with something the dog knows such as “sit,” so you can end with success. **Never** end your training session on a bad note.