Goal Setting

Before we start, we need to know where we are going.

This is a step people like to skip but it is incredibly important. Why?

- To ensure we lay out fair and realistic expectations for our dogs.
- To prioritize our goals. It is impossible to train everything at once well.
- So we have a way to measure progress (and see how well our dogs are actually doing)!

When setting goals, it is important to keep a few things in mind.

Realistic	Where are you now and where do you want to be? Do you have the time and resources required for the training? Are there obstacles you need to work around? Is everyone in the home on board with the training?
Ethical	Just because we can, should we? Consider your dog's genetics and their individual personality. Not all dogs are dog park or coffee shop dogs and that is okay!
Safe	Your goals, and how you reach them, should take into account the safety of you, your dog and the public.
Fair	When you set a timeline, be fair to yourself and your dog. Things are not going to change overnight.

Assignment

Define two goals.

First - Think big picture. Where do you want to be with your dog in five years?

Second - Break that big picture down into little parts and define two goals to focus on in the next year.

Third - Share your goals in the facebook group or, if you feel more comfortable, email them to me. These goals will help me assess a training plan for you and your team.