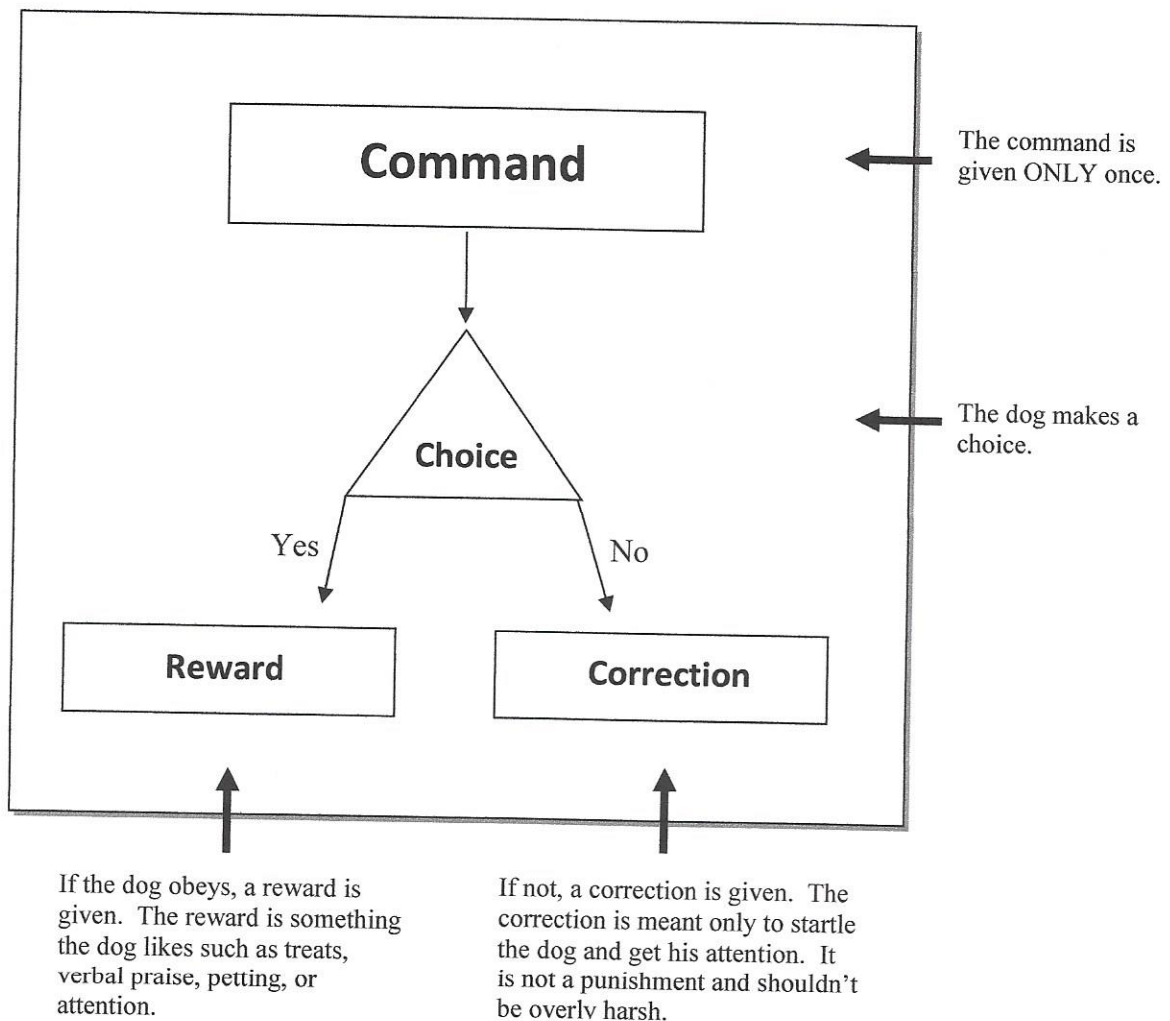




Obedience Command Sequence



This flow chart shows the command-response pattern used in obedience training. The dog learns, over time, that it is advantageous to choose obedience. The benefits for the dog are twofold: if he "listens" and complies with the command he will not only earn a reward, but he will also avoid a correction.

It is important to understand that this command sequence is learned *over time* and that the correction does not *make* the dog obey (nor does the reward for that matter). Rather, with repeated practice, the dog learns that it is in his best interest to comply. He is never *forced* but he realizes that the consequences are better if he does listen. The dog's behavior is thus shaped over time and it is a gradual process. For example, you may see only 60% compliance the first week, then 70% the second week, and after 3 or 4 months, you may see 95% compliance.

The success of this program depends on the consistency of the people. You must be 100% consistent in his response to the dogs' choice. The dog must be able to *count* on the consequences in order to make the association between his behavior and your response. The dogs' obedience will be only as good as your discipline!