



9217 NW Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK  
**405-231-4335**

## Canine INTERRUPTIONS

By: Angel Soriano



[myk9u.com](http://myk9u.com)



By now, we all know that **REWARDING** a dog's proper behavior is the key to their learning. What most people miss (even some professionals) however, is that the learning process moves much-much quicker when we also timely **INTERRUPT unwanted behavior**. It is equally important to let your dog know when he is doing things that are NOT correct.



What must be engraved in our brains is that the learning DOES indeed take place during the **reward** phase, however, INTERRUPTIONS serve as a turbo boost :- ) to your **training** process.

Before we can fully cover what the term "INTERRUPTIONS" really means, it's important to cover what it is NOT. "Interruptions" are NOT pain or suffering, and is not associated with harsh punishment nor hitting.

The term "Interruption" is used to define your actions when you interfere with your dog's events. You are basically disturbing their process, their actions, their activity, to impose yours. Easy to say, but you'll need to be creative in practice.

The easiest way to explain it is the following. If your dog has a leash and collar on, any jiggling or moving of that leash serves as an interruption. Any command serves as an interruption. Any activity presented by you, that the dog would otherwise NOT expect at that precise time, is by definition an INTERRUPTION.

One of the questions I am asked often is, "how do I interrupt unwanted behaviors in my dogs?" Well, its easier that you think. My dogs are forever in training, therefore, my interruptions are minimal, as they are always training. However, whenever I take on a new project, the classical interruption methods that I use are the following (in their actual order):

- a **command**, followed by praise when they stop committing the crime.
- an **hand signal**, followed by praise when they stop.
- a **gentle finger poke**, followed by praise when they stop the wrong action.
- a **gentle collar correction**, followed by praise when they stop the wrong action.
- an **unexpected noise** (such as clap, or drop something), followed by praise when they stop the wrong action.
- a **misting spray bottle** (sprayed near them), followed by praise.
- **Jingling of Keys**, followed by praise when they stop the wrong action.
- Slamming of a door, followed by praise when they stop the wrong action.
- **Chuck something near them** (small pillow, TV remote, etc), followed by praise when they stop the wrong action. It's important to note that if you're throwing something, it will **not be at them**, but near them. The idea is to cause some confusion in their life,



9217 NW Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK  
**405-231-4335**

## Canine INTERRUPTIONS

By: Angel Soriano



[myk9u.com](http://myk9u.com)



therefore interrupting the act.

Once we assume that an interruption has taken place, it's even more important that you time your praise to take place 3-4 seconds after the interruption was successful. Easy ugh?

**Interrupt + praise = [bond](#).** Any questions?

Let me use an example of a dog that has an annoying bark in the house. I would commence by possibly dropping a set of keys near him and using a "QUIET command" at the sign of the first bark. The dog will most likely go sniff out the keys recently dropped. I would then start praising words such as "good quiet" as he is inspecting the keys.



He will eventually move away from the keys, and possibly bark again. This time I would drop a TV remote, and use the same "QUIET command". Typically, a dog will again interrupt it's barking sequence to go sniff out the newly dropped remote. Once again, this is a perfect time to start your praising words such as "good quiet" when he is

inspecting the remote. You may need to repeat this process several times, while creatively making noises, or dropping something. Your dog will soon get the idea that nuisance BARKING brings on weird unexpected behaviors from you, and that being quiet brings praises from you, which also builds a [better bond](#).

Are you getting the idea of the process? It is simple, but the steps can not be swapped or missed. This process actually covers both interruption and [reward](#), which is why it is so effective.

Now, stop reading, and go give it a try :-)) You'll be shocked as to how effective this little trick can be.

Happy training ~~~