

In a Human World

Pup's ability to pay attention and perform behaviors is affected by the environment.

A fourth "D" to consider with regard to distraction would be **Diversity**. If the distraction is people, kids could represent a different level than adults, men different than women, and so on.

It is the dog's perception of these elements that will affect learning.

The 3D's are elements of training that should be separated to optimize success.

Distraction applies to anything that may cause your pup to have difficulty staying on task. These usually feed into the senses; primarily sight, sound and scent.



Duration applies to length of exposure or length of request. How long you ask pup to hold a "stay" is a length of request. How long pup is exposed to a distraction is length of exposure. For many, the longer they watch or listen to a particular item or sound the more difficult it becomes to maintain or even regain focus.

Distance applies to space with regard requested behaviors and distractions. For instance: how far you move from pup when you have cued a "Stay", or how far pup is from something they find interesting.



Greater success occurs when the 3D's are addressed separately. If you raise too many criteria at a time, pup may become overwhelmed. This can lead to misunderstanding and frustration at both ends of the leash. Recognition of these elements makes for more productive training sessions.

How can LAW help you with training?

This short, easy to remember acronym can be very useful in training. If you are working consistently you'll want to know when to advance criteria. Once pup has what you feel is a solid behavior, you'll want to test the reliability:

- 1-2 of 5 correct responses, **L**ower criteria
- 5 of 5 correct, **A**dvance criteria
- 3-4 of 5 correct, **W**ait at the current level



We may not always perceive what is playing into their senses. They hear frequencies we don't, see differently, and smell far better than we do.

Also remember internal factors such as pain, temperature, digestive issues, responses to the weather, etc. can be difficult to observe.

Related Material:

On Leash
In Focus