

Training Tips For You and Your Dog

The following guidelines will help you make the most of your training time. Remember, you and your dog are a team, and must work together to build your relationship as well as your communication.

1. **Keep training sessions short – 5 minutes or less for puppies, 10 minutes or less for adult dogs. Multiple, short sessions each day are more productive than longer sessions. Integrate obedience into your daily routines – for example, have your dog sit before being fed, or let out the door. Rewards and corrections must come within 2-3 seconds in order for your dog to associate their meaning.**
2. **Start training in an area where there are few distractions. As your dog masters a behavior, gradually introduce distractions. End training after a good response.**
3. **Remember that good behavior is just the absence of bad behavior. Catch your dog doing things right and praise them for it. Use a specific marker word such as “yes” or “good” to communicate that your dog is doing what you want them to.**
4. **Dogs need to know what you want as well as what you don’t want. For example, if your dog is chewing on a shoe, find something appropriate for him / her to chew on before approaching to correct. Remove the shoe, give your dog something he / she can chew on, and praise enthusiastically.**
5. **A tired dog is a well behaved dog. Exercise is critical for releasing energy, especially for young dogs. Exercise before training will also help your dog to stay focused.**
6. **The more consistent you are in your expectations, the more consistent your dog will be in response to them. Don’t confuse your dog by allowing a behavior in some instances but not in others. For example, if you allow your dog to jump on your family, don’t expect him/her to know that it is not okay to jump on guests.**
7. **Do not allow any behavior as a puppy that you do not want as an adult. A good example of this is jumping up on you.**
8. **Be generous with praise and rewards, especially when teaching new behaviors. Your dog needs to know when you are happy with them.**
9. **Be patient. Learning is a process for you and your dog. Watch for improvement, rather than “perfect behavior.”**

HAVE FUN !!