



PUPPY TRAINING TIPS

Basic Puppy Training:

You will need to be prepared to spend time each day training your puppy to get results. It works best if you train for short sessions (no longer than 5 minutes at one time) and do a few sessions a day as puppies only have a short attention span.

When training your pup you need to be on the ball all the time. When you have asked your pup to do something or if they have just performed a good behaviour, it is VITAL that you give them the treat (or object of desire eg the ball when teaching fetch) no longer than 1 second after the action occurs otherwise they will not associate the reward with the good behaviour.

Remember that all of the things that you are teaching your puppy are new to them, so it is normal to expect it to take some time for them to figure out what you are trying to tell them. Patience is the key. Also don't expect your pup to know that it is doing something wrong if they don't know how to do it right!

Young pups are very impressionable and will learn very easily, and anything they do learn or experience at this crucial time will have an effect on how they turn out as adult dogs. Because of this it is necessary to meet certain deadlines, which will help to create a well adjusted and happy pup:

Socialising with People Good socialisation should be done by 3 months of age; this is your pup's most urgent priority.

Learning Bite Inhibition Should be taught by 18 weeks of age. This is your pup's most important priority.

Enjoying the World at Large Should be learned by 5 months of age. This is your pup's most enjoyable priority.

Enrol In Puppy Preschool:

Teaching your pup good manners can be accomplished by teaching your puppy to sit & stay. Asking your pup to sit as their way of saying please and for any attention will help give them good manners.

Attending a Puppy Pre-school will teach you how to socialise your puppy, how to create a well behaved, well mannered dog, cover obedience, behavioural problems and teach you about bite inhibition. Puppy Pre-school will also allow your pup to socialise with other healthy pups in a safe environment.

Socialising Your Puppy:

For your pup to be adequately socialised with people it needs to socialise with at least a hundred different people before it is 3 months old. This may sound quite impossible but it can actually be accomplished quite simply.

The answer is to host many Puppy Parties where different people can meet and greet your pup. Not only will you be socialising your pup, you can capitalise on this exposure to teach your puppy the appropriate way to greet people! (Not to mention the boost to your social life!!)

Most pups and dogs get along well with women without much trouble; it is men and children you have to focus on. This is not to say don't socialise your pup with women, but only that you don't forget how important men and children are.

When your guests arrive at your Puppy Party, ask them to leave their shoes outside and wash their hands. Then give each person a bag of training treats. These can be made up of kibble taken from your pup's daily ration and used in place of your pups evening meal. Add special treats to those bags given to men and kids, like dried liver. That way your pup will learn to love men and kids because they always have the best goodies!

- When socialising your puppy with children please make sure the first kids your pup meets are well behaved ones, maybe even just one to begin with. Then move on to kids your pup will be likely to see regularly and thirdly invite the neighbourhood kids over.
- Keep your pups interaction with guests calm and controlled at all times (always making sure your pup greets people by sitting first before they get a treat and remaining calm, don't allow them to jump on people) and keep the first few parties low key. After the first week or so it is time to make the parties into real parties! Provide the kids with music, plenty of opportunity to make noise, blow up balloons and put up streamers. By all means provide lollies for the kids, but make sure they are not feeding them to your puppy! Now, after plenty of noisy puppy parties with silly screaming kids, your puppy will be virtually bomb proof to children.

Good Table Manners:

You need to be able to remove food from your pup and also valuable items without them growling or snapping at you. Using the excuse 'they are just being protective', is not acceptable. Children are usually the first ones bitten and it is often because of a circumstance involving food or valuables that cause the dog to bite.

Achieving good table manners:

- Feed your pup around people. Don't fall into the trap of 'letting the dog eat in peace'. This will only encourage your dog to be protective of food.
- Hand feed your pup its meal from the bowl on a regular basis. Do this every meal for 1 week, and then at least twice a week until you are satisfied they are comfortable with hands around their bowl. It is also recommended that you hand feed them regularly even as an adult to reinforce this.
- Practice taking away toys & bones by offering them a trade at first: offer them a piece of sausage/cabanossi or the like (any favourite will do) and when they take it, touch their item of value and praise them at the same time. Repeat this exercise, each time taking a firmer hold on the object and moving it away a bit at a time. Eventually you will take the item and offer the trade item as exchange so your pup learns that you are just minding their object while they eat a tasty treat! When they are used to you taking objects and returning them (or exchanging them if the object is undesirable) you should not need the treat, just praise will do.
- Adults are to do this exercise first and children must always be supervised. Only let children do this exercise when you are 100% certain your pup will not growl or bite.
- For good table manners around the human dinner table: if you don't like your dog staring at you during your meal there is one sure way to prevent/stop this undesirable behaviour. This is – do not give them any food from the table! Dogs are eternal optimists so even one tit bit every now and then is enough to reinforce this behaviour. If you want, have a spot that your dog must sit in when they are in the dining room.

Handling and Gentling:

It is important to teach your puppy to tolerate being handled, groomed and restrained. Regularly handle your pup every day as it grows and at least once a week throughout its life.

Teach your pup to thoroughly enjoy being handled, cuddled and inspected. Touch and handle all its 'sensitive-spots'- ears, eyes, mouth, collar area, paws and rear end, remembering that your dog has two ears and four paws!

First get your pup to be calm before handling it. Pick puppy up and hold it in your lap with its back against your stomach. Hold the collar with one finger so it can't jump off, and gently stroke its head between the eyes and back over the top of the head. Gently rubbing its chest and tummy and in the inguinal area helps to calm them down also. Once your puppy is calm and relaxed place it gently on the floor and continue to rub and massage it. While it is still relaxed pick it up and give it a short hug. Continue to repeat the exercise, each time increasing the length of the hug. Now pass the puppy around the room and get every one to do the same.

Get your pup used to handling sensitive spots by starting with its collar area. Take hold of its collar with one hand while giving a treat with the other. Look into their eyes for increasing lengths of time, each time giving a treat. Hold a paw and give a treat. Do this for all four paws. Hold their ear and give a treat. Do the same for the other ear. Hold their muzzle then give a treat. Open the mouth and give a treat. Feel its rear end and private parts then give a treat. Continue to repeat each exercise but gradually examine more thoroughly and for extended periods of time for each part of the body.

Now it is time to play Pass the Puppy to family and friends and get them to handle your puppy the same way.



These are just a few hints on how to raise a well balanced and well behaved dog. For further information and help please contact us about puppy pre-school.

Good Luck and HAVE FUN!