

Training Tips

Dogs need a pack leader and that is you and your family. Everyone in the family should be the pack leader and practice the tips below. The energy you relay to your dog will be an important part in becoming a pack leader. You will gain so much respect from your dog if you become the pack leader. You will also have a lot less stress. 😊

Sit:

- Put the treat in front of the dog's nose and slowly lift up and over his head slightly. This will have him sit on his own as he follows the treat. Tell him good job, give the treat and pet him.
- Repeat this often daily. Eventually you will be able to say the command sit and he will sit with or without a treat.

Lay Down:

- Hold the treat in front of his nose just like the sit command but this time pull it slowly in front of him and down to the ground.
- In the beginning, you may have to help guide him to the ground by gently pulling his legs to the front.
- When he is down (whether you had to help him or not), give him the treat and tell him good job.

Stay:

- Give the command of sit or lay down.
- Hold your hand up as in saying stop and give the command stay.
- In the beginning, only wait about 10-15 seconds before giving the treat and rewarding him.
- Slowly start adding more seconds/minutes as the dog progresses.

Come:

- Always say "come" in a friendly/loving voice even if he isn't listening.
- When he does come (even if you had to chase him around), continue talking in that sweet happy voice and give him a treat saying "Good job."
- If he comes sometimes but not always, repeat asking him to come over and over again. Let him get a little ways away from you and ask him to come.
- Every time he does in the beginning, give him a treat. Eventually you can take the treat away and just praise him with words and petting.

- ❑ If he never comes to you, use a long leash (a lunge line for horses works great), let him get away from you and do everything from the bullets before. Reel him in if he doesn't come - continue talking in a sweet voice and saying good boy - even though you are doing it for him.

Walking on a leash:

- ❑ I don't recommend a harness because they are meant for pulling. It will only teach the dog to pull instead of walk next to you.
- ❑ I also don't recommend the retractable leashes because you don't have as much control over them.
- ❑ He should always be next to you or even a step behind you.
- ❑ The collar should be placed as high on the neck as possible (up behind the ears). You will have a lot of control.
- ❑ Always keep slack in the leash unless you need to give a reminder to the dog of where he should be walking. If a reminder is needed or you are beginning the walking on a leash, a slight jerk of the leash and then release will work. Some dogs need that more often in the beginning than others.
- ❑ When heading out the door, you should always be the first one out.

Unwanted Behaviors

- ❑ Just like children - all unwanted behavior is corrected in some way. The best way to correct unwanted behaviors is using two fingers at the back of the neck. It's a little jab that doesn't hurt them but snaps them out of what they are doing wrong.
- ❑ Another technique you can use is a spray bottle of water. Most dogs don't like it. It is the same concept as the back of the neck. It snaps them out of what they are doing wrong.