

Brilliant Tips On How To Keep Your Dog Well Behaved!

It is a great event when a puppy or dog arrives in its' new home, he is often the centre of care and attention. Largely it is the first few weeks together which will set the pattern for your dog's future behaviour, so it is important to start as you mean to go on. All dog owners experience behaviour problems at some point during their dog's life. Whether these problems are major or minor, it is always useful to have a source of good advice to help deal with them quickly before they become a bad habit.

Before you start training, there are a few useful things to remember. Make training sessions a positive experience for you and your dog.

- Keep sessions short - 3 x 10min sessions are better than one 30 min one.
- Always end on a good note - ask your dog to do something he's good at and reward him well.
- Do not try to train your dog if you feel frustrated or angry, you will pass these feelings on to the dog.
- Use kind facial expressions & body posture, be clear in your commands. Reinforce each command with hand, arm or body signals.
- Be consistent in your training and praise, use the same commands and praise each time.
- Reward correct actions immediately.
- Use rewards - whether treats, toys or praise - use as many as you can. This will keep your dog guessing & fuel his motivation.

Make training sessions fun! Dogs are born to play, so if the session is fun he will be more likely to learn and remember and behave appropriately.

Generally speaking, there are two ways to get your dog to do what you want. The first is through the use of punishment. The second is through the use of positive dog training, which changes behaviour. Punishment instills fear in your dog. This can lead to aggression and other behavior problems. Also, punishment as a training method is not usually effective as the dog needs to learn correct behavior as much as he needs to learn what you consider inappropriate behavior.

Positive dog training puts the spotlight on the things your dog does right, and it is the most effective way to train your dog. Positive dog training is quite simple and can be broken down to include just two techniques: ignoring bad behavior and rewarding good behavior.

Ignore Bad Behavior

Many pet owners make the mistake of unintentionally rewarding bad behavior. For example, your dog jumps all over when you walk in the door, so you pet him and talk to him. After all, you're as happy to see him at the end of a long day as he is to see you. The problem is that now your dog associates jumping with getting attention. Even if you yell at a dog (which you should never do, by the way) some dogs may still think that is positive. To many dogs any attention is good attention.

What you need to do instead is ignore the bad behavior. Of course, you can still say "NO" when your dog is misbehaving. But you should say "NO" and then move on. Are you trying to train your dog not to bark or whine? Then don't keep talking to him when he is barking or whining. Just completely ignore him when he is making noise. As soon as he quiets down, pay attention to him. He will begin to associate being quiet with getting what he wants. If the dog jumps on you when you walk through the door, simply cross your arms and turn away from the dog. Say "sit", and if he complies THEN pet him. If he does not, simply walk away.

Reward Good Behavior

When your dog does something right, such as obeying a command, going to the bathroom outside or waiting patiently for you to let him out of his crate, go overboard with the praise. Do whatever you can to make it well worth your dog's while to behave. By rewarding good behavior, you are doing more than just teaching him what he should NOT do. You are also using positive dog training to show him what he SHOULD do. Another problem with punishing your dog is that they often have no idea what the punishment is all about. This isn't to say that you should never let your dog know when his behavior is inappropriate, but there are many times when ignoring the bad behavior is the way to go.

Positive dog training teaches your dog self-confidence and helps to build a bond of trust between the owner and their pet. Practice positive training, and see just how quickly your dog takes to the things you want it to do.

There are many situations in which you should ignore bad behavior. Of course, this doesn't apply to every situation, but for training in many areas, such as whining, barking and begging, ignoring the bad behavior is very effective.

It is always important to solve the problem for the dog rather than just treat the symptoms. Long - lasting cures involve finding out why your dog has a specific behavior problem and trying to find a way for him to get the same reward from a more appropriate behavior. Long – lasting cures often take time. Quick fixes that involve punishment are never a good idea, and although they may seem to work temporarily, they often cause more problems than they solve and usually damage the relationship between the dog and owner. There is no shame in admitting you have a problem with your dog, however embarrassing the behavior might be. Many owners will be facing problems. Most behaviour problems are natural, normal canine behaviour which is exhibited inappropriately for life with their humans, and usually they can be solved particularly if they are minor.

You must avoid two big mistakes:

- Thinking of him or her as a human being as far as intellectual and emotional capacities are concerned – he or she is a dog!
- Or, in total contrast, thinking of him or her as a mere machine, devoid of feeling and understanding.

He or she is a living creature, dogs live in groups with complex hierarchical social rules, development is based on attachment, the first weeks are crucial for the rest of its life. This is when it learns the basic features of its environment and how to control itself. Communication involves all of the senses (sight, smell, taste, hearing and touch). It represents a blend of instinctive messages, reflexes and more complex learned sequences combining posture, vocalisation and emission.

A dog will adapt to very different conditions, families & environments. But always remember, whatever the circumstances, he will always react as a dog, with a dog's understanding and reflexes also remember he is uniquely moulded by parents, birth, early environment, and life experiences.

Very young puppies need someone to replace its mother, this new attachment is vital, for the pup to be able to start to discover the human world. From an early age, you will need to teach your dog that it is ok to be on its own, initially for very short periods (a few minutes) building up to longer periods. You need to make sure that you initiate contact between you and the little dog and not the puppy. This will help him put up with you being absent, this way it will not suffer from an all too common pathology: separation anxiety, causing the dog to howl, ravage or foul the house when alone. This pathology is well known and easy to treat.

In the next few paragraphs, I will take you through the potential problems your dog is likely to face ranging from aggression to acting destructively when left home alone and *how you can deal with them*.

- *Aggression is a normal, natural way for dogs to keep themselves safe or try to resolve disputes.* They cannot reason with their attacker or opponent or get their solicitor involved, and therefore they take the only option that is open to them when something upsets them. The answer to aggression problems lies in finding out the underlying reason for the aggressive behavior and solving the problems for the dog before the dog tries to solve the problem for itself.

Aggression towards people is often due to dogs perceiving themselves to be under threat and reacting to keep themselves safe. There is always a reason why dogs show aggression and finding that reason is the key to the solution. Many dogs are fearful because they did not grow accustomed to people when they were puppies. Dogs do not need to have bad experiences – just a lack of experience with different people of all ages and personalities when puppies are between the critical socialization ages of three to twelve weeks.

Once dogs have learned to use aggression to keep people away, owners need professional help from a pet behavior counselor to overcome the problem safely. To help dogs get over their fear of people, they need to have carefully controlled gradual, repeated exposure to one person until they have made

friends, learned to trust them and enjoy their company. Once this has happened say ten times with different people, most dogs begin to generalize and realize that people are safe to be with. However, this can sometimes take some time and requires plenty of patience. A good owner who will take charge without being *overbearing* is essential as the dog will need to rely on them for guidance and security.

- *Another potential area where problems might arise with your dog is in the area of food guarding.* Dogs may feel they need to guard food as it is a valued resource that may be scarce, or has been in the past, and they don't want to grow hungry. Food guarders feel that they need to protect their food in order to survive, even if this is not actually true. Food guarding usually begins with the dog just growling then escalating to snarling even snapping in the air as a threat if the owner's hands come closer. If these warnings are ignored, and the dog has enough confidence or the hands approach too quickly, bites may result.

If the owner punishes such behavior, the aggression can escalate quickly as the dog is now also becoming worried about aggression from the owner. If the punishment from the owner is severe enough, the aggression can be suppressed, but it may come out later, unexpectedly and with severity, with a person who is perceived as weaker especially children or visitors.

In puppies, we can prevent food aggression by teaching them that hands come to give not to take away. This is done by luring them away from what they are eating with a titbit that is much smellier and tastier than the foods they are eating. Whilst they are concentrating on this, the food or chew they were eating can be removed. The titbit is then given to them before the food or chew is replaced. If this happens regularly, the puppy will soon learn that human hands *come to give rather than take*, and so there is no need to be aggressive to keep them away.

If your dog is growling, biting, snapping or attacking over food, you will need to understand that the solution lies in teaching the dog that approaching human hands are good news rather than bad, but this needs to be done very carefully. It is important to treat this problem rather than just managing it in case someone particularly a child approaches unexpectedly one day while the dog is eating.

- Lastly, to find a cure for separation problems, we need to discover why the dog does what he does. Different problems will have slightly different symptoms, and these can be used as clues to help identify the cause behind the behaviour which will lead us to the most appropriate cure.

Fear of isolation, may manifest itself by a whine or bark, sniff under the door, push, scratch or chew at the bottom of the door, the carpet or door frames in an effort to get through. He may run around the house or room, looking for a way out and may jump on windowsills, knocking things off surfaces as he does so. If the dog manages to get out of the house, he will go looking for someone to be with. He may even be upset enough to defecate and urinate in the house. If this state continues, then many small runny piles of faeces are likely to be deposited.

- Solutions to this problem include exercising your dog well in advance of him being left on his own.
- Ignore the dog for half an hour before going out.
- Leaving the dog in a familiar place where any damage done will be minimal (well away from danger and valuables), or where his barking is least likely to annoy your neighbours. Alternatively, you should leave the dog with a friend or a relative until a set programme is completed.

In the long run, actively training the dog is the best way to go about things rather than reacting to problems as they arise. Training is a vital part of your relationship with him as it bonds the dog and owner. Teaching your dog even *basic commands* means you can control his actions, and ensures he fits in with society. It's the responsibility of all dog owners to ensure that dogs are controlled in public places.

Ideally, all dogs would be trained as puppies as they learn more quickly and, once they've mastered the commands, with practice they retain them for life. However, if you've re-homed a dog this may not be possible. Sometimes you may find yourself faced with a dog which has either never been trained or has forgotten what he was taught in the first place. Do not despair! Training classes are a good idea and there are also lots of commands you can teach your dog yourself at home.

It may take weeks of patience over many training sessions until he gets it right every time. Don't expect too much of him too soon - he's not designed to respond to the spoken word, so if you don't think he's quite understood, keep trying.

Dogs learn by association - they learn to associate actions with rewards. Keep distractions to a minimum to begin with, then increase them slowly, and try to repeat training sessions in as many different locations as you can. Your dog should pick up on the fact that anything around him is irrelevant, and that only the command that leads to the correct action gets the reward.

I hope my report can start to help you with, getting your dog or dogs to behavior as you want. Having a dog with good behavior, will make you proud and feel accomplished. Trust me training your dog to behave the way you want can be done, especially with patience and determination on your part. Please feel free to pass on this short report to anyone interested in Doggy tips or to subscribe for a copy of this report they can visit : www.trainingwellbehaveddogs.com

Good Luck and Best Wishes

Disclaimer:

The material contained in this report is to help you with training your dog. As some dogs are different and may respond differently to different training methods, we cannot be held responsible for any outcome that is not line with your desire. If in doubt at any time please seek advice from a Professional.