



Guidelines for Training Your Puppy

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Tips for training your puppy

Once you have collected your puppy from your breeder, the training can start almost straight away. The earlier you can start the training the better, so that your sweet little puppy doesn't turn into the little Tasmanian devil that it wants to be. Whatever sort of activity you decide to do with your dog, whether it is going to be just a companion to doing agility, working trials, flyball, lure coursing to showing your dog, you will need a certain amount of control before you will be able to do some of these activities. If you decide to go to training class, go and have a look at the class you wish to attend before you hand any money over, as you might not like their training methods, or the floor isn't suitable for the larger bouncier dog i.e., wooden floors, as once you have paid not all clubs will refund your money just because you do not like their methods.

Socialisation

Socialising your dog is very important. This can be anything from meeting other dogs to traffic, farm animals to other people. All of these need to be done with you being calm, and in control of your dog. If you are walking down the street and a man with a beard starts to walk towards you and your dog starts to show any signs of anxiety or nervousness towards him, ask the gentleman if he would mind shaking your hand to help socialise your dog, because if you ignore the situation then your dog will think that you are frightened and nervous as well. The other thing not to do is touch or talk to your dog during this time as either of these can be seen as rewarding

the dog for being in this state of mind, which can later lead to more serious problems.

Using Treats & Commands

Below are just a few training tips to get you started. Use some training treats to help you, as your dog will understand what you want them to do by rewarding it when it is in the correct position. The command words below are just a suggestion, you can use any word you like as long as you are consistent by using the same word for that position. During this exercises make sure you have your dog on a lead so that you are in control of the situation at all times.

The Sit:

Start by placing a treat on the dog's nose and slowly raising it above your dogs head, as the head goes up the bum goes down. Once the dog is in the 'sit' position give the command word 'sit' and reward the dog



with a treat. (If you are considering showing your dog, consult your ring craft class before introducing this exercise).

The Down:

The easiest way to introduce the 'down' is from the 'sit' position. Start by placing a treat on the dog's nose and slowly move

the treat to the floor, between the dogs front feet.



Once your hand has touched the floor, slowly move the treat out in front of the dog, making an 'L' shape when your dog is lying down, give the command word 'down' and reward the dog with a treat.

The Stand:

The easiest way to start this is by having your dog in the 'sit' position. Place a treat on the dog's nose and slowly move it away from the dog, luring it into the stand position. Once the dog has stood up, use the command word 'stand' and reward your dog.