

PUPPY OBEDIENCE TRAINING

Basic obedience for puppies is easily taught if the owner keeps in mind that the puppy will look to you to be its pack leader. You must use methods that are clear, gentle but firm, and consistent so as to enhance puppy/owner understanding and communication.

The first rule of any training is if you do not want a behavior repeated, then you must never allow the puppy to get away with it the first time. Something that may look cute to you in a 4 month old puppy will be very annoying when the dog is an adult. Such things as soiling in the house, jumping on people, chewing things, getting on furniture, etc. must be handled in a firm, consistent manner at the onset especially if you've asked yourself if you're going to like this behavior in the future.

Second, whatever action by the puppy gets a reaction from you, especially if the puppy thought it pleased you, is likely to be repeated. Therefore, if he relieves himself outside and received praise for it, then he will try to repeat the behavior that pleased you. Likewise if he jumps on the bed or furniture and you laugh, he will very likely repeat that behavior.

Third, NEVER hit or slap your puppy. He will only know you are upset with him but not *why* you are upset with him. Learn to make a sound deep in your throat loudly - **AAGGHH** - to get his attention and proceed from there. It must sound like a warning growl from an older member of his pack because this sound gets all dogs' attention.

Fourth, be as consistent as you possibly can whenever you deal with the puppy no matter the situation.

Five, NEVER initiate a training session, or a correction, when are you are upset or angry. He will think you are upset with him but not know why and this confusion stops the learning process.

Six, before starting a training session review in your mind what it is you want to accomplish with the puppy and how you will praise and correct him.

Seven, always keep in mind you are dealing with an animal - not a child in a fur coat. The puppy does not operate on emotion, only his four senses.

Eight, If you train with food **THE PUPPY MUST ALWAYS WORK FOR THE TREAT!** Afterwards, he must know he ALWAYS has to do what you want him to do.

Crate train your dog so he is safe in the house at night, travelling, or in strange places. Make sure the puppy becomes a part of your family; take him with you whenever possible, play with him, take him for walks, strengthen the bond between you whenever possible. If you feed your dog table scraps, always put the scraps in your dog's bowl so you don't encourage begging at the table, and always feed him after you have eaten. Most importantly of all, if you respect the dog's willingness to love you unquestioningly, and follow the simple rules above, there is no more satisfying relationship to be found anywhere in the world.

