

To help you train new behaviour or solve problem behaviour in your dog:

**Success = time + consistency + patience + commitment + continuity
from all the family!**

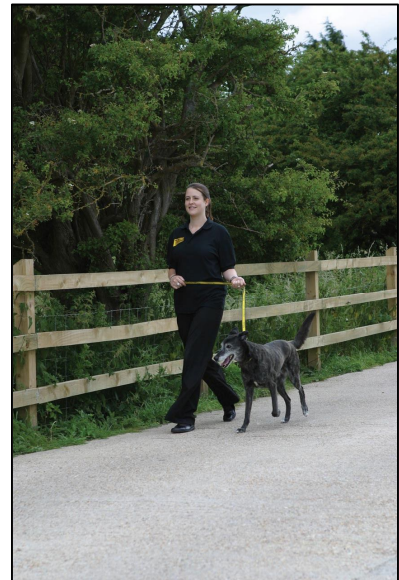
Be prepared:

Consider changing your own behaviours and how you perceive your dog. Set aside training sessions as part of a normal daily routine.

Example: do not begin to train your dog to stop pulling on the lead when you are in a rush to get your dog walked. Training sessions must be consistent and successful for the dog, especially in the initial stages.

Be positive:

Teaching dogs using positive motivational techniques is far more effective and will produce longer lasting results. Punishment and harsh techniques have no place in the training environment as it will cause stress and the ultimate breakdown in your relationship with your dog.



Reward achievement:

Rewards can be anything that your dog wants and may include;

- A favourite toy
- Playing a certain game
- Food treats: REMEMBER to reduce the size of your dog's normal meals or use his whole meal divided up into smaller portions, to prevent your dog putting on weight

Always combine the giving of a reward with verbal and physical praise.

Reward must be something:

- Worth working for
- Valued by the dog

If the dog has free access to attention, games and food then training may prove slow and frustrating. Praise, either physical or verbal is a precursor to being rewarded and a valuable reward is imminent.



Remember:

- Dogs learn by trial and error: rewarded behaviour will be repeated.
- What we consider to be a negative to the dog may be considered by the dog to be rewarding.
- Withdrawal of attention and isolation for 30 seconds to a minute can be extremely effective

Example: This can be as simple as when the dog barks for attention immediately get up and walk out the room leaving the dog alone. Once the dog is quiet for a minimal amount of time then re enter the room, praising quietly if it remains quiet. The dog soon learns his behaviour produces isolation and all attention is withdrawn and the behaviour of remaining quiet is rewarded.

- It is important to ensure at all times that our dogs are not able to practise problem and unwanted behaviour in any environment or circumstance. The more chance the dog has to practise the behaviour the better the dog will become at displaying it.
- Good timing is essential in communicating to the dog what is correct and what is not, rewarding too late causes confusion and frustration, which may lead to other complications. Good timing is not difficult to learn but it is a skill that takes practise.
- Don't rely on bribery - if your dog shows the desired behaviour only when a visual reward is on offer then this is a bribe and will not maintain behaviour. Through the learning process the dog must be taught to carry out a behaviour that has been requested without a visual bribe.

Summary of General Training Rules

1. Set aside 10 -15 training sessions each day of 3 – 5 minutes each.
2. Initially train in an area with no distractions then slowly introduce distractions as the dog improves in the desired behaviour.
3. Avoid areas where problem behaviours occur during the initial training sessions. Only proceed into the problem inducing environments as the dogs behaviour improves in quieter areas.
4. The correct use of rewards and the delivery of rewards and praise are vital.
5. Limiting the things that are important to your dog will increase their value. This will increase your training success.
6. Start to view your dog's exercise time as training sessions to build good behaviours and habits.

If you need more help with your dog's basic training, please contact your Training & Behaviour Advisor (if you have a Dogs Trust dog), or ask your vet to put you in touch with a behaviour specialist.

