

Hot Diggity Dog Reward Training

Our Goals for this Class:

To teach **you** to train your pet to become a well-mannered, socialized animal capable of focusing and functioning at home and in public.

TRAINING TIPS/SUGGESTIONS

- 1.** Evening Class-feed before noon. Morning Class- feed after class
- 2. Pitch and Tone:** Dogs interpret pitch as an important part of the message. For example, the high squeaky, staccato noises are perceived to be exciting, friendly. Low, growly noises are inhibiting. Keep most verbal cues short.
- 3. Timing:** Dogs learn by association. When training it is important that the reward closely follows the desired behavior. For example, when teaching your dog to sit, the praise and reward should be given when the rear touches the floor, not after he's stood up again. On the other side of the coin, reprimanding your dog for something he may have done hours ago (IE. You come home to find your slippers shredded) is pointless; your dog won't associate your scolding with what he did hours ago, and if this happens often enough, he may begin to fear your arrival, as you're always angry for no reason he can fathom.
Timing is everything!!
- 4. Be Consistent:** As a family be consistent with your cues. Make sure your commands sound the same. Don't use COME one time and COMECOMECOMEHERE the next time. This is a surefire way to confuse and slowdown the learning process. Also be consistent in what you expect from your pet within the family. For example, if you let the dog jump up on you and dad, he will think jumping up is okay all the time even if you are dressed nice or have company.
- 5. Practice, practice, did I mention to practice:** In general practice in short happy sessions throughout the day. (i.e. about 4 to 5 sits each session or 1 to 5 minute spurts of training or when your pet wants something, use that as a training moment, rewarding with what he wants) always end when the dog has done the correct behavior and before the dog loses interest. Practice in different parts of the house, in the yard, on the sidewalk, etc, always making it a little harder each time. In class we teach you HOW to train the behavior. The dog will need repetition of the exercises at home to retain his lessons. Integrate training into your dog's daily life. Some of the best times to train are before his dinner, going out the door, while playing fetch. Etc..
- 6. Reward- Don't be stingy:** Reward your dog for good behavior. Rewarding what YOU want makes it more likely that behavior will happen again when asked. In other words, dogs do what works for them. If your dog was given something he loved the last time he sat or downed, he is more likely to offer that behavior again. If he knows that jumping up on you earns your attention(BAD or good), he'll keep jumping, as your attention is a reward. Rewards should be immediate. A delay may reward the wrong behavior. Try not to miss the opportunity to reward correct/calm behaviors. (i.e. sitting at your feet quietly, not pulling the leash, not barking or jumping, staring at you ...)_

Reward with things your DOG really loves: food, frisbee, toys, praise, car rides, tugging, door opening etc..

7. **Attention/Focus:** You will need to keep your dog's attention, his focus on you for training. Without his focus on you training will be almost useless. You will need to find out what motivates your dog. What will he work for? When you know what makes him tic and you are the only one supplying him with those resources, he will learn to stay focused on you, as you have what he needs/wants.
8. **DON'T DO THAT-DO THIS!** When you want your dog to stop doing something, give him something else to do instead that is incompatible with the behavior you don't want. For example, dog is going to jump on you in greeting, have him sit instead; he can't sit and jump at the same time. Does your dog chew furniture? Give him a chew toy instead; he can't chew both at the same time.
9. **Criteria:** Criteria is what you are expecting from your dog. It's what the trainer wants the behavior to be in terms of speed, duration and distance.
10. **Step By Step:** Raise criteria slowly in small increments, building on each success. Simply put, don't expect too much too soon.
 - A. when teaching your dog to stay, start with a very short stay (2 sec.)
 - B. When successful at 2 go on to 3 or 4 second stay etc..

Raising criteria gradually eliminates the need for correction by setting the dog up to succeed.
11. **Don't Bribe:** If trained correctly, behavior is not contingent on food being present. You can phase out the food gradually and use lots of real-life rewards (games, tug, doors, toys praise, squirt from the hose etc.) as well, your dog will perform behaviors even when you don't have food on you. We use lots of food at first to teach and practice new behaviors because it's fast and builds great associations. **You wouldn't want to stop getting paid once you got better at your job; so don't forget to give rewards to your dog for a job well done!**
12. **Patience:** Don't expect this 6 week class to completely train your dog. That comes with practice at home. Training is an ongoing process for the young and adolescent pet.

Never train angry, your pet will get stressed, and the ability to learn will shut down. Don't rush or train too much at one time. If he knows commands in your home, try it outside but lower your criteria. **Be Kind to your Dog and Have Fun!**

