

Home



Any dog can learn new tricks. Whether it's a young pup or a rambunctious rescue, dogs can be taught basic obedience. In fact, teaching them some commands (mainly sit, stay and come) is easier than you think. With a little patience and persistence, you can transform your canine companion into a well-behaved dog who can handle any event with ease.

As you begin training your dog, there are a few things to consider.

- Keep your training sessions short. Since most dogs have short attention spans, they won't learn as much if training runs long. You can help them stay attentive and engaged with sessions that only last 5-10 minutes.
- Reward good work. Whether it's a treat, a toy or a simple "good boy," dogs will learn and maintain specific behaviors if there's a reward in it for them. Positive reinforcement helps them learn right from wrong.
- Food is the best motivator. However, make sure treats are small and easy to eat. Small cubes of hot dogs, cheese and carrots are good training treat options. Remember to conceal them in clear plastic bags, so your dog will be able to see them and not eat them unless they've completed the given command.
- Don't expect too much too soon. Obedience training takes time. But by training every single day with unflinching focus, your dog will learn what's expected of them.

Sitting Instructions

When it comes to basic obedience, sitting is the very first skill your dog needs to learn. So, it's a good thing that it's also the easiest one to teach! This command is critical because it teaches pets self-control, telling them that they can't move from a particular spot.

How to Teach Sit

1. Get down to your dog's level either by resting on your knees or sitting on a chair.
2. Place a treat in your non-dominant hand and hold it close to your dog's nose.
3. Slowly lift the treat-filled hand above your pup's head. As they lift their head to eat the treat, place your other hand on their bottom. Tell them to "sit" as you guide them into a sitting position.
4. If they stay sitting, praise them and give them the treat.
5. Repeat this step a few times every day (preferably before mealtimes, walks and bedtime) until they've mastered the command.

Steps to Staying

Staying is hands down the hardest task for dogs to learn. Why? Well, it goes against their very nature. Since dogs have an innate pack mentality, all they want to do is follow their family around. By teaching them to stay in a quiet area without distractions, your dog will slowly learn to stay still even when you're in another room.

How to Teach Stay

1. Tell your dog to "sit."
2. Hold your hand out, with the palm facing your dog's nose, and say "stay."
3. Keeping your hand in the same position, take a few steps back and wait. Note your dog's movements to ensure they're staying still.
4. If your dogs doesn't budge, reward them with a treat and some applause.
5. As you continue training, gradually increase the number of steps you take and the waiting period. After a few weeks, your pet will be able to stay in place for several minutes.

Recall Rules

Once your dog knows how to sit and stay, you should also teach them to come. After all, this command will help your pup stay out of trouble in surprise situations. If you accidentally leave your front door open or their collar breaks, this useful command will be your saving grace.

How to Teach Come

1. Attach a 5' or 6' leash to your dog's collar.
2. Tell your dog to "sit" and "stay."
3. Slowly back away from your dog, creating a 3-foot distance between you and your pup.
4. Pair the "come" command with a distinct hand signal. You can either hold your hand out with the fingers slightly curled or cheerfully pat your legs.
5. Once you've decided on your hand signal, say "come" and your pet's name while completing the motion.
6. After your dog has returned to you, offer them plenty of praise and a treat.
7. With each attempt, increase the distance so your dog will eventually come even when they can't see you. And when you have confidence in your canine, try it without the leash.

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