

## Obedience Training Tips

Obedience training your own dog can be very rewarding and develop a strong bond between you and them but most importantly, you establish that YOU are the 'Leader of the Pack'. For your dog to be considered obedient, rather than simply trained in obedience, they must respond each time the command is given. Treats can be used to reward your dog for completing the command successfully but not preferred. Your dog has a strong desire to please you and praise is sufficient.

Before getting started, remember, no dog is 'too young or old' to learn. Training should begin as soon as you bring them home. Be consistent. Decide on what behaviors you wish to accept and the behaviors that must go. Any behavior you can name, you can train! For a happy, healthy dog, they need a combination of exercise, discipline and lots of love. Discipline is extremely important for your dog's safety *and* your peace of mind. Exercise keeps them physically healthy *and* it helps prevent boredom, which leads to bad behavior. They should be walked each and every day, no less than 30 minutes and have a regular playtime. Walking properly on a leash is the first training required prior to learning other commands.

### "DO'S"

- **ONLY GIVE A COMMAND ONE TIME**
- **GENTLY** place dog in position according to the command given, say "good ????" (whatever the command given) if not complied to *in a moment's time*
- Give the command using the same word(s)
- Give the command with the same tone of voice and speed of speaking
- Always re-enforce the command (ex: say "Good Sit" after Sit command accomplished)
- Be Consistent! Your dog will rapidly learn that commands are optional if not enforced everytime
- Keep training sessions short (approximately 5 to 10 minutes) several times a day
- Teach one specific command at a time. Your dog has a single-track mind
- Have a goal for each training session
- Be decisive, firm, and most of all, be sure that you know exactly what you want and how it should be done.
- Your dog must understand that when you say certain things, they must do certain things.
- Anticipate your dog's actions. Think ahead of time and give your command before your dog acts or moves.
- Always use kindness. Develop a bond. All future training depends upon this
- Only attempt training when your patience is at it's highest level
- If you feel yourself becoming frustrated, take a break
- Always finish a training period on a good note

### "DON'TS"

- **DO NOT GIVE A COMMAND UNLESS YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO ENFORCE IT IF NOT OBEYED!**
- Do not repeat the command, enforce it calmly
- Do not use your dogs name with the command word or punishment
- Do not allow your dog to walk in front of you or lead anytime, no matter if they are on or off leash.
- Do not allow your dog to lean or sit upon you, this is their way of saying "I own

you"

- Do not punish your dog while you are angry or lack control of yourself
- Do not lose your temper while training your dog. If you do, your dog will lose some of its respect for you
- Do not chase your dog to catch them; they must come to you or follow after you
- Do not coax your dog to you and then turn upon them with punishment. You will regret the deception
- Do not nag your dog or give orders to them constantly; do not shout
- Do not punish your dog for failure to obey unless you are certain that they understood fully what you commanded
- Do not praise your dog for doing a certain act, then at a later time, scold them for doing the same act
- Do not allow other people to pet and fuss over your dog unnecessarily until you are confident that your dog is fully trained.
- Do not permit anyone to give commands to your dog while you are training it unless they comply completely with your method/commands
- Do not stop a training session if your dog has done something wrong

**Have patience!** Your dog is not a human being. If your dog goes one step wrongly, do not repeat this step but return to the beginning, they must be taught to consider only successful acts in their entirety. Remember that your dog cannot ask questions, neither can they understand all that you say. They only know the words, the commands and the names you teach them. Your success depends on being able to make your dog understand what they have to do and then to instill that into their brain until it becomes instinctive. The five Basic Commands are "Heel, Sit, Down, Stay and Come". All dogs should be trained with no less than these basic commands first and preferably in that order. The other command words can be changed to whatever is comfortable with you. Keep in mind, the simpler the command, the easier it is for you **AND** your pet sitter to remember.

**Okay.** "release" word that can be used to signal the break, end of a required behavior or the end of the training session. It must be *consistently used and expressed with an upbeat, cheery voice* inflection and incorporating body language and a happy smiling face at the same time.

**Heel** -- The dogs head or shoulder is parallel to the handlers leg on either the right or left side of the handler. The side chosen should *remain consistent*. Never let your dog walk you. *If he is in front, he is the leader*. When your dog is in a 'Heel' command, they are not allowed to 'Go Potty' until You give them the 'release' word.

**Sit** – Sit means sit. **Say it once**, and place the dog into position. Request a sit before anything-feeding time, to leash up, go out or in a door, down stairs, etc. "Sit" can also be a lifesaver toward stopping unwanted behaviors. **Do not leave your dog in this position longer than a minute or two.** For longer periods, use the down command.

**Down** – Down should be used in the context of "**lie down and remain in that position until I release you** or ask you to do something else". Down is a good control to use during your mealtime. Your dog can be left in this comfortable position for about 30 minutes.

**Stay** – Stay is "**stay in whatever position you are in until released** or until I ask you to do something else".

**Come** – **Come means come Here, right now, and to me!** Only use the "come" command when you can enforce the response if it is ignored. To ensure success in training, never use "come" to call your dog for something your dog may perceive as unpleasant! Instead, you would go and get

your dog.

**Wait** – Wait is a variation of stay, but usually signals a pause in two consecutive forward motions or commands, such as “wait” (while you are opening the car door) and then “load up” or “get in” to get into the car. Isn’t necessarily a formal stay.

**Stand** – Utilizing the stand command enables easier grooming, control and ease of examination and the vet etc.

**Stop** -- Your dog will simply stop whatever it is doing and lie down on command no matter how far they are from you

**Steady** -- Keep near by but walk free and not dash off

**Off** – Used in the context of “**get off**” **anything or anybody!**

**Out** – “Out” of the room.

**Back** – “Back” as in backing up, or “back to the spot you just were”.

**Move** – “Move” out of the way of your forward motion.

**Leave It** – Indicates your dog should **not touch, sniff or pick up** an object.

**Take It** – Indicates your dog should take an object from you.

**Hold It** – Indicates your dog should hold the item in their mouth until you ask them to “give” or “drop it”.

**Give** – Your dog should release the object to your hand.

**Drop It** – Drop the object from their mouth.

**No Bite** – This is used in the context of “**Take your mouth OFF**” **anything, anybody** etc. Used for indicating your dog should not chew on an item, should not place their mouth or teeth ON whatever it is they are attempting to, including and not limited to people, clothing, destroying their own toys, chewing on themselves etc.

**Calm** – An informal type “**chill out**”, or could be used formally as your command of choice to indicate a “time out”.

**Bed** – Part of a routine, generalized to the point you could say “go to bed” at any time and your dog would go directly to their sleeping spot.

**Crate** – Command to tell your dog to go into his kennel.

**Outside** – prepares your dog we are going outside for elimination purposes.

**Go Potty** – Can be used to signal or train your dog to eliminate on command

**Let’s Go** – Come along with me. Not a formal “heel” command. Used during walks or anytime you just want your dog to ‘come along’.

**Easy** – Take it easy, slow down, proceed carefully. Used during walks or going up or downstairs.

**Go Play** – Indicate to your dog, they are free to leave your side and engage in play, or “let’s go

play” to indicate going outside, yet distinguished from going “outside” for the purpose of elimination.

**Fetch** -- To go after and return with an item, such as a ball, thrown by you

**That’s All** – During play or times of giving attention to your dog, to signal YOU are done playing or giving attention. Your dog should cease play or behaviors they use to gain your attention.

**Teeth** – Used to indicate to your dog that their teeth will now be inspected and cleaned, and your fingers will be in their mouth.

**Brush** – Used to indicate to your dog they will be brushed. They are expected to stand, sit or lie still while being groomed.

**Paw** – Used to indicate to your dog that their feet will be handled, whether it is for cleaning mud, drying wet feet, trimming nails etc.

**Ears** – Used to indicate to your dog that their ears will be handled, for cleaning or inspection etc.

**Shake Off** – Something fun you can train your dog to do when they come in when its raining or signal the appropriate time for your dog to shake off after a bath!

**Shake Hands** – Your dog offers their paw to “shake”.

**Quiet** – Stop barking immediately

**Speak** – Your dog “speaks” on command. A common way to teach your dog to stop annoying barking behaviors is to teach your dog TO speak, but only on command.

**Remember, the only limitation to training your dog is you. These are just a few commands to get you started. You can add, change or delete any command according to your specific needs or wants. All you need is time and patience and, of course, your dog.**

**For example:** The **Go Potty command** can be more clearly defined so your dog will know exactly what you want. We have found it quite helpful to teach "**Go Pee Potty**" and "**Go Poo Potty**". It is so easy to accomplish. When training, just say “Good Pee Potty or Poo Potty (whichever applies) when you puppy is in the act (as long as it is where they are supposed to potty). Your puppy will learn the difference quite quickly. This comes in VERY handy when you are in a hurry and your puppy just wants to sniff and play or if it's raining, snowing, etc and you really want to get back inside when it's dry and warm. This is particularly needed when you have to walk your dog everytime they potty, if you live in a condo, apartment, anywhere that leash potty is required. It is also helpful before going on a nice walk. Your puppy will Poo Potty at home and this will prevent the need for you to carry a baggy of poo all over your neighborhood wherever they decide to go. We started doing this with Garrett when he was only 3 months old Because, we would go out and Pee and no sooner were we back inside, he would have to go back out to Poo. Thus, came the separate commands and it is Great! You will be very pleased when your puppy potties on command.