

Copyright Northern Suburbs Training and Obedience
Dog Club Inc. 2006

7. What to Take with You

- * A folding chair and a blanket for your dog to sit on as you may have a long wait.
- * Goat stake, water and bowl.
- * In warm weather, a beach umbrella if you have one. Some grounds are short of shade.
- * Food and drinks are available (at a price) at all trials.

8. After judging, presentation of certificates will take place. It is courteous to remain until all certificates have been awarded. Please stay and support your fellow triallers!



TRAINING TIMES Sunday Mornings

Classes Puppy - 1E 9.00am - 10.00am

Classes 2 - 8 10.30am - 11.30am

Classes may not be run on days when there are special events, such as members' competitions, etc. Please check the notice board or our club newsletter, the Hot Dog, for these dates.

**NORTHERN SUBERBS TRAINING AND
OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB (Inc)**

(Affiliated with the Canine Association of Western Australia)
POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 122 GREENWOOD WA 6024

THE OBJECT OF OUR CLUB:

1. Is to promote, as a community service to the residents of the Northern Suburbs, the training of dogs of any breed and description, to be obedient, companionable and useful in every way.
2. To encourage, assist and instruct members and other interested persons in matters concerning training and/or the working of dogs.
3. To conduct training classes, exhibitions, obedience and agility trials, and to hold such other fixtures as may be permitted by the Canine Association of Western Australia (Inc).
4. To promote public interest in training, working and handling of dogs.
5. To educate and encourage members, breeders, exhibitors and judges to abide by the requirements of the standards as approved by the CAWA (Inc) for the conduct of Obedience and Agility trials.
6. To promote good fellowship and sportsmanship amongst members and those participating in the Club's activities or attending organised fixtures.
7. To make known to members the laws and regulations of the state of Western Australia relevant to the ownership of dogs, their care and also the responsibility of owners for the conduct and actions of their dogs.
8. To foster relations with other clubs having similar aims.

* Set up camp near the ring in which you will be judged. Watch what is

happening - judges usually go through the same routine with every competitor so you will have some idea what to expect.

* Be ready when your turn comes. After you have been judged keep an eye on what is happening.

6. In the Ring

a) Your dog must enter the ring on lead. This is not removed until the judge asks you to do so.

b) Go into the ring and stand either side of the starting post.

c) At the conclusion of each exercise return to the starting post.

6d) You may praise your dog between exercises. This includes a pat or a cuddle but you are not allowed to use your hands to position your dog in the ring.

e) Try to walk a straight line parallel to the sides of the ring and do not anticipate the judge's instructions.

f) If you do not really understand what the judge wants - ask. They are human!

g) If you (or within reason, your dog) have a disability, tell the judge before you start, eg deafness, poor vision etc.

h) During the exercise you may not

* Use your dog's name except where specified in the rules. Click your fingers or slap your leg.

* Correct your dog, either verbally or with the lead. No matter how evil they are you cannot do anything about it!

* Praise or talk to your dog except to give commands.

i.) Take food into the ring (penalty - disqualification.) Make sure you know the rules.

j) Don't worry. Try to keep a clear head so that you can hear the judge.

ENTERING A TRIAL: READ YOUR RULE BOOK

1. You have received your CAWA membership number and a number for your dog.

2. Trials are advertised in the "Canine News" which you will receive bi-monthly. This magazine provides trialling information and general canine news.

Note It is important to make a note of the entry closing date and fee structure. Entries received after this date will not be accepted.

3. Which Class

If your dog has never trialled before you must enter the Novice class or the Community Companion Class.

When you have gained three qualifying scores (more than 170 points out of 200) under at least two different judges, you are entitled to the title of Companion Dog or Community Companion Dog Title (which ever is applicable.) You must apply to the CAWA for this (forms in the van). You are no longer entitled to compete in Novice classes, however, you may enter Novice Competition class, or you may go further and prepare to enter Open classes.

4. Send entry form and fee to the address given in the advertised schedule. Make sure it arrives BEFORE the closing date.

5. The Day of the Trial READ YOUR RULE BOOK AGAIN

- * Arrive in plenty of time.
- * Pick up your number and have your dog vetted (as in our Members Competitions and Mini Trials).
- * Check for scratchings with your Ring Steward.
- * Give your dog a chance to stretch his legs and have a comfort stop. (You can lose up to ten points if your dog fouls the ring).

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WELCOME TO OUR CLUB

Northern Suburbs Training and Obedience Dog Club is a voluntary organisation which aims to improve the relationship between dog and owner, building a rapport between them that will allow them to work as a team and enjoy their time together. Our emphasis is on teaching people how to control their dog in an atmosphere that offers support and assistance, whilst also having fun.

Positive training methods are taught, as well as how to use the occasional reprimand. Reward based training builds trust and confidence and develops your relationship with your dog. If at any time you have a training problem or something is concerning you, please speak to the Senior Instructors. We hope you enjoy our classes.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Classes are held on a Sunday morning. The early classes, which are puppy through to 1E, are held from 9am - 10am. The later classes, being 2 and above, are held from 10.30am - 11.30am.

Classes start early February and run all year until early December. Only puppy classes continue through the Christmas break. There are **no classes** on long weekends or when trials are being conducted.

New members join the club each week and progression through the classes is individual. You will be presented with a certificate on graduation from Class 1E. You may then continue on and attend the later class at 10.30am for more advanced work. You may join agility once your dog has reached class 3, providing that he is 18 months or older and you meet the entry criteria. (See Page 5)

You are required to wear your badge each time you come to class, and you will be given a coloured dot each time that you are promoted. Should you forget your badge, you can get a temporary one from the caravan for \$2.

JOINING THE CANINE ASSOCIATION

Members who wish to compete in Open Sanctioned Trials must join the Canine Association of WA which is the controlling body for all shows and trials in Western Australia.

You will not be able to enter CAWA trials until you receive a CAWA membership number and a registration number for your dog as your trial entry will not be accepted without this information.

Application forms to join the CAWA are available from the van or you may download a membership form from the CAWA website. (See details at the bottom of this page.)

When you first join CAWA you pay a nomination fee as well as your subscription fee. You do not have to pay the nomination fee again only the subscription.

Subscriptions are halved after May 1st each year. Nomination and transfer fees are unchanged.

You will need to check with the Canine Association regarding their current scale of fees.

Canine Association of WA, PO Box 1404, Canningvale WA 6970
(Phone: 9455 1188)

Website: www.cawa.asn.au/ **Email:** k9@cawa.asn.au

Should you require any further information, please speak to one of the instructors, or use the library in the van which has a selection of books on many dog related subjects. Books are available for loan for a \$10 deposit, which is refunded when the book is returned.

Your Dog Loves You
When Nobody Does



PUPPY CLASSES

Puppy class (for dogs aged 8-16 weeks) covers socialisation, temperament training and simple obedience training. A senior instructor may decide some dogs remain in the class longer if they need special help. Children may attend under the supervision of an adult. Puppies will progress to Class 1A once they are 16 weeks old. Puppies aged 17-18 weeks will attend puppy class for one week for assessment of temperament.

ORIENTATION CLASS

On enrollment, dogs over 18 weeks will attend orientation class for one week only. In this class, you will be taken through general information about the club, dogs in general and shown some of the exercises you will be learning the following week when you go to class 1A.

TRAINING CLASSES

Classes 1A - 1E are the junior classes that cover general obedience and include things such as the name game, coming when called, loose lead walking, the sit, drop and stand positions, stays, general everyday good manners, the instructive reprimand 'leave it', leadership and communication. The senior classes, being Class 2 and above, are at a more advanced level. Off lead work and trialing methods are covered. Learning games and tricks and general good fun are included in all our classes. Instructors may vary in their methods slightly from time to time, so do what is working for your dog.

AGILITY

Agility classes are for dogs who are at least 18 months of age and have reached class 3 standard of obedience. The classes are held on a Wednesday evening, starting at 7pm. Like obedience, the classes are progressive, starting with all on lead work as dogs and handlers learn the basic equipment, working towards off lead control and trialing. Dogs entering agility will need to pass an assessment by both a senior obedience and senior agility instructor. Please ask your instructor or the caravan staff for further information regarding Agility.

COMPETITIONS AND TRIALS

MEMBERS OBEDIENCE COMPETITIONS

Members Competitions are designed to allow Club Members and their dogs to test their skills against others in the same class on an individual basis. These are good fun and are a good way to get some individual feedback on how you and your dog are progressing. There are normally two of these competitions held each year.

OPEN OBEDIENCE TRIALS

During the year, various Obedience Clubs throughout the State hold Open Obedience trials. To enter these trials, dogs must be registered with the Canine Association of Western Australia (CAWA) and be up to a certain level of obedience. Competitors need to gain a minimum of 170 out of 200 points to obtain a pass at each level, progressing from Pre-Novice (CCD), Novice (CD), Open (CDX), Utility (UD), and Utility Dog Excellent (UDX). Competitors must achieve three passes, under at least two different judges, to gain each title. Northern Suburbs Training and Obedience Dog Club holds two CAWA Obedience trials each year, where some of the states best dogs compete.

CLUB ACHIEVEMENT TRIALS

Achievement trials are organised once a year for club members training in the higher classes. These trials are run at the same level as CAWA Open trials and are arranged for the benefit of members who do not wish to compete at CAWA trials. Three passes are needed at each level for members to gain their OBD, OID and OAD Achievement Certificates, which are presented at the clubs AGM.

MEMBERS AGILITY COMPETITIONS

The club runs three agility competitions each year, where club members and their dogs can compete against each other with others in the same class. These competitions cover those new to agility, as well as those who are at trialing level. These competitions are held on a Wednesday night, instead of normal training.

straight. If he is sitting on one hip (unless there is a medical reason for it) he will most likely lay down after a while. To cue him into the long down, circle the dog around once before assuming the position

You can still continue to go back and reward your dog from time to time as he improves at the exercise. Do not go around him when you go back and only praise and reward him for getting it right. You might find this action increases the stress levels with some dogs. If this is the case, simply reward your dog when you return to him at the end of the time allotted.

PROBLEMS

Punishment is counter productive and tends to destabilize the stays. Each reward, especially when first teaching this command, reinforces the specific stay position, as well as building the dog's confidence to accept and learn from an occasional instructive reprimand.

There are several reasons why dogs break during stays. Breaking position but remaining in place, or running to their owner, are both signs of a confused dog that is still trying to please it's owner. Breaking stays to run off and play with other dogs is also a sign of a confused dog. This indicates that the dog is insufficiently trained, so go back to basics. You may be asking your dog too soon to maintain the stay for too long a time. Alternatively, there may be too many distractions, so go back to a quieter place where there are only mild ones, and work up slowly.

Owner leaving - Owner returning. Ask someone to watch you and the dog and observe what is happening, particularly the way the dog reacts. Your command may be too strong when you leave, or you may be creeping away or rushing things. If the dog appears worried, give him the command and take two steps away and then turn and reward him for staying. Repeat this a few times every so often and make it very rewarding for him to stay. Never let your dog continually break the stays. Find out what the problem might be and change what you are doing. Use a long lead if needed or a tie down.

gently remind him if he makes a mistake. It should be **immediate and instructive**, i.e. 'Sssit- Staaay', in a gentle but convincing voice and with a firm hand signal. Recommence praising the dog the instant he resumes a solid stay.

All stays should be practiced in quiet surroundings, usually in the home first and then in the yard. Do not expect too much, too soon. If you go anywhere that is unfamiliar, **always** go back to the basics and work up to it again. Dogs do not generalise, so they need to be shown all their exercises in different locations.

Before you start to move away from your dog, get him used to you changing position beside or in front of him. You can sit, turn away, or even lie down. Make sure his stay is rock solid.

When you do move away, only go a few steps at a time. It is very hard for some dogs to stay while you walk away. Go back and reward him in position, even if you are only two steps away. When you do leave, leave confidently. Do not look back or creep away, as your dog can read your body language.

Never shout or get angry at your dog if he has problems with the stay. This will only undermine his trust in you. Go back and let him learn each step again, and take it slowly. This is an exercise where the dog has to learn that even if you are not there, nothing bad is going to happen to him.

Do not call your dog off a STAY command. If you leave him in a position to call him to you, use the 'Wait' command instead. Always reward the dog in position before you release him from it. Do not reward the dog when you 'release' him from the command - a gentle 'good dog' will do. It is the staying that is important.

When teaching more than one stay position, it is vital that you cue in the specific position you want the dog to assume. For example, Sit-Stay - Long down or Down-Stay - Stand-Stay. Make sure the dog is always sitting

AGILITY TRIALS

The club hosts two Open Agility and Jumpers trials throughout the year, where dogs are required to be registered with CAWA and be of a certain standard in jumping and agility. They must also be at least 18 months of age to enter. Each dog must be measured so they jump at the required height, being small, medium or large. Dogs compete in classes Novice, Open and Masters and can gain Agility Dog (AD), Agility Dog Excellent (ADX) and Agility Dog Masters (ADM) titles, and the same with Jumpers.

CLUB GROUND RULES

Punctuality is expected. If you are late for class, please see your instructor before joining the group.

Pick up after your dog (excreta) – plastic bags are available at the caravan. Better still, make sure you always have one with you. There is also a bucket with sand in it for those difficult ones.

Please park your car in accordance with the by-laws and consider other people and local residents.

Bitches in season (oestrus) must not come to the training grounds until their cycle is over (approximately 4 weeks from onset), but owners are welcome to observe the class.

All dogs must be on a lead at all times, unless indicated otherwise by an instructor of the club. Collars:- we recommend soft ½ check (martingales), head collars (haltis and gentle leaders), harness (walking harness, not a car harness) or a flat collar. Leads:- we recommend a 4ft - 6ft lead which should be light and easy to use. No chain leads. A selection of leads, collars and other goods are available from the van.

Know what your dog is doing at all times. Do not allow play between dogs on lead at anytime, before, during or after class. If you want your dog to meet another dog, keep your distance until you ask the other person. The

meeting should then be kept short (about 3 seconds) before the dogs separate. There are dogs who do not like long hellos, while others are uncomfortable with dogs coming right up to them. Please respect these dogs and their owners. If you notice your dog is becoming worried get his attention by luring and rewarding him and then walk away slowly to a place where he feels more comfortable. Observe and praise and reward all his good behaviour in order to focus his attention on you.

Club equipment is only to be used at the direction and under the supervision of an instructor.

Some of the club instructors will have their own dogs tethered, or in a crate, while taking class. Please never allow a child or dog, or even yourself, to approach these dogs. It is unfair and can cause some dogs distress as they feel a need to defend their territory.

Please wear appropriate clothing, including closed in shoes. Sunscreen is available at the van for members' use.

Smoking is not permitted on the training grounds. Dogs can be burnt quite badly if they step on a cigarette butt, or walk into a cigarette held in your hand.

Children over 10 may participate in classes provided they have been assessed by a senior instructor and an adult is with them at all times.

Keep all food secure in a bumbag, treat pouch, pockets or sealed container and wash carefully after use.

NEVER FEED ANOTHER PERSON'S DOG

If your dog is possessive of his toys, take care around other dogs. Do not throw the ball for your dog before or during class.

Always have consideration for other dogs please.

lead and walk away, repeating the command 'leave it' in a firm voice until he does turn away and look at you. At this point, praise and reward him heavily. Practice over several sessions. When teaching this command, do not use it unless you have the dog on a lead and are in a position to stop him getting the food when told to "leave it". As you train, start to encourage him to take a few steps toward you before he gets the reward. Then start to reward him when he responds instantly.

STAYS

For our purposes, 'stay' will mean remain in a specific body position and place until told otherwise. This exercise is an active teaching process. In order to receive absolute attention from your dog, you must devote absolute attention towards your dog.

Start with very short stays. Increase the length of the stay gradually. At other times, very gradually increase the distance between you and your dog but never increase the two at the same time.

Speaking slowly and softly will tend to calm the dog and keep him in position. It is a polite request to 'Stay'.

Use your dog's name - Rover 'Sit-Stay' - 'good dog Rover' - 'good Sit-Stay' and reward him while he is in the sitting position then release him from the command.

Initially and frequently reward and praise the dog while he remains in the appropriate position, in order to let him know he is getting it right. This is especially important with puppies, although you may think the pup is not doing much, it is inhibiting its movement, which is an utterly tremendous achievement for any young dog. They deserve lots of praise and rewards for their efforts.

Once your dog has mastered a 30 second sit or down stay, it is alright to

LEAVE IT (OR YOU CAN USE THE WORD 'OFF')

This is an instructive reprimand. It tells the dog what to do when he is doing something you do not like, or to come away from an object or something similar. It also tells the dog when he can have something, but only after your command to do so. This is not food refusal. We use food to get the concept across to the dog.

We are rewarding the dog for ceasing contact and teaching him to take a treat gently. Later on, it can develop into 'don't touch at all'.

Begin by having your dog on a lead. To leave your hands free but with the dog still under control, stand or kneel on the lead. Keep your body straight. Have a treat in both hands, with one hand behind your back. Give the dog a couple of free treats. Next, offer him a treat in a lightly closed fist and, as he goes to sniff it, tell him to leave it' in a firm, controlled voice. Watch carefully and immediately the dog moves even slightly away from your hand, say 'yes' and praise and reward him from the other hand with the command 'take it'.

Over several sessions, slowly increase the amount of no contact before giving the reward. If the dog noses the food during the forbidden period, simply repeat the 'leave it ' command and start again. Try to work up to five seconds. If the dog lunges or grabs at the reward, loudly say "OUCH", then offer it again and say 'gently'. He must not get the reward until he does it gently.

Once your dog understands the first concept of this command, it can be taken one step further. When the dog is not around, set up some food on a plate and put it on the floor or coffee table. Bring the dog in on a lead and if he tries to go for the food, warn him with the command 'leave it'. If he complies, turns away and looks at you, say 'yes', then praise and reward him with a treat. Repeat this exercise a few times over several sessions.

If he does not take any notice of the warning, keep a steady pressure on the

UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING YOUR DOG

We train our dogs to open up lines of **communication** between us. Humans live in a verbal world, whereas dogs live in a non verbal world. Whenever we teach them a command, we are teaching them our language. We, being the more intelligent, need to learn their ways of communication.

Your dog is a master of body language – voice tone, emotion and emotional energy, eye contact. Dogs have their own set of calming signals that help them to defuse situations that may get out of hand, with yawning, standing still and turning away being a few of them.

A dog can read another dog's body language in a matter of seconds, be it dominance, submission, elation, playfulness, fear, aggression, etc

They have the usual five senses, some of which are more developed than the human equivalent. Think about these differences when training your dog and it will help you to communicate and understand him better.

COMMUNICATION

SCENT

Scent is extremely important. When entering a new environment we use our eyes, but a dog uses his nose. It tells him many things about where he is and who has been there. Next time you let your dog out of the car, watch him, and it will be the first thing he does.

SIGHT

Dogs have poor binocular vision, poor depth of field and poor vision close up. Contrary to popular opinion, dogs can see colours but most likely basic muted colours. Different breeds of dogs vary in their field of vision, depending on the position of their eyes. They see better at night and see moving objects better than stationary ones. Using hand signals with a verbal command helps the dog to understand.

HEARING

A dog's hearing is better than ours. They can hear at four times the distance that we can, so you do not need to shout at your dog. Dogs discriminate between pitch better than we can. Think about the tone of your voice when training your dog.

TASTE

The palatability of food is based on odour, then texture and finally taste.

TOUCH

Touch is very important to your dog's development. Touch remains important throughout the dog's life, especially with older dogs. Massage your dog – he will love it. Use it as a reward for some good work when training. Gently stroke and lift his face up when praising him. Soft, long strokes right down his body will calm him down, whereas quick, short hand movements on the chest will usually excite any dog.

BODY LANGUAGE

You can use your own body language for communication. If you stand up tall and are confident when giving commands, etc, you are telling your dog that you are in charge of the situation (you are the leader).

Squatting down and opening up your arms wide tells your dog that you are asking him to play – to come and have some fun with you. Use this a lot with puppies, especially shy ones. Lean back and go down very low, lure them right up to you, then make them happy. This also works very well on adult dogs.

Looming over towards the dog can sometimes mean we are not to be taken seriously, or, with some dogs, it can be quite threatening to the point where they may submit by lying down, even wetting themselves a little. If that happens, just walk away and leave the dog alone for a while, as it is all too much for them. Next time, have no direct eye contact, lower your body sideways – if he comes up to you, reward him, but only if he did it on his own. If you are **stiff and angry** and waving your arms around and yelling,

Solving Recall Problems

Another way to get your dog's attention is to clap your hands together. The effect a hand clap has on your dog is that he will stop in a microsecond as if to say 'oh, what's that' and he will gravitate to the sound. As soon as you see a flicker of an ear or a slight turn of the head, start to mumble praise words. Only when you have the dog's attention, call him and praise him and reward heavily. Repeat this and you will notice that your dog starts to pay more attention to the hand clap. Gradually start to practice getting your dog's attention with distractions.

GAME TO BUILD NAME RESPONSE

Once your dog has the basics of the name response, you can introduce him to the following game, which will build name response from a distance. Whilst standing in the open, or near a wall, alert your dog to a treat (big enough for the dog to see when thrown). Toss the treat several feet to one side of you and encourage your dog to go after it by calling his name and saying "Get it". Once the dog has the treat, call his name again. When he looks up, say "yes" and throw another treat to the other side of you and repeat the above procedure. Your dog will be continually running past you to get the treats. Repeat this sequence several times (back and forth) before luring the dog into a sit in front to end the exercise.

It is also important to look at any leadership issues you may have in the home and make sure the dog is not calling the shots. Nothing in life is free, so he should earn his rewards by sitting before dinner, not going through doors before you, etc.



Things to do when teaching the recall

Use lots of little recalls throughout the day, as this will encourage the dog to succeed and learn that coming to you is great fun. You can play games by sending the dog from one person to another. This will also help in teaching him to recognise names.

Always find reasons to reward your dog. Use lots of specific releases, like 'off you go' in the park. If he left something really interesting to come back to you, make it a big reward (jackpot), such as a hand full of treats. Call him for his dinner, to have a game or to put his lead on to go for a walk. Call him and when he comes to you, touch his collar, praise, reward and release.

Gradually introduce more distractions and different locations. When in doubt of your dogs recall, use a long lead, especially with young dogs who are just learning boundaries, or dogs who have a history of not coming back.

Generally, when you get your dog's attention from a distance, start moving away quickly, as this triggers your dog to follow. Just walk until the dog gets to you, then reward and release. Do not keep looking back. If you are worried, only let the dog off leash if you have someone with you who can watch the dog.

Things not to do when teaching the recall.

Make sure that you never get angry at your dog. Even a strong voice and stiff body language is enough to worry your dog to the point where he will not come back.

Do not call him unless you are 99% sure that your dog will come, otherwise you will teach him to ignore you.

Never chase a dog. If you watch him carefully, you will see him looking back to see where you are. Run away from him, don't stand still. If you chase him, he will run away.

your dog may become fearful, cringe or simply slink away. Don't think he is reacting because he knows he has done something wrong – it is only your body language that he is reacting to. Most of the things we consider bad behaviour are natural behaviours for the dog. There is usually a reason why dogs do what they do – they may be worried, stressed or bored.

Voice tones generalise what you feel and give information to the dog. If he is correct or you like what he did, say 'good dog – well done' in a light, happy tone. If incorrect – use uhh or bad in a low neutral tone. Commands are given in a neutral but confident tone.

Soft eye contact is essential for all dogs. Teaching him to give soft eye contact puts you in the leadership position, especially when he answers his name.

Emotion and emotional energy. If you are worried, your dog will be also. What is going on in your house has a direct influence on your dogs behaviour. Very excited, busy households lead to an active or distressed dog. Calm atmospheres lead to a calmer dog. Be confident and believe in yourself as dogs feed off our emotions.

The leash is an extension of your arm. It allows you to guide your dog and have control when walking or teaching, etc. A loose lead is essential at all times, especially when two dogs are meeting. All meetings should be kept short and then your dog should learn to settle quickly with you. Do not allow your dog to play on lead, as it can lead to aggression problems later.



LEADERSHIP

All dogs are, at heart, pack animals that need to conform to a strict hierarchy within their group. The modern domesticated dog lives in a mixed canine/human family, but still retains his social instincts. It is, therefore, up to the human side of the pack to establish their status as leaders by calmly and confidently setting clear and consistent house rules, which everyone in the family should follow. Being a leader is a 24 hour job with the dog's respect being earned daily.

A leader remains calm and in control at all times, as getting angry will lower a leader's status in the eyes of the dog. Leaders are aware of their dog's well-being at all times, be it mental or physical. If the dog is uncomfortable with any situation it is up to the owner (leader) to calmly walk their dog away to a point where he is relaxed and calm.

Daily short, basic training sessions are a must. Remember that dogs can learn a lot when we play with them and groom them, as when we are with them they are learning something about us. Intelligent, confident, ambitious dogs may need reminding as they grow older as to who is really calling the shots in their pack.

Signalling your Leadership:- Dogs love attention, however sometimes you will need to remain aloof to them. Attention seeking behaviours develop very quickly and can get very annoying. So watch for the dog staring at you, placing a paw on you, barking in your face, dropping a toy at your feet, etc. When these behaviours occur, ignore the dog and look away. If you wish to interact, call the dog to you and ask for a sit or similar before you do anything with the dog. (Nothing in life is free) Teach the dog that there is to be no sleeping on furniture and to have self-control when greeting humans or other animals. Do not allow the dog to go through doors before you.

Natural behaviours for dogs are digging, chewing, sniffing, holding, nipping and chasing. Dogs dig because it's natural and relieves stress. Barking is

COME WHEN CALLED

Your dog needs to be able to trust you, so never make the mistake of getting angry at a dog that comes when called, no matter what. Be genuine and generous with your praise and rewards. Go and get him if he does not like a bath, etc. If he has taken something he should not have, teach him to bring it to you for a treat.

TEACHING PUPPIES AND DOGS IN GENERAL

You need to have your dog's attention when teaching the 'Come when Called' exercise. He needs to respond to his name promptly. Refer to the name game exercise if he is not doing this.

Condition your dog to getting used to having his collar taken and held. Have some treats in one hand and, with the other hand, take hold of his collar and treat him. Repeat this procedure a few times. Now take his collar and say 'come', and then treat, and repeat this a few times.

You can teach your dog to come in happily and quickly to you the first time by repeatedly calling him to you, taking his collar and then rewarding him heavily. Lure him right up to you and give him the treat when you have taken his collar. With puppies and shy dogs, you may have to squat down and lean slightly backwards so the dog will come right up. Continue in this way a few times until they are comfortable with the exercise.

Once your dog is coming in happily and quickly, you can start to add the sit in front of you. Sit the dog and stand in front of him, say 'come' and give him a treat, repeating this a few times. Next, either have him sit or ask someone to hold him as you back away a few steps. Call your dog and lure him into the sit in front of you. Treat him, then release and repeat this a few times. Never call a dog to you and immediately let him go. He should never leave until you give him the release command, such as 'free' or 'go play'.

Never allow your dog to pull on the lead and do not allow him to pull you over to anything or anyone. Do not pull back on the lead, as this will only make him pull more. Having the lead attached to your waist allows you to have both hands free to treat and encourage your dog. It will also stop you pulling on the lead.

You can use a long lead (5 mtrs) when you are at the park to allow him some training and exercise time. You should have a soft collar, half check or a harness on him – do not use a check chain or head collar for this exercise as he could seriously hurt himself if he takes off. Tell him 'long lead' to let him know he can relax and do his own thing. Make sure you do not allow him to pull you around, as you are still the leader.

If you have a dog who has a history of pulling on the lead, using a head collar or training harness for a while will allow you to get control and train him to walk properly. Whenever your dog is on a lead, he must never pull you. Going to and from class is an ideal opportunity to practice. Show him you have his treats and reward good walking. This will make it a lot easier to make sure he is learning. Teaching this exercise takes 100% commitment all the time.



usually associated with boredom and a lack of mental and physical exercise. There are other reasons for this behaviour, so if you are having a problem, please see the Chief Instructor or a Senior Instructor.

Dogs love and need company, as they are pack animals. Being shut outside all the time can lead to a lot of unwanted behaviours developing. Mental and physical stimulation is a must for ALL dogs, especially for the working breeds. Older dogs can also learn new things and it can even help to prolong their lives. When you are with your dog, give him all your attention. It is best if he learns early in life that all his fun and enjoyment comes from you. Playing and meeting with some doggy friends is nice, but not running wildly around the park with a bunch of dogs and completely ignoring you.

Provide your dog with interesting chew toys, especially young dogs as they need to soothe their gums when teething. Stuffed kongs, pigs' ears (only when you are with them), interactive toys and large rubber balls are excellent. Vary the toys daily. Use them when you want him to lie down quietly and praise him whenever he is chewing the correct item. During play sessions with your dog or puppy, learn to stop before things begin to get too exciting. Say "enough" and get your dog's attention (by luring) and calm him down with long, slow steady strokes down his body. Once he has calmed down, you may start the game again. This exercise can be used to control the dog in any stimulating environment. Keep play sessions short and do not allow unlimited, uncontrolled play sessions, whether it is with you or other dogs. This will only lead to boisterous and over the top play that can lead to problems later on in life.

For control in and around the house, garden, park etc, consider using a playpen or a crate, as they are great places to put the pup/dog when you need a little breathing space. They also provide somewhere safe and peaceful for the dog to rest in. Place them in the room you use most. Care should be taken when introducing a dog/pup to a crate, etc. Information is available in the caravan on this subject. Keeping the dog in one place as you move around the house allows him to learn to be alone. The dog should not be allowed to follow you everywhere all the time. Some areas should be

off limits, you can restrict access to these by using a baby gate, etc.

To assist with loose lead training and to further reinforce your leadership, try attaching a house lead to your waistband, keeping the dog with you as you go about your daily routine. A house lead can also be used to keep the dog under control when visitors arrive.

SOCIALISATION OF PUPPIES AND DOGS

The prime time for socialisation of puppies is between 8 and 14 weeks of age. It should be a gentle, calm and controlled exposure to life in all its forms. They should be allowed to see, hear, be around and experience as much as possible. It cannot begin too soon or encompass too much and should continue throughout your dog's life. Please be aware that a dog or puppy can be over socialised with other dogs/puppies if they are allowed too much uncontrolled play.

You should expose your pup to people of all ages, both adults and children, males and females. Get him to meet people wearing different clothing, hats, carrying things. Also expose him to noises, activities, bikes, prams, anything and everything. When you introduce your pup to other animals, he should be on the lead and under control at all times to inhibit the chase instinct. Praise and reward all calm behaviour.

Get your puppy used to different things in the environment. The puppy should see trolleys, wheelchairs, bridges, parks, trains, cars, trucks, sirens, washing machines, lawn mowers and anything you are likely to be using around the home. Always have him on a lead until he is used to these objects, or tie the pup somewhere nearby and give him a good chew toy, so that he learns to feel comfortable around them. Try not to rush to answer the phone or door, as this will only excite him.

For car journeys, travel short distances at first. Don't feed him before you go. Use a car harness or some form of restraint, as dogs can become over

without having to move his paws. If he takes one or two steps, that's okay at this point. If you wish to go onto obedience trialing, you will have to get him standing straight up from the drop.

WALKING

PUPPIES TO MATURE DOGS

Ideally, the dog should be walking within a 2-foot radius near to you, on a loose lead and preferably on your left hand side. Have your puppy follow you around sometimes. If he has not had a leash on, put a light one on and allow him to drag it around, then pick it up and encourage him to follow you for a few paces. Give him a treat when he walks a few paces with you. Talk to him and tell him he is a great dog, then stop and release him to do his own thing. Repeat this exercise a few times.

PUPPIES AND DOGS IN GENERAL

Practice in and around the house with frequent, short sessions, making sure that your dog sits for the lead to be put on and taken off. Pay attention to the dog and let him know when he is getting it right. Talk to your dog and encourage him. You may attach his lead to yourself as you are going about your business or are standing still.

Do not dawdle – keep moving. Whenever you are walking, make sure you walk with a purpose. If you go slowly, he will have lots of time to sniff and do whatever he wants to. Remember, we are teaching him to walk on the lead, so keep the sessions short and tell him to relax when you are finished so he can have a sniff, etc. If he pulls to tighten the lead in one direction, warn him and turn in the other direction.

Another way you can remedy this is to walk backwards yourself but don't turn around. By walking backwards for a few paces the dog will turn and come back to you. When he returns, start walking again. Mix and match things, be unpredictable and keep him guessing. Be confident in your teaching and stick to the decisions you make.

Remember the dog knows how to sit, stand, and lie down. What we are doing is connecting a certain word to the action of sitting, etc. Therefore, when you are teaching a new command, you should only use the word when the dog is in, or going into, the position you want to name. You should only reward the dog when he is in the position you want.

Luring the Drop or Down – Begin with the dog standing. Hold the treat in front of the dog's nose. Take the treat downwards at an angle so that your hand ends up on the floor, just between the front paws and closer to the chest. Some dogs will go straight down but others will worry at the treat a bit before going down. Do not push him down. If he doesn't respond, he does not get the reward, so try again. It might be better to wait until he is tired, or not so distracted.

If he still doesn't go down, try sitting on the floor and luring him under your bent knee. Coffee tables or chairs could also be used to get him to go down. Repeat this a few times and he will probably go down using the normal lure position.

To extend the time the dog will hold the position, keep rewarding him while he is in the position and then extend the time between rewards. Ask for a little more each time. Do not bring your hand forward, as he will most likely just stand and follow it. The hand movement with the lure eventually becomes the hand signal.

Luring the Stand from a Sit – Have your dog in a sit position and hold a treat just in front of his nose. Move the treat slowly away from the dog, lowering it slightly as you do so. Do not move the lure too far forward. You do not want him to walk forward, just to rise from a sit position in the same place. You may place your hand on his chest to stop him walking forward.

Luring the stand from the Drop - Kneel down beside the dog when he is in the down position. Hold the treat just in front of his nose and move it forwards and upwards. The dog should follow the movement of the treat

excited or panic and may cause an accident. Sometimes just go around the block. Do not go to the park all the time, as he will start to get very excited whenever he is in the car.

Exercise with a puppy can be frequent, small 15-20 minute walks. No jogging or jumping until he is at least 12 months of age. You need to let their bones and muscle stamina develop without undue stress. If you do wish to jog with your dog, it is better if he can run freely beside you. **Never exercise in the heat of the day.** Always make sure that the dog has access to water at all times.

When you are out and about with your puppy or dog and he is faced with something that he is uncomfortable with, do not try to reassure him, just be calm and confident. If you go up to the item, he will most likely want to investigate it himself. Do not force him – have a loose lead and if he takes one step towards it, reward him. Only reward and praise any movement forward.

Do not allow anyone to meet with your puppy or dog if he is worried about meeting other animals or people. There is one golden rule concerning shyness in a dog or puppy and this is:- **No meeting takes place**, if the dog or puppy does not willingly approach another dog or person when given permission to do so. It does not matter who the person is, you must respect your dog's decision. Please see a senior or chief instructor if you have this problem.

Socialisation between dogs should be supervised. You need to be aware of what your dog is doing and how your dog is feeling. He may feel very uncomfortable with another dog and if this is the case break the session up. Use a lure if you have to.

There must be NO playing with another dog on lead, as this can lead to on-lead aggression.

Do not allow your dog or puppy to pull you over to another dog. If he has a

bad experience, just jolly him along and remove him from the situation. Divert his attention using food/toys, etc. When he is calm, take him gradually back to the area and ensure that he has a good time. Teach him to walk on different surfaces, such as slippery places, soft places, wobbly surfaces and off the ground, etc, taking extreme care that you make sure your dog is safe. Please speak to a senior or chief instructor if you are worried about with any aspect of socialisation.

HANDLING – EXAMINING – GROOMING

Relaxed tolerance to handling does not come naturally to dogs. The following exercise is mainly for puppies. See a senior instructor if your dog is older and is having problems in this area.

Start now and do it on a daily basis. Feel him all over and get to know the feel of a healthy body. Smell and clean his ears and if they are smelly and appear unclean, have him checked out by your vet. Touch and examine his mouth and massage his gums with a wet, cloth wrapped finger.

If you have problems with his mouth, sit your pup facing away from you between your legs as you are kneeling. Cup his head in your hands just below his ears and near his mouth. Gently massage one side of his mouth in a circular motion and gradually take your hand forward and lift one lip up as you softly tell him what you are doing. etc. Tell him he is a great pup. Repeat the process on the other side now. Over time, move your hands inside his mouth and continue until you can literally open his mouth and look into it. When you do this, try not to have your hands covering his eyes. Remember to only let go when he is relaxed and don't try to do too much at once.

Check his coat to make sure it is healthy. All breeds of dogs should be brushed at least 2-3 times a week. Find out their grooming needs, as lack of grooming can be quite serious for some dogs.

USING A LURE

When using a lure, the dog follows the lure into the position we want to reward. The lure must be close to the dog and must be given as a reward, sometimes when he reaches the position, other times more frequently. If you are luring him round into a circle or going across something, keep luring and rewarding all the way across, as you teach this behaviour. Gradually expect a little more until he completes the exercise and the lure becomes the reward.

The lure becomes the reward; the hand movement becomes the signal.

Phasing out the lure - As soon as the dog willingly follows the hand into the position you are teaching, try two more positions with the lure and the third one exactly the same but without the lure. Failure occurs because you know you don't have the food and you are not confident in your action, so be confident. Now is the time to start to reward from different places. Have your treats in your pocket, bum bag, a sealed container or on a table nearby. Be unpredictable.

Luring the Sit – When the dog is standing, hold the lure just in front of his nose. Take it upwards and backwards, slowly and smoothly, so that it remains just in front of his nose. As his head follows, his rear end should hit the ground. As soon as he is sitting, verbally praise him and give him the treat, as you say 'Sit', 'Good Sit'. Release him from the command with a word like 'free'.

If he tends to back up instead of sitting, try doing the exercise in a corner or near a wall, or gently place your hand near his backside.

Luring the sit from the down position - If the dog is lying down, bring the treat up and slightly backwards.

If you find it hard to lure this way, stand with your hand just above the dog's nose and wait. He will sit eventually and when he does, praise and reward as above.

STEADY - EASY

The steady command is an instructive reprimand. It does not matter if the dog is sitting, lying down or standing. The important thing is that he is on a loose lead and relaxed.

Start teaching this exercise where there are not too many distractions. Gradually build up to more distractions as he learns to relax. Have your pup/dog standing with a loose lead near you, pat him calmly and say 'steady', 'good boy', 'steady'.

If the pup/dog tries to move towards something, give a firm verbal warning "Steady". If he continues pulling forward, gently jiggle the lead, keeping it level with his shoulders and remind him to 'steady'. When he eases the tension, praise him as you say 'steady - easy'. If you find you have to repeat yourself a lot, turn and encourage him to walk away with you. He is obviously just too distracted to listen. Try it from further away and gradually, over time, lessen the distance. If you have a strong dog, set your feet in a firm position - he may also need to be rewarded near you at first. Make being with you more rewarding than anything else.

Pay attention to what he is doing. You must get the 'Steady' command in before he tightens the lead. Stand up tall and be confident.



Pick a time and place where you and your pup feel calm and relaxed. Let your hands slowly and gently massage the pup/dog while you talk softly, breathe slowly and deeply. Playing soft music can also help.

If he struggles, gently hold him, keeping calm. Only when he is relaxed do you let him go, so that he learns that being calm gets him his freedom.

Do a little at a time each day - handling and touching every part of his body. Use treats if needed, especially when handling his feet and only do one foot at a time. Take things slowly and when he becomes more comfortable with being handled, loom over him occasionally.

Get him used to being examined on a table. Have a solid table with a non-slip mat on it. Put him on the table with a few treats and allow him to eat them and then take him off. Slowly, over time, start to handle him when he is on the table. Get him to sit/stand/lie down on the table and progress to other people handling and examining him on a table. Make it a pleasant experience for him and always have him on a lead.

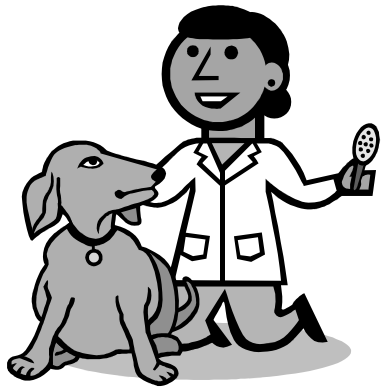
Go one step at a time with his nails. Have some treats near you and gently squeeze his foot and spread his toes whilst giving him some treats. Touch his nails with the clippers, reward him and let him go. When he is used to this, try cutting just the tip of the nails on one foot each session and try to be confident.

HANDLING

From the time you first get your dog or puppy, spend a short time each day getting him used to being restrained by holding his collar. Do this for a few seconds to start with whilst he is standing, sitting or lying down and gradually build up slowly until you can gently hold his collar for two minutes. Treats may be used to start with but get the treat out of your hand and onto a table and reward him just before you free him from your restraint. There are many times that you will need to hold your dog's collar to control his movements. It may be at the vets, for example, or to simply stop him from

doing something.

Be aware that some dogs and puppies may show passive resistance by flipping onto their backs, mouthing or acting the fool when you try to hold their collar. If he does flip over onto his back, retain control of the lead, stand up and tell him to get up. Try again, repeat until you are able to hold the collar for half a second, then release him from the exercise. Try again later, making sure that you can hold him a little longer each time the exercise is attempted. If he is struggling whilst you are holding him, keep calm and gently hold him until he settles down.



Other ways to teach the 'wait' are by holding his collar and telling him to 'wait'. Put a treat on the ground and then tell him to 'get it'. You can also teach him to wait for you when you are walking. Hold the lead taut, say 'wait' and, keeping the lead taut, walk up to him. When you get to him, tell him to walk on.

SELF CONTROL

This exercise teaches your dog/puppy to control his emotions in a stimulating environment. This is one of the most important things your dog can learn. No treats are used in this exercise, unless you have a dog that is already lacking in self-control.

Begin this exercise in a quiet area. The dog may take up any position close to you and his collar should be loose. No instructions are given to your dog during this exercise. Hold or anchor your lead to your body and do not move your hand at all. Now you wait patiently without saying anything to the dog. Your dog may pull on his lead, whine, bark or even go to the end of the lead and look at you. Say nothing to him while he is behaving like this, eventually he will relax and it is exactly at this point that you praise him in a calm, quiet tone. Your dog will begin to learn that he can remain calm in different and exciting situations if this technique is used. You may gradually move to a more stimulating environment once your dog is proficient at controlling his emotions in a quiet area.

Move to a different quieter area if your dog or puppy is pulling on the lead or barking a lot. Put one foot in front of the other to steady yourself if you have a large dog. It is important that you give your complete attention to your dog throughout this exercise and acknowledge him calmly when his lead is loose. The secret to your dog learning this exercise is not to move the hand holding the lead at all.

EXERCISES

NAME GAME

Teaching your dog his name will enable you to get his attention. Begin in a distraction free area and say your dog's name. If he looks at you, say "Yes" and reward him, then give the release word 'free'.

If he doesn't respond, touch him softly, repeat his name as he looks and then say 'yes' and reward him. Repeat this exercise throughout the day. When you call his name he should then know that you want him to look at you, to see what you want.

When he will answer his name first time, every time, you can start to delay the reward for a few seconds and hold his attention by speaking to him, then praise and reward and release him from the command.

You can slowly start to add mild distractions but do not attempt this if he is more than 3 - 4 metres away. Gradually increase the level of distraction. You can call him from a distance and if he looks at you, throw him some food and release him or call him into you.

Calling your dog's name should mean 'pay attention'. He doesn't always have to come to you, just pay attention.

“WAIT”

The 'wait' command simply means hang on a minute, something is going to happen. For example - tell the dog to wait while you go through the door or gate first and before allowing him to get out of the car. Simply step in front of him, hold him behind you with the lead or get him to sit. You can train your dog/pup to go through doorways in a calm fashion by saying 'Wait' and opening the door slowly. If there's a rush for freedom, shut the door quickly. Repeat this until you achieve the desired result. Usually, a couple of times is enough. The hand signal for the wait command is usually a hand towards the dog with the fingers spread.

LEARNING BITE INHIBITION

Maintaining - Pups and Dogs

It is essential that puppies learn bite control. They need to learn that they cannot bite any part of a person, whether it be on the hand, body or clothing. Puppies need to learn to accept peoples' hands examining their mouths. Adolescent and mature dogs should never put their teeth, even accidentally, on peoples' hands, bodies or clothing, regardless of how gently they may do it. Never hold your hand or arm in your dog or puppy's mouth at any time. If your puppy or dog mouths you, keep your hand still and say "ouch" or yelp. Verbally praise your puppy or dog when he removes his mouth.

Pups - Learning Bite Control

Always pay attention when playing with a pup and, if he bites harder than he normally does, 'yelp' as if you are really hurt and the pup should immediately stop and look at you. When this happens, verbally praise him in a calm tone and allow him to settle down.

Recommence playing and if it happens again, repeat the 'yelp', only this time walk away, ignore the pup and stop play. The consequences of him biting too hard is that play stops. You do not need to do anything else – no physical punishment – just walk away and ignore him. You can resume playing again after a 30 second break.

If, during a play session with your pup/dog he accidentally makes contact with your skin or clothing, communicate that you have been hurt – 'Aaaaaarrgh!!! That hurt' and stop play. Give time out for 30 – 60 seconds. Also, be aware that no dog should ever be allowed to bump or run into you. If you adhere to the above, he will quickly learn to watch what he is doing.

If your pup or dog is attacking your clothes, stop moving. You can use the 'Leave' or 'Off' command if he understands it. Make sure you are wearing sensible clothing and are not encouraging him by moving around with

clothes and shoelaces flapping about.

If children or other animals are running around, have your dog on lead with you or stationed with a good chew toy nearby.

Prevention is best – do not allow him to chase and grab. Do not use your body as a toy. Play sensible training games.

Maintaining a Soft Mouth

Hand feed your dog occasionally, so he learns to take food gently.

Clean your dog's teeth – use dog toothpaste with a cloth on your finger or a proper toothbrush.

Play a game of tug, making sure that play is gentle. Play by the rules and if he accidentally catches your finger or hand, the game stops. It will remind him to watch what he is doing at all times.

Understand what your dog is saying. If he puts his mouth on you when grooming or handling, he is letting you know he is not comfortable, so take things slower or seek advice.

Your dog or pup may pull away when you attempt to examine his mouth. This may be because he is teething and his mouth is sore.

Never smack your dog as this will make him nervous of hands being raised near him and he could learn to defend himself. Hitting a dog on the nose can cause blood vessels to burst.



You can withhold the reward for failure to do the command.

Time outs – Put your dog away for a few seconds. He is not contemplating the error of his ways – you are just preventing him from continuing the behaviour. Allow him out a few seconds later, and show no emotion. Try again. You can repeat a couple of times but after that, just let it be, and try again another time.

When – Only when you are absolutely sure he fully understands the behaviour. Look carefully at the dog and do not just assume he knows it.

Why – To reprimand a dog when he does not fully understand what you want will only cause him to be confused and that is simply not fair to the dog. You will erode his trust in you and inhibit his learning abilities.

Make sure you are always fair on the rare occasion when you may scold your dog or pup. Dogs and puppies only have an associative memory of approximately three seconds. The reprimand must therefore be given within three seconds of the misdemeanor so that the dog can make the association between the two. Use a gentle verbal reprimand when you catch your dog or puppy behaving badly. If he stops change to a light tone and direct his attention elsewhere. Any correction given more than three seconds after the act will not be associated with the incident and the dog or puppy will be confused. A dog or puppy will not understand if you reprimand him half an hour after the incident, he may look guilty but this is because of your tone of voice and the body language you are demonstrating.

Dogs and puppies learn much more quickly if they are rewarded for doing the right thing rather than being punished for making a mistake. Reprimands do not need to be harsh, a growly word or a moment of isolation are all-powerful. Dogs are expert at interpreting body language so your body can be used to display your praise or displeasure.

cheese are good to use, although do not use cheese in hot weather. If you are worried about your dog's weight, reduce his meals accordingly. If your dog has a health problem, use regular food (dry) that has been placed in a sealed container overnight with something that smells really good. This will absorb the tasty flavour once removed from the container the next morning.

TOYS AND TRICKS

Play games with your dog that include you, such as tug games. This is very rewarding for some dogs. Fetching can be fun also. Teach him to touch, twist, to roll over etc, so all of these things may be used as a reward. Your dog will let you know what he finds rewarding.

LIFE REWARDS

Life rewards are things like getting to play in the park for walking nicely; doing a sit will get his lead on to go for a walk; Coming when called means he can go and play again. Try and think of new rewards for your dog.

Respect yourself and the dog will respect you. Do not give him the treat if he snatches, grabs or hurts you in any way. He will only get it when he takes it gently. Remain calm if he doesn't settle, walk away and try again later.

REPRIMANDS

Never reprimand after the fact or out of anger. Healthy, effective dog training combines lots of rewards with the occasionally applied instructive reprimand. Why you choose to reprimand is just as important as how and when.

How – Use the softest verbal reprimand first. Usually it is a gentle 'uhh uhh' with a small puppy. A low, firm toned voice in conjunction with an instructive reprimand (then tell the dog what to do) such as 'steady' or 'leave it'. He will, of course, already have been taught what these commands mean.

HOUSETRAINING - PUPPIES AND ADULT DOGS

The routine is the same whether housetraining a puppy or a mature dog with toileting problems.

The key principles to housetraining are - Close observation – Prevention – Control his freedom and showing him where you want him to relieve himself.

95% of housetraining is praising the dog for eliminating in the right place. Toileting problems should resolve themselves if you regularly take the dog to the doggy toilet area and praise him upon relieving himself.

Preventive techniques when housetraining include the use of crates, barriers and playpens. The dog or puppy can also be tethered on a lead near you or attached to you. Close confinement allows your dog or puppy to develop bladder control.

Once your dog has eliminated, he can have the freedom of the house for a while. Observe him for signs that he may want to go out. These include going round in circles, sniffing, squatting or over excitement. He will want to relieve himself within 5-10 minutes of waking up, eating, playing and chewing. When you take him out, allow 5 minutes for him to eliminate. If he does not go, take him in and control his movements and take him out again in 10 - 20 minutes. A young puppy should be taken out every 2 hours. Do not take him inside straight away when he has relieved himself, have a game with him, etc.

Have a routine and keep to the same routine of feeding and exercising each day. It will help your dog to develop regular toileting habits. If accidents occur, just put him away and clean up. Make sure you watch him more closely next time as it wasn't his fault. Getting cross or rubbing his nose in it is abuse. He needs training, not punishment. If you are paper training, do not praise when he goes on the paper. Save all praise and rewards for

when he relieves himself outside. A very small, warm, snug area will help the pup to sleep through the night.

You may need extra help with rehomed dogs or dogs that have come from kennels. Problems with rehomed or kennel dogs can be caused by stress, tension, the anxiety associated with being alone or not having lived in a house before. More information is available or you may need professional help. There may be an existing medical problem if your dog starts having accidents for no apparent reason. Old age also has its own problems.

Never get angry. It will only make matters worse and the dog or puppy will learn not to go when you are around. Don't take him for a walk and then as soon as he relieves himself take him home as he will start to associate his toileting with the end of his walk and consequently will hang on forever. A great reward is to teach him to go at home first and then go for a walk.



SHAPING THE EXERCISE

When teaching something new, we sometimes have to use steps to shape the exercise. If you want to teach the dog to roll over, first get the dog to lie down and reward. Secondly, use a lure to get him to lay on his side and reward. Thirdly, use another lure to bring his head slightly towards his chest and shoulder and reward. We are, therefore, creating a behaviour by guiding the dog in these steps.

If teaching something specific, like 'wait' at doors, it is a good idea to do them in sets of 5-10 repeats each time. The dog is unlikely to learn if the exercise is only done on the odd occasion that you go out the door. It should be treated as a training session. The same method should be applied for greetings. Enlist the help of a few friends to knock on your front door every five minutes. Teach your dog to come to you to have his lead put on and answer the door with him beside you. Ask your friends to ignore the dog until he is sitting quietly. You may lure him into the sit and reward him as the visitor gives him a pat. Try to keep the greeting calm and relaxed.

POSITIVE REWARDS

YOU

You should become very rewarding to your dog. Be enthusiastic, be fun, teach him games that involve you so that you become very important to him. Your own behaviour is a good training tool. Dogs read emotion, so be confident and happy. Have a clear idea about what it is you are going to teach, before you try it with your dog.

FOOD

Food can be anything the dog likes, but doesn't get often. It should be irresistible and varied. Use tiny pieces, which do not crumble. Keep it in a bum bag or sealed container, both of which should be washed after use.

Food such as dried liver, carrot, cooked sausage, roast meat, liver cake or cheese are good to use, although do not use cheese in hot weather. If you

than bending over him. Being with you should be very rewarding for your dog.

Notice and reward all good behaviour. Even if he is lying down quietly, as any behaviour you acknowledge will be repeated. Ignore or prevent unwanted behaviour and interrupt any potential life threatening behaviour.

The guidelines to this type of training are simple. Firstly, find out what your dog wants and likes. Begin offering these to him for the behaviours you want. Training will then become fun for all. If your dog wants to go outside and he already knows how to sit, put your hand on the doorknob and ask him to sit. As soon as he sits, open the door and let him out. Gradually, you should expect better and quicker responses from him before he gets the reward.

When teaching something new, keep the rate of rewards high. Once he starts to present a consistent performance, you can switch to rewarding only the best efforts. As some dogs need rewards more frequently than others who are easier to please, you should always assess the responses of the dog you are training,

Be aware of what it is you are actually rewarding, as sometimes a reward may be given at the wrong moment. If the dog has come to you but his mind and eyes are clearly not on what he is doing, do not reward him. Repeat the exercise and lure him so that you have eye contact and then reward him.

Reward honest effort. If he does a very good recall but does not sit straight, reward the fast recall and then go away and practice the sit in front, without the recall.

If he forgets, forgive him. It is all part of the learning process. Be there to guide and help him and perhaps even go back a step or two in your training.

PUBERTY

A dog's hormones will begin to flow at about 5 months of age. Your dog will start to assert his independence in a variety of ways. You should focus on the small things in his life, such as sitting for dinner, waiting at doors, not jumping up and greetings, etc. The hardest thing to control at this time is your own control. Remember to become detached, breathe in and breathe out. Remember this equation – **adolescence equals patience plus persistence.**

Male dogs that are not neutered will begin marking, mounting you, other animals or objects. He will become restless and even try to escape to roam the neighbourhood. He is likely to be more competitive with other males at this time, which can lead to him being harassed by more mature dogs. You will cease to exist when his mind is on other things.

Female dogs, which are not sterilized, will have changes of behaviour, which will appear a few weeks before the onset of her first season. She may appear distracted, bad tempered and generally unlike her usual self. She may become unclean in the house and be unwilling to respond in training.

At this stage some female and male dogs can learn to become aggressive to stop other dogs harassing them.

Dogs who have been neutered or spayed become more human orientated. If they put on weight, that is our problem, so you will need to watch what you feed your dog and make sure that he get lots of good exercise. Speak to your veterinarian about the medical benefits of having your dog spayed or neutered. The best age to have this done is usually at about 5-6 months.

Do not give your dog too much freedom too quickly. Use a long lead when in the park, so that he learns there are boundaries and cannot develop the bad habit of running off and ignoring you.

At this stage it is most important to focus on rewarding and noticing all his good behaviours, such as lying down quietly, and all calm behaviours around other dogs.

You will have the awakening of breed specific instincts, telling herders to herd, hunters to hunt etc. It is important to continue obedience training and socialization and teaching your dog new things to do and play.

If he gets uptight, get his attention and walk away. You may have to slowly drag him with you, but remain calm. Do not yank on the lead. Speak softly, breathe, keep a steady pressure on the lead until you see him beginning to relax.

Unwanted behaviours can occur when the dog receives rewards that the owner is not conscious of giving i.e. the dog barks for attention and the owner yells back. The dog has now been rewarded for barking, so ignore him or distract him instead. More information is available from the caravan if you need it.

Be calm and confidently in control in all situations. Just tell him it is not his business. He will grow up eventually.

Teething.

Your puppy will begin to go through teething between 16 – 22 weeks of age. It is important to let nature take its course. He will need something to chew, otherwise he will chew anything that becomes available. The following items are ideal: a cold, stuffed puppy kong, an old towel that has been rolled up and knotted and put in the freezer for a while or pigs' ears. (Pigs' ears should only be given when pup is supervised.) During this time, be careful of his mouth when playing, as it could be sore. Take special care if playing tug games and observe him for retention of baby teeth. See your vet if you suspect this may be the case. The puppy will go through another chewing period at approximately 8 – 10 months of age when his teeth are settling into the gums.

When you want a dog to do something, *lure him, catch the behaviour and reward it, or gently guide him into position. Once he is guided into position, smile, praise and reward/stroke him before releasing him from the command. Never give a dog a command and then ignore him, as he will then start to ignore you. Have a specific word for his release cue, such as 'free, OK,' etc.

**A lure is offered before a behaviour is elicited and can assist in guiding/ shaping the behaviour.*

THE BEHAVIOUR MARKER

To mark the positive behaviour, use a word like 'yes' or something that is distinctive, short and easy to use. This word marks the moment of the correct behaviour. Get your reward out, only after you have marked the correct behaviour. To use this method, we must first 'fire up' the word. Have your dog in front of you, say 'yes' and reward the dog. Repeat this 6-10 times and the dog will probably start to work out what is going on. If not, repeat over a few sessions. Now, when you use the word 'yes', you must reward the dog.

Remember that timing of the reward is important. Get the reward ready but out of the dog's sight. Say 'yes' to mark the behaviour, pause briefly and then give the reward. Over time, the pause can be lengthened.

There are no 'wrong' dogs. Everything he learns comes from you. If his performance falls down, examine your training. Maybe you are not clear enough or you are going ahead too quickly for your dog.

PAIRING PRAISE AND REWARDS

Always smile and verbally praise your dog before the reward. This way, the verbal praise becomes paired with the reward and can be used effectively if you have no reward. For instance, stroking your dog can also be a reward and a good habit to get into. Teach him hand touches by stroking him from his chest upward to his neck and bringing him up towards you, rather

GENERAL TRAINING INFORMATION

The basis of all training is the relationship between you and your dog. If you get that right, everything else falls into place. Your relationship with your dog is different to the one you have with other people. You must always be the leader in the relationship with your dog. Dogs need clear, unambiguous guidance and training begins in the home.

Reward based training will enhance your relationship with your dog and it keeps the dog willing. A reward is given when your dog gets a behaviour correct and it is your chance to say "Thanks - I really like it when you do that!" The dog does what you like and you, in return, give him what he likes. This, in turn, leads to the dog having trust in you. His confidence will grow and life in general will become less stressful and more relaxing for your dog. A dog with problems usually lacks confidence and a lot of problem behaviours are seen in dogs that lack confidence. A confident dog is one who is relaxed with life in general.

Everything you learn in class should be used whenever you are with your dog. Dogs learn by association. They need to learn all the exercises in different locations – at home, in the park, in the garden, etc. Dogs will then learn to do the exercises, regardless of what is going on around them or wherever they are.

Be consistent, concise and clear. Have patience with your dog or puppy and give him time to learn what it is you want. A puppy's attention span is short. It is better to have five small training sessions throughout the day, rather than one thirty minute session. Always have your dog on lead or in a secure area when training him. Work towards reliability in all situations and slowly increase the distractions. Get whatever you are going to be teaching clear in your mind. Ask yourself "What is it I will be rewarding and how will I teach it?" If the exercise involves footwork, it is a good idea to practice without the dog at first.

TURN YOUR DOG OFF

Getting your puppy or dog to settle down in one spot is one of those lessons that you will appreciate for the rest of your life. "Settle" means he is to remain quietly in his spot. To begin with put your dog on a short lead several times a day and teach him to settle down. Choose a spot near you and give him a stuffed Kong or a chew toy and tell him to "settle". You may use a rug or mat in the area you wish him to settle, in this case you may tell him "Go to your mat and settle". Using a mat or rug will define his area. Secure the lead to an immovable object near his spot with just enough slack for him to lie down comfortably. The spot you choose for your dog to settle should not be in the way and should also allow him to see what is going on. Periodically quietly praise him when he is quiet and ignore him if he is noisy.

Your puppy or dog will learn place commands quickly if his spot, or spots, are always in the same area. Eventually you will be able to tell him to go to his spot/mat. You will always be able to settle him down if you use a special mat that you can take anywhere. Take a special chew toy with you if you are taking your dog to a picnic in the park, this will then include everyone.

LEARNING RESTRAINT

You will be able to use the 'settle' command in the park or elsewhere whenever you want your dog to be quiet. If you want to teach him to be restrained on a lead while you do something else, the principles are the same. Notice and reward good behaviour and ignore any noise, etc. This is a training exercise, so don't put him on the lead and ignore him. You must pay attention to your dog so that you can reward quiet behaviour. This is vital to the learning process.

LEARNING TO BE ALONE

Being alone is not a natural thing for a dog. They are a pack animal and, as such, need to learn how to be alone sometimes. Over-attachment to us can cause them a great deal of stress. So from the very beginning, do not allow your dog to follow you everywhere.

Use the settle exercise to tether him in one room and he will get used to you

coming and going. It is not good to give your puppy attention all the time.

Have a playpen, or a safe area, for your pup to be in. When he is tired, put him in it and just go about your business. Do remember to take him out to the toilet first. Ignore any whining or barking and only go to him when he is quiet.

When you are going out, keep everything calm and matter of fact and just leave. Prolonged speeches only leave the dog feeling insecure. Give him a Kong or safe chew toy and, as you leave, say something like 'mind the house'. This will then become a cue to the dog. Everyone should keep to this routine as it allows the dog to know what is going to happen and he will settle down.

When going to work, withdraw your attention from him 10 minutes before you leave. Leave a radio on, water to drink, a comfortable place to sleep and just go.

When coming home, the procedure is the same. Keep everything calm and quiet, change your clothes, put the kettle on and then go and let him out. Do not make a big fuss and don't feel guilty that you have been out. He has to learn to live in your world. Get into the habit of asking him for a sit as you let him out and reward him with a treat or two. He will then start to sit automatically. He will be learning not to jump for greetings. If he is a small pup, go down to his level when greeting him. Please see a senior/chief instructor if you have an older dog who is having problems, as he could be suffering from separation anxiety.

even on a very mild day. Provide your dog with a cool, ventilated area to

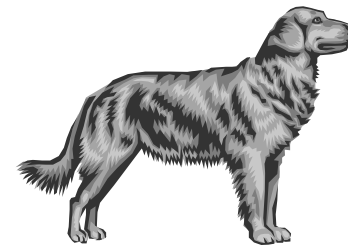
rest in. Exercise in the cool of the morning or evening. Pavements are hot and radiate a lot of heat upwards. Dogs are closer to the ground than we are. Cool a dog down by wetting his feet and chest only. If he is really distressed, wet him all over as fast as you can and take him to the vet

Dogs can get **sunburn and burns**. Sunburn is often seen on noses. Other burns could be caused by cigarettes (stepping on or walking into), electric light cords or feet on hot pavements. Anything that is too hot for your hand is too hot for your dog.

All **bones** should be uncooked. Raw chicken wings are good for dogs but watch puppies with them. Brisket bones, shanks and marrowbones are all good. Keep an eye on your dog's weight when feeding marrowbones. Puppies should not have bones that are very hard as they can damage their teeth.

Car safety: use a car harness, crate or barriers and teach you dog/puppy to wait in the car until you have a lead on him before asking him to come out of the car. Command your dog "IN-OUT". The club has further information available if your dog is nervous in the car or has other problems.

We also have information available on a variety of subjects, including living with more than one dog, dogs and cats, barking, playing, separation anxiety, situational training, secrets of successful training, reactive dogs, nervous dogs, meeting another dog, ten tips for problem dogs and more.



anything that could cause a life threatening throat obstruction. Tablets and medicines of all types should be kept out of a puppy's or dog's way.

Several items used in the home are poisonous to dogs. These include deodorants, soap, lime, paint, perfume, human toothpaste, furniture polish and indoor plants. Antifreeze, chocolate, onions, rat poison, snail pellets and blowfish are very dangerous and may even be life threatening. These are just a few of the items that are dangerous to dogs.

Keep exterior doors shut or use a barrier gate in the hallway so that your puppy or dog cannot escape on to the road and become lost or injured.

A wide selection of toys is very important for your dog's happiness and mental development. Toys can be used as rewards and training aids or to alleviate boredom, stress and anxiety. More importantly, they can be used as a focus for the interaction between yourself and your dog. Toys should be divided into two groups - his toys and your toys. **His toys:** these are the toys that can be left with him and can include things such as soccer balls, knotted ropes, chew toys, "Nyla" bones, and stuffed "Kongs". Avoid leaving thin walled plastic toys with your dog. **Your toys:** These toys are the ones that you use when playing with him and they stay with you.

Food guarding should be prevented. Feed your puppy or dog around people and movement. Have some tasty treats in your hand and as he is eating his meal, feed the treats to him from your hand. He will learn that hands near his bowl bring extra nice treats. When he is comfortable with this, you can start to supervise the children doing it. You may have to hold their hand at first. Never take your puppy or dogs dish away.

Bites and stings should be watched carefully. Check for ticks, flystrike, and grass seeds that may get caught in his coat, flea allergies and spiders in his kennel. Check with your vet if you are at all worried about your dog's health.

Heat stroke can affect your dog. Cars can quickly become a death trap,

CHILDREN AND DOGS

The primary concern with children and dogs is to put the child's safety first. A responsible adult must supervise all interactions between children and both parties need to learn the correct way to behave. Children must behave around dogs, even if their own family does not own a dog. For example, a child should never approach a strange dog without asking the owner if it's OK to pat the dog. Parents, it is your responsibility to ensure that your children are taught to be well-behaved and respectful around animals. They need to learn what kind of games are appropriate, how to touch the dog properly, how to interpret the dog's body language and when the dog is not to be disturbed. It's up to the adult to keep children safe from the dog and to keep the dog safe from the children.

Adult supervision is always essential where children and dogs interact. Small children should never be left alone with any dog, no matter how reliable the dog has been before. This may seem obvious, but even quite grown up children (and some adults) cannot recognise when a game is getting out of hand.

Parents, you should set the example for your children. Your child will copy you if you are calm and structured with the puppy or dog. Avoid physical discipline or yelling at the pup. Establish non negotiable rules for your children when they are playing with the dog – no tug of war games, no using themselves as play toys, no chase games, etc. These types of games encourage the dog to chase and nip and become very boisterous. They may seem fun in a young pup but these games can become quite dangerous and difficult to stop when he is fully-grown.

Prevent the puppy from chasing children when they are running around by putting him on a lead with you or by placing him in his safe area. After a while, get him out and teach the children the correct way to play with him. Games of find, puppy agility and teaching tricks using the new form of training will allow children to train their own dog. An adult should supervise

supervise all training until the child and dog interact well together. Children under the age of 5 years are too young and should never be left alone with a dog or puppy.

Teach children not to run past the dog or puppy and scream as this can excite him and can, in some dogs and puppies, stimulate an instinctive predator-prey reaction.

Get your dog used to children pushing and pulling him by giving him a treat as you (the parent) gently push and pull him. Take him to school areas (but not too close) and allow one or two children only to say hello. Hold a treat in your hands to get his attention on you as they pat him down the side. If he is a bit shy, the child could squat down at his side and offer him the treat. When there is a lot of noise and squealing going on around him, frequently feed him and stay calm. He will gradually get used to the exciting situation.

Teach children to pat the dog or puppy gently – no squeezing around the neck and please leave him alone while eating. Work on food bowl safety – please see a senior/chief instructor if you are concerned about this issue.

Teach children not to touch dogs, even if they know them, until they have asked permission. Show your child how to stand like a tree if their own dog, or another dog, scares them. Dogs can feel threatened, or become over excited, by high pitched noises or fast movements.

Never tie a dog in the yard. Children tend to tease tethered dogs even without realizing it, which can lead to aggressive behavior. Many instances of dogs attacking children occur when the dog is tethered in the yard and a screaming or running child enters its space.

Take extra safety precautions when other children visit.

Include your own children in grooming and handling him. If you have a baby, or toddler, there is extra information available through the club.

Hunt the toy is a good game to play with children and the dog. Get a child to

up ears, sweet breath and a lively gait when moving. His anal area should be clean and he should be urinating and passing his stools regularly. Always clean up after your dog, especially at home. This will lessen the chance of your dog learning to eat his own faeces, which is not harmful but not nice either.

Watch for changes in temperament and behavioural patterns as these are often warning signs of present or impending health problems.

Your dog should have a healthy appetite and be an ideal weight. A dog that is an ideal weight will have a slight fat cover on the ribs. You should be able to see his waist behind the ribs and he should have minimal abdominal fat.

Make sure your home and garden are 'dog safe zones', by checking your home for potential dangers and dealing with them promptly. It is important to make sure all fencing and gates are in a good state of repair and secure. The dog should have an area that is warm, clean, sheltered and dry if he is to sleep outside. Fresh water must be available at all times.

Keep all sharp implements and dangerous chemicals, such as pesticides, locked away and out of your dog's reach. Teething puppies like to chew vegetation and a surprising number of common plants contain natural toxins that may harm a small dog. Some of these plants are foxglove, ivy, azalea, lupine, laburnum, daffodil bulbs, oleander, etc. These are only a few of several plants that are poisonous to dogs.

Household chemicals, such as bleach and detergents, should be kept out of your dog's reach. Keep all electrical cords or cables out of the way or protect them with chew proof covers. Dangerous toys, such as sticks, should be avoided. Instead, use something like a piece of hose. Small objects that a puppy or dog may swallow should also be kept out of the way. For example, squeaky toys that are left with him may be chewed and swallowed. Small balls can cause choking or even death. Pick up shoes and socks, etc and put them away. It is important to check your house for

better for your dog to look to you for all his enjoyment. Adult behaviour is forming so think of your dog as a mature dog.

Playing rough and tumble game means that your dog will learn to play roughly and this could lead to serious problems. Always **stop play immediately** whenever your dog or pup lapses into inappropriate play behaviour, such as grabbing sleeves, shoelaces, leads, trousers, bumping, snatching or accidentally nipping and over excitement when playing. This will ensure that your dog/puppy learns that his careless behaviour caused the game to end.

Dogs that play with people grow into dogs that see people as a source of pleasure and enjoyment. They are more fun and enjoyable and the relationship between yourself and the dog is enhanced. You should spend three times as much time playing with your dog than he does with other dogs.

RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

All dogs over the age of 3 months old must be registered with their local council and wear a clear identification tag. Your local council provides leaflets relating to dog laws in your area. Please be aware of and follow these laws.

Your dog will depend on you for his health, care and safety throughout his life.

It is important to exercise your dog on a regular basis. Train him and teach him to use his brain. Games of 'find' can really wear a dog out, both physically and mentally. Make sure he has company as much as possible.

REMEMBER..... A DOG IS FOR LIFE, NOT SMETHING YOU THROW AWAY WHEN HE GETS IN THE WAY.

A healthy dog should have bright eyes, a shining coat, damp nose, pricked

hide something in another room and then encourage the dog to find it. Food treats, or a game with the toy, can be used as a reward. You can teach him to find the children in the same way. When you send him, they should call out to the dog and when he gets to them they can ask him to 'sit' for a treat.

To enjoy football without tears, use a large ball, one that the dog cannot get his teeth into. No teeth can contact the ball, or the game ends. Place the ball right in front of the dog. As soon as he sniffs it, say 'yes' to mark the behaviour, then praise and give him a treat. The dog needs to learn that touching the ball and pushing it is what will get him a reward.

Living with a pet can be beneficial to children. Pets can enhance a child's self-esteem, teach them responsibility and help them to learn empathy. However, children and dogs are not always going to automatically start off with a wonderful relationship. Parents must be willing to teach the dog and the child acceptable limits of behavior in order to make their interactions pleasant and safe.

PLAYING WITH YOUR DOG

The games you play and how you play them will directly influence your pup's future behaviour. Games should be fun for all. Keep the sessions short, and leave him wanting more. At first, puppies usually like to fetch soft toys. Throw it only a little way and have him on lead. Make sure you are in a quiet area. Playing and training go together. Use commands such as "Find It", "Get", "Wait" and "Give" when playing with your dog or puppy.

Build his interest and make sure that you are not looming over him when playing. Go down low and use a soft voice. Keep the toy moving to make it more interesting for him. When he reaches the toy, give praise and encourage him to pick it up. If he is holding it, do not try to take it from him. Keep your hands away from his face and mouth and stroke him down the side, to keep him with you. Tell him he is very clever.

Praise him whenever he is carrying something. This helps to build his enthusiasm for the game. You can play excitedly with the toy yourself and not let him have it at first.

Chasing a puppy whenever he is carrying something only makes it a game for him – one that you will never win. When first teaching him fetch, always have a light lead on him for control. Spend more time reassuring him that you will not take his toy as soon as he reaches it.

To get your dog to **let go of the toy**, let him hold the toy for a while as you praise him. Slowly take hold of the toy from underneath where he cannot see your hand. Pull the toy towards you, holding it tightly and keeping it as still as possible. Ask him to give and at the same time, produce a treat and wave it under his nose. Be patient, and in time he should let go for the treat. Throw the toy a short distance again, repeat 2-3 times, and then stop.

You can try the **two-toy game**. Use two toys that are the same. Throw one, and as your pup runs to pick it up, call him and wave the other toy. As he gets closer to you, tell him to drop it, then throw the other toy. Repeat this a few times.

To **teach him to 'find'**, hold his collar, throw the toy so that it lands out of sight but quite close, then release your pup and tell him to 'find'. Encourage and help him to find it. Practice over several sessions and always praise and reward him for finding the toy.

When **playing messenger**, begin by asking your pup to go to a named person i.e. husband Jeff. Make sure it is someone he knows well. The named person offers a treat and lures the pup to them. Repeat this several times over several sessions, always with the same person at first. Gradually introduce different people, one at a time.

Only adults using rules should play gentle **tug games**. You should be the one to start and finish all games. Your dog should tug when told to and give

it up when asked. This game is very rewarding for some dogs and makes a very good reward for training purposes. Do not shake a dog or puppy up and down or from side to side off the ground when playing tug, as you could damage his teeth and neck.

To encourage **'get it' games**, hold the dog's collar and place a treat on the ground, telling him to 'wait'. Tell him to 'get it' as you let go of his collar. You can use a toy, or whatever your dog enjoys. This game builds his excitement.

To start **puppy agility**, using children's play tunnels or boxes with the end cut out will make good tunnels. A 30cm wide plank with a brick under each end makes a good dog walk. A wooden ladder laid on the ground makes an interesting item to walk through. Hoops can be used to go through or walk through if laid on the ground. Have a place to teach the pup to sit and wait for a minute. Green garden stakes make great poles to weave through. When the dog gets to the end of a piece of equipment, sometimes throw a piece of food or a toy.

Whenever you are teaching a pup/dog anything new, always heavily reward them. Do not lure them and then give no reward. Going across the dog walk may entail giving him 5-6 treats and the same goes for everything else. If you wish to include jumps, they must be no higher than a puppy's elbow for the first 18 months or you could damage his joints.

Always take extreme care never to do anything which may frighten or hurt the pup/dog. Always supervise children and even some adults when they are playing with your dog.

Teaching your dog **tricks** will boost his confidence. Try things like shake hands, wave, high five, roll over, touch, twist, bow, say prayers and numerous other things.

Always have treats and toys with you when you go to the park, etc. It is