

TRAINING YOUR DOOG



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Foreword

Training basics require the owner or potential owner to understand the pet in order to come up with suitable solutions that will help create a happy atmosphere for both the pet and those around.

Training Your Dog

Chapter 1:

Training Basics

Synopsis

There are many aspects to look into when trying to train a pet and the following are some of the area to consider and how to go about doing so:

Basic Information

- One of the main areas that is cause for concern and stress is toilet training the pet. Some pets are easier to train in this area than others. There are ways to explore when it comes to toilet training a dog and with a little research and a lot of patience, it is possible to find the best way that will suit both the dog and the owner well.
- Another area that is usually a cause for concern is how the dog behaves in any given environment. Some breeds adapt well to changes in their surroundings, such as noise levels, weather conditions, more people present and anything else that alters the usual immediate environment of the animal while others can be greatly disturbed.
- Training the dog to refrain from destroying anything and everything around is also another area that needs consideration. A lot of pet owners often complain about their belongings being damaged by their pets and they feel powerless in addressing this problem. Here to with some research into the matter, the owner should be able to come up with solutions in dealing with this problem in a rational and non threatening manner.
- Training a pet to accept a new addition to the family is also equally important, especially when there is an addition of a baby.

Chapter 2:

What Equipment Do You Need

Synopsis

Before deciding on what equipment to use to train the dog, the owner must first identify the purpose of the training and the end goal desired. There are a lot of issues that contribute to a training session and having a clear goal in mind will help both the dog and the owner to work together to achieve the goal.

What You Will Need

There is also the need to identify the type of training that will be required based on the goal set. If the training is only to create some boundaries for the dog, then the owner will be able to identify a less vigorous training style to use to achieve the objective, with the least amount of heartache on both sides. The equipment needed will also be very basic, such as a dog leash, a dog collar and perhaps some tasty treats.

However if the training is going to be for more focused goals such as to create a championship show dog or a seeing eye dog, then the equipment needed will be considerably different and definitely more custom made to these goals. The more complex the goal, the more focused the training equipment will be. These types of equipment will usually have to be sourced from specialty shops that are well equipped to provide a variety of specifically designed items for dog training. The local pet shops will usually not carry such custom made equipment, thus there is a need to know what is needed before the actual sourcing process begins.

The owner should also be well versed in how to use the equipment purchased and understand its relevant purposes. Failing to do this very important task will not help in the actual training exercise as the dog will only end up being confused and frustrated when the commands given vary too much and the equipment used does not correspond with it.

Chapter 3:

Start With Easy Commands

Synopsis

Teaching a dog to respond to certain commands in a very specific way requires communicating with the animal on a level that can easily be understood. The dog's response to the commands will indicate the understanding of the command given and if the desired outcome is evident then the command is considered understood. Therefore, the owner should ideally take the time to identify a few simple commands and put them into practice in a simple and nonthreatening way.

Start Small

The following are some of the more popular commands that most dogs can relate to:

- Come – this is probably the most important command that should be taught to the animal as soon as possible. This is important in portraying the dog, who is in control, and training the dog until an immediate response is received to the command will be needed.
- Sit – this is another command that is popularly taught to the dog as it enables the owner to get the dog to focus and be still. Whenever the dog gets too excitable, this command is usually issued to quiet the animal and create a sense of calm. This command is also used when there is a need to stop the dog from moving around and is especially useful for meal times. Training the dog to sit and wait to be served its meal is a popular reason for this command.
- Stay – this command is usually given when there is a need to immobilize the dog immediately with any physical intervention. It is usually issued to keep the dog from causing a stir or becoming a nuisance to others around. However, this is not really an easy command to get the dog to participate in as dogs are generally very curious and friendly animals and restraining them can be a task.

Chapter 4:

Moving On To More Advanced Commands

Synopsis

Once a dog has successfully learned all the basic commands, there may be an interest on the part of the owner to venture further into some advanced commands for the dog. These more advanced commands may be an extension of the present basic ones or something totally new. However, in most cases they are just an extension of commands already well versed for both dog and owner.

The Harder Stuff

Training the place command is perhaps the next step because it is a follow up to the sit command. This is a command where the dog actually stops at a specific point next to the owner and awaits further instructions. This can be further extended by getting the dog to make circular motions around the owner in the quest to be showier to onlookers.

Another popular command that is considered more advanced is the sit and stay command. This teaches the dog to stay in one place, even when the owner moves away. If the dog instinctively follows which is always the norm, the owner then has to get the dog to understand that they are required to remain in the designated place. Directing the dog back to the position intended every time it moves will eventually create the understanding of what is required, thus making a successful command fruitful.

Teaching the dog to remain in one place for long periods of time is also another advanced command that can be rather useful. This is especially so, if the owner needs to go into shops or cafes where pets are not allowed. Being able to get the dog to sit quietly in spite of the distractions that may arise, while the owner is inside will be well worth the effort. Once the dog understands the owners commands this actions will be easily achieved.

Chapter 5:

House Training

Synopsis

Although it seems very cruel to expect an animal to, “hold it”, where humans can just look for a toilet, it will help to the animal to introduce some sort of regimen. This will help to ease the burden to having a stressed out pet and owner.

No More Accidents

The following are some steps that can be taken to help train the animal to be house trained with fewer occurrences of “accidents”:

- Picking a particular spot where the owner wants the dog to eventually identify as the toilet area is something that should be done in a consistent manner. By observing when the dog is likely to need a toilet break and taking the animal immediately to the designated area until the deed is done will teach the animal the significance of the designated area. Also lavishing praise when the deed is accomplished will further help to reinforce the idea behind taking the dog to the specified area.
- Take the time to understand the dog is also an important part of training the dog. Most dogs are not able to associate disapproval with the actual act of relieving themselves as owners often don't catch them in the act. An owner's reprimand is usually only meted out upon discovery of the “accident” or mess. Therefore, the animal will eventually associate the disapproval to the mess and not the actual action of relieving itself. It is important for the owner to establish the disapproval at the time the deed is actually done rather than after, to ensure the animal understands the “misdemeanor”. Once this is established, both parties can work together to find a solution that would be as stress free as possible. The owner should always remember not to put undue pressure on the animal as it only has a limited capacity of understand things.

Chapter 6:

Make Sure To Use Rewards And Not Punishment

Synopsis

Research has proven, in many areas of a dog responsive behaviour, that rewarding the dog is far more productive than punishing it. This is very conclusive and most dog owners now choose rewards over punishments based on the same evident results.

Take A Positive Approach

A dog trained by using the punishment method will usually create an animal that is terrified of the owner or trainer. Dogs that respond fearfully also eventually become desensitized and in some cases choose to ignore the trainer or owner, simply due to the confusion the harness of the punishment causes. Dogs trained to comply simply based on fear of punishment are a pitiful sight to see and are very heartbreaking, especially for the more sensitive individual. This is bad for both the dog and the individual, who will only end up traumatized by the training sessions. Most dog owners will not be able to cope with such a sight which may even cause the dog further confusion.

In contrast however, the positive approach of rewards within the training method is usually better received with eventual desired results forthcoming. Pets usually respond well to rewards as they will learn to associate certain behavioral patterns as pleasing to the owner and therefore correct and acceptable. Although most dogs respond well to rewards and work accordingly with the owner to achieve the desired results, these rewards must be timed correctly to ensure the dog understands the particular action required is tagged to the reward given. Therefore, the reward should be instantaneous to the desired action as soon as it is performed, failing to reward immediately will not help the dog to associate a particular action with the reward and this will only contribute to confusion.

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