

8 Tips to Improve Your Puppy Training Experience

Does your furry new best friend need a little discipline? Teaching a new puppy may seem overwhelming, but if you follow these tips, you'll be a puppy training pro in no time!



1. Start early

The earlier you start, the better. I know it's tempting to let that fuzzy little critter just romp around and do whatever he likes because he's SO CUTE! Puppy antics may be adorable now, but just wait until he gets older! When your little darling is chewing up your shoes and peeing on the rug, it won't be so cute anymore.

It may be somewhat cliché, but it's true - older dogs are more difficult to train. Start puppy training from the first day and you'll have a more disciplined and well-behaved dog later in life.

2. Get a clicker

A lot of people question the use of a clicker. They ask, "Why can't I just use my voice?"

The primary reason a clicker works best is because it's more precise than praise alone; you can use it at the exact moment your dog does a positive behavior. After the click, you then follow-up with a treat. By using the clicker during puppy training, the dog learns very quickly which behaviors are rewarded.

Your dog gets used to hearing your voice so it may take time for him/her to recognize that praise comes in response to a positive behavior. But in just a few minutes of training, the puppy will associate hearing a click with earning a reward.

3. Use high-value & high-quality treats

When you start puppy training, you should reward your puppy with something he will thoroughly enjoy. Try using small pieces of chicken breast or turkey.

By using meat, you're guaranteeing that your puppy will be attentive during the training session. Plus, it's a bit healthier for the little critter; when you're training, you're rewarding the puppy often and an overabundance of processed treats may upset his tummy.

4. Keep puppy training sessions short but frequent

If your training sessions are too long, the puppy may find it difficult to focus. It's best to have 2-3 sessions per day, each lasting just 5-10 minutes.

5. Give your puppy exercise before training

A little bit of exercise before training will also help with focus. If a puppy has too much energy built up, they may want to run around instead of paying attention to their training. If you have a high-energy dog, it's best to play with them for a bit before starting your session.

6. Start with the basic commands

The first three commands your dog should learn are sit, stay, and come. These are the building blocks for many more complicated commands.

For example, in order to get your puppy to stop begging or jumping up on people, he needs to know how to sit and stay in one place for an extended period of time.

7. Be consistent

Once your dog has learned the basics and is responding well to training, you may be tempted to let your regular puppy training sessions slide. Do NOT give in to this temptation! Your dog needs to constantly have these commands reinforced or else his responses will become inconsistent. If possible, try to have multiple training sessions per day with your puppy for at least the first year.

8. Make it a family affair

The more people you have involved in the puppy training process, the better.

Involving the whole family will help reinforce the dog's behavior. If only one person out of a family of four expects the puppy to react to commands, then you're fighting an uphill battle. Be sure to teach the commands to your kids and include them in the training process.

Bonus Tip: Stay positive

You may get frustrated from time to time because your little darling is taking his sweet time learning the commands. Don't get upset and don't give up. It will take time and patience, but the results are worth the effort!