

Puppy Development from 12 Weeks to 16 Weeks

Problem solving and Prevention

Prevention exercises and management are important to avoid the dog to learn undesirable behavior. Prevention of behavior problem is easier than treatment of behavior.

1. Jumping,

- a. Only give the dog attention when is sitting rather than when jumping.
- b. The instant the puppy jumps toward you, withdraw any form of attention or reward.
- c. Immediate withdrawal of attention is the most effective method. Turning away, folding your arms, looking away or stepping away.
- d. Redirect the puppy to "sit" "down" or any other behavior and reward the alternate behavior.

2. Gotcha Game,

The Gotcha Game prevent the puppy from shying away when your reach for his collar. It also, teaches the puppy to be comfortable and to like having his collar manipulated.

- a. Slowly reach out toward the puppy. Withdraw your arm and give treat.
- b. Slowly reach for and touch the puppy collar. Remove your hand and give him a treat.
- c. Add a cue "Collar" using a cue tells your dog what about to do. It makes your behavior predictable.
- d. Gradually increase the length of time you hold the collar.
- e. Apply slight tension to the collar. Release and give a treat.

Restrain Training

Restrain refers to physically holding the dog still and is often used during routine veterinary procedures. Dog learn very quickly that something unpleasant is about to happen when they are restrained. Through desensitization and counter conditioning many handling procedures can be performed with little or no restrain.

- a. Place a hand on the puppy's chest and simultaneously offer a treat.
- b. Progress to cradling with one arm over his back and under his belly/chest and the other arm under his neck.
- c. Release and reward with a treat.
- d. Keep sessions short; 1 to 2 minutes
- e. Go slow and make it fun and positive

Basic Training

1. Proper training is important for the dog's physical and emotional well being
2. Training should be fun for you and the dog
3. Use positive, and upbeat tone of voice when training

Loose leash walking

Teaching a dog to walk on a loose leash will make taking him out in public more enjoyable. Walking the puppy twice a day off your property is one of the most beneficial things you can do for a dog's behavioral well-being,

- a. Always reward appropriate walking
- b. If the dog pulls ahead, stop. Don't reward pulling with forward movement. Stop and stand still. Wait until the dog's attention returns to you and then change direction.

Recall

A solid recall is the most important cue you will teach a dog. This behavior can save the dog's life should he get away from you.

- a. When your dog comes to you, no matter what he was doing when you call him, always reward him!
- b. Have a person hold the dog by his collar or leash. The person should release the dog after you give the recall cue.
- c. Use a long leash and collar when in an unsecure public area.
- d. Never call your dog (just go and get him) if you going to do something that he may find undesirable. (Like for example give him a bath.) Otherwise you are poisoning your cue.

Stay

Teaching "stay" is one of the hardest basic commands but is one of the more useful. And it needs to be taught in several stages.

- a. Have the puppy sit in a comfortable spot
- b. Place your palm out in front of the dog's face while saying "stay"
- c. Take one or two steps back. Keep your hand out and keep saying "stay" while you are doing this.
- d. If he follows you or breaks the stay, correct him by saying "no" or "ap, ap, ap" In a firm tone said "stay"
- e. Praise him when he sits.
- f. Repeat this step as needed. Gradually increase the length and the distance.
- g. Give a treat when he stays

Socialization

1. Socialization is not about simple exposure, but making exposure fun and positive with liberal use of treats
2. The goal is for the dog to have appositve learning experiences with a variety of stimuli.
3. Avoid traumatic experience.
4. Don't wait for the puppy to show signs of fear before initiating treats

Other Animals

A trip to the pet store can help facilitate this process. It is easier to control your distance from the animals' cages. In a park setting, ducks, geese, birds, squirrels can be frightening or produce high arousal in many dogs. Teach the puppy to focus on you

Handling

Checking the ears, examining mouth and gums, squeezing the feet, handling and trimming the toenails, hugging the puppy, pulling his collar "gotcha game"

Objects with wheels

Skateboards, rollerblades, garbage can outside, shopping carts, baby strollers, wheel chairs.

Man-man objects

Blankets or rugs being shaken, brooms, balloons, umbrellas, Bags blowing in the wind, sidewalk signs, metal pans or other metal surface.