

Puppy Development from 16 Weeks to 20 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. Counter Surfing

- a. Prevention with a baby gate to block access to the kitchen
- b. Clap your hand to call your dog attention
- c. Give him a cue you have previously taught (leave it, sit, come)
- d. Reward him for the alternate behavior

2. Stealing Objects

- a. Avoid chasing him, it will just make it a fun game for him.
- b. If the dog already know "drop it" or "bring it" prompt this behaviors and reward. If not you can,
- c. Use a distraction, like for example grab his favorite toy or a treat act like you are having fun. This may prompt the dog to go check out what you are doing and drop the stolen object.
- d. Or you can exchange the object with a special treat.

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

Go to Bed / Pillow

Teaching a dog to stay in his bed is helpful when you are eating, opening the door,

- a. Toss a treat on the bed
- b. When the dog's foot make contact with the bed, reward the dog.
- c. Lure the dog out the bed and repeat "a" and "b"
- d. Repeat several times
- e. Add a cue, "bed" or "place"

Heel

Means that the dog is walking alongside the handler not pulling on the lead. During the heel position the leash is never tight.

- a. Establish the heel position, the dog should be walking close to your side on your left.
- b. Your feet should align with the dog's back paws.
- c. Dog should be slightly ahead of handler but should NEVER be pulling.
- d. Do not hold the leash tight to keep the dog in place.

Sit and down with Mild Distractions

Polite Greeting

The goal is for the puppy to learn to automatically sit when approaches to people. For that you need to set up lots of meets and greets to practice until the puppy is perfect.

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

Novelty

The puppy should have 2 to 3 novel experience daily during the socialization period and several times a week thereafter. Some examples of items that the puppy should encounter are: bikes, cars, strollers, children's toys, umbrellas, iron boards, vacuum cleaners, brooms, winter and summer apparel, boxes, etc.

Vehicles

Cars, bus, trolley, train, garbage truck, boat, motorcycle, etc.

Buildings

Stairwells, elevator, parking garage, shopping malls, Dr. offices, etc.

