

Dog Training Goes Beyond the Basics – Start as Puppies

Bite Inhibition

Dog training goes beyond teaching the basics of sit, down and stay. It is extremely important for puppies to learn how to play, to read other dog's body language, and to learn how to bite. Knowing how hard to bite, while playing with other puppies or dogs, is called bite inhibition.

If a puppy bites another dog too hard, the bitten puppy will yip or cry, letting the biter know that the bite was too hard. These skills are so important to learn while they are young. If puppies are not exposed to new things, taught how to play or taught bite inhibition, things can get ugly as they age.

If a dog does not understand another dog's body language they can be fearful, and may not enjoy playing with other dogs. A dog that is afraid of other dogs can bite from fear. The bite will most likely do damage, if they have not learned bite inhibition.

New Situations

Just as you train your children not to put their hand on a hot stove, or not to talk to strangers, puppies are new to the world and need to be exposed to many different types of environments as well. It is very important to expose them to new situations at a very young age.

Puppies, as compared to dogs, tend to be more accepting of things such as loud noises, children, the elderly, hats, sunglasses and moving objects like skateboards and bikes. During all of these new situations, knowing commands and how to react to owner instructions as well as how to act and interact in these environments will keep your puppy safe and prevent unwanted situations. Training them for these new environments when they are young is extremely important.

Manners and Handling

First impressions are extremely important. You want your dog to greet people that arrive at your home with good manners. For adolescent dogs, it is about learning manners like not jumping, walking nicely on a leash, and coming when called. These commands should be learned as a puppy and reinforced throughout their life.

Learning impulse control is necessary for your puppy to "keep calm," especially when things in their world get exciting. Dogs need to be taught that good things will come to those who wait, and patience is better than impulse. For adult dogs, it is important to keep the manners sharp, but also learn fun new tricks like; wipe your feet, look left and right, and put your toys away.

Handling is an essential part of your dog's long-term care and wellness. It is important to practice good handling, including ears, mouth, feet and tail. When you start practicing as a puppy and continue as adult dogs, handling will become no big deal when they need their nails trimmed or teeth brushed.

Reinforcement

Practice makes perfect for both puppies and senior pets. For senior dogs, training also keeps them young mentally and physically giving them something to do. Giving your dog a refresher course on manners or maybe learning a new game is more fun for them with friends their own age such as a class environment. The most important benefit from training is the creation of more bonding time with his/her favorite person in the world. Having a mutually respected relationship is the best way to reinforce skills.

Disclaimer: This written content is meant to be educational and is not medical advice. Always consult a veterinarian about medical advice for your pet.