

DOGS AND PUPPIES: Introduction to Obedience Training



It is essential for dog members of your family to have obedience training. Dogs who listen to their human companions are more enjoyable to be around, and obedience training creates boundaries and structure for the dog's environment.

Dogs can be taught a variety of fun tricks, as well as potentially lifesaving commands like coming when called and waiting before going out an open door. Other common commands are sit, stay, lie down, leave it or drop it, off (people or furniture), go to bed and to retrieve objects.

The method you choose to train your dog depends greatly on your dog. Some dogs are food motivated, while others may get too excited for the treat to pay attention to the behavior you are trying to teach. Some dogs are attentive to training for only a few minutes at a time, while others have a longer attention span.

Short, positive training sessions, a few times a day, are best for many dogs. Many experts suggest using training as a game, using your dog's favorite activity as a way of teaching good behavior. One idea is to trade your dog one toy for another with the command "drop it."

Training also **provides mental stimulation** for very intelligent dog breeds. An intelligent dog will quickly become bored without a job or daily mental exercise. For a highly intelligent dog, the tricks and training must be constantly evolving, as they will learn quickly.

Finally, dogs who are physically active and practice obedience training will be **less inclined to become obese**. Physical

exercise is as good for humans as it is for our dogs!

Obedience training can be fun and rewarding for all members of the family. Your dog will enjoy the mental and physical stimulation, and will be a polite member of canine society with basic obedience training.

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hsppr.org/resources



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