



PRIVATE CLASSES

A Few Facts About Your Dog

Your pet has a very unique way of viewing the world. They are playful, easily distracted, balls of energy that may have some habits we'd like to work on, or prevent. Knowing a few key things will help you train your puppy and get the quickest results.

- **You have 3 seconds** to praise or punish before your dog no longer understands what you're so excited or upset about.
- **Dogs need consistency!** Everybody in the house needs to agree on the rules for the household pets and everybody needs to follow them. If a dog is allowed on the couch one time, they think they are allowed on the couch all the time.
- Dogs need **120 repetitions** of something before they truly comprehend a command.
- **Dogs communicate mostly through body language** and very little verbally. This is why we train with hand signals first, because they are easier for your dog to understand. Once your dog understands what we want, we will add the verbal command.
- Dogs are not capable of feeling guilt.
- When a trainer speaks of socializing your dog, it's not just to other animals and people, but also to locations. Puppies need to be exposed to all sorts of different places (After they have had their 4th set of shots) so that they can be well rounded individuals.
- The three forms of attention are: **Visual** (eye contact), **Physical** (touching) and **Vocal** (spoken)

Getting your dog to respond to the clicker

Clicker training is an excellent way for you to bond with your dog. It provides a sound that marks correct behaviors and can eventually help you remove the need for treats every time your dog obeys a command. Here's a good way to get your dog used to the clicker:

- Click the clicker and immediately give a treat to your dog, no matter what it is doing. Keep doing this until your dog instantly pays attention to you when you click.
- Wait for your dog to start looking away from you then click. If your dog instantly looks back at you, reward it with a treat!
- Wait for your dog to wander off before clicking again. If your dog comes back to you quickly, then your dog is ready to train with a clicker!

After your dog is used to the clicker, here is how you use it in training:

- When the dog performs a behavior that you want them to do, use the clicker immediately as your dog does the action and give them a treat within 3 seconds of the behavior (example: Dog sits = Click + Treat)

Helpful Training Hints

- If you **find yourself getting frustrated** with a lack of progress, **give your dog an easy command** that they do almost automatically **and end the session on a good note**. Your frustration can feed into your dog and make training less fun than we want. It's better to walk away for a little while and come back to it when everybody is feeling better.
- When giving your dog a command, do not ask it to do something. Make sure your voice is gentle yet firm, showing that you **expect** it to be done
- Make sure you are displaying proper posture when working with your dog! Slouching = submissive! Keep your shoulders back and your spine straight with your head up.
- Make sure the collar is appropriately sized, allowing two fingers of space, no more and no less.
- Just because your dog is cute doesn't mean they deserve treats! Make your dog work for **EVERYTHING** you give them!
- A bottle full of water set to "Stream" is effective in interrupting poor behavior. Once you have interrupted this behavior, immediately give your dog a command to prevent them from returning to the undesired behavior.
- **Play with your dog's feet, ears, mouth and tail**. By using treats when you touch these parts of the body, your dog will find it less stressful. Conditioning them to be used to these touches will make it easier for you to trim nails and for your vet to do an oral exam and get your dog's temperature.