

**5 Tips to Successfully Train Your Canine**

Training canines is not difficult. You just need patience, dedication and some simple guidelines and you and your canine will be learning new skills in no time. Remember to have fun. If you feel yourself getting angry or frustrated take a break. Your canine will sense your emotions and react to those instead of your training. Always be encouraging and positive.

**Here are five easy tips to remember when training your canine**.

1. To avoid confusing your canine remove distractions including other trainers. Your canine should focus on you and your directions. Word recognition is one part of the training they need to focus on. This is best managed with one command voice. Once they have mastered a command several times you can let others in the household try. You can be there to reinforce the command if needed to ensure the canine truly understands.
2. Positive reinforcements should always be used when a canine does something well. An “attaboy,” pat on the head or a treat encourages the canine and reinforces positive behavior. This lets the canine knows they are acting properly and doing what you want. If your canine cannot understand or follow your commands do not scold them and especially do not get angry. It will scare and confuse your canine and they will not focus on you or the training. Remember, canines make mistakes too. Sometimes difficult commands may take several attempts and possibly several hours, days, or even weeks. It mainly depends on the complexity of the task and your canine’s ability and willingness to work. Repetition is a key ingredient in successfully training a canine. Just like when you learn something new.
3. The best way to start training a canine is with the basics. “sit” and “paw” are both easy starter commands. A canine will quickly learn these. You will see they are anxious to learn more, especially when treats or other rewards are involved. Teach commands one at a time until they get it. Remember it may takes several tries for some commands. Once a canine learns a new command ensure they remember it by using it several times a week or whenever needed. For example, you can always give the command “sit” before you feed the canine.
4. When issuing commands keep your voice clear and cheerful so your canine will happily follow your commands. Changing your voice will make the canine wonder why you are talking differently. It changes their environment. Shouting or talking loudly may startle the canine and they can become unresponsive.
5. Train your canine in different places; try the park, the backyard, a friend’s house or simply walking around the neighborhood. If you do not expose your canines to different settings they may not respond properly outside of their home environment or when other people are around.

**Summary**

Training your canine is a process. It may take a while and needs constant reinforcement. Some commands will be harder than others but with patience and repetition you will be successful. You will benefit as much as they do. There is nothing better than a trained and well-mannered canine that knows when to sit and is comfortable in many environments.

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