The Happy Dog Training Academy

Tricks to keep your dog Occupied.

**Basic obedience classes can help.**

You should master basic levels of obedience, once you have these essentials, like sit, wait and down. You can begin teaching your dog new things, this gives you another way of interacting with your dog. For the best results, you should keep training sessions short, by keeping training time short keeps your dog’s attention and more important keeps their focus. When teaching anything new, high value treats are important. You should give the treats often. This will keep the dog’s attention on the exercise. It is worth the hard work. Some dogs will find it easier than others. Especially if your dog is food motivated. The trick for you is to be patient and consistent with your training.

Sit.

This is usually one of the first things people teach their dogs, within training classes it will be one of the basic lesson’s trainers teach in obedience training.

The sit, has to be one of the easiest to teach. Hold the treat in your hand just in front of your dog, allowing them to see you have a treat. Slowly bring the treat up over their head, as his nose comes up following the treat. The bottom will lower. Until the dog is sitting. (give the command to Sit), Once the dog is sitting praise and reward them. Practice regularly so the dog gets used to hearing the command. Remember to continue with the praise, after giving the treat.

The Crawl,

Basic training should have your dog being able to go into the down, then holding a treat just in front of them, you can use the treat to lure them forward. In a commando crawl. Start slowly and keep the treat close to the ground, if you get just a little movement praise and reward, gradually increasing the distance you get. Until the dog is crawling more, then you can increase the speed.

The Weave between the legs.

This looks complicated but is very simple to teach. Hold a small treat in both hands, standing with your feet far enough apart so that your dog can pass through. Start with your dog in front, asking them to pass through your legs. Holding the treat in your right hand just behind your right leg. Move it forward and around your right leg asking your dog to follow. As he comes level with your knee, praise, and reward, and then use the treat in your left hand to encourage him to move through your legs again, but this time move the treat around to your left-hand side.

This is good for your dog’s coordination and agility. But does require a lot of concentration from both you and the dog, building it up in easy stages. As the dog starts to find it easier you will be able to become faster. Do not rush them while the dog is still learning. It is easy to become frustrated with the dog, over time your dog will learn.

The Bow

Of course, the first thing is teaching your dog to stand. Once you have, you can then start with the dog standing in front of you, take a treat between your thumb and second fingers move it towards the dog’s nose. Slowly lower the treat towards the ground, just between the dog’s feet. As his nose follows it down, place a hand under the dog’s belly (gently). As you would have done when teaching the dog to stand. The dog’s back end stays in the air. Making it look as though they are taking a bow. If you do yoga, this pose can also be done when you are doing similar in your yoga. Reward and praise him. Gradually increase the length of time he stays in the bow as he learns.

Roll Over

First put your dog in the down. Then with a treat in hand, have the dog on their side. Take the treat from the dog’s nose, bringing it slowly round towards his shoulder. When you have achieved this with confidence bring your hand round even further towards his back. The dog’s nose should follow, and he rolls right over. Once he’s confident with the rolling over action. You can begin to add the command, so he begins to associate it with the action.

Balance a treat on the nose.

This requires self-control from your dog. Also, the ability to stay motionless until you release him. First putting the dog in the sit and use the command to wait. while you place a biscuit on top of their nose. Use a treat or something small, that will not be as tempting to begin with. Having the treat on the dog’s nose give the command to wait. Hold the biscuit in place for a second, then take it away, praise and reward the dog. It will take time for the dog to be confident. The main reason this trick does not work, is because the owner gives the treat from the dog’s nose. You should use another treat, in the thumb and second finger, showing the dog it, that way you keep the dog’s focus on your hand, while waiting. Gradually increase the time you hold the treat there. Progress to letting go of the treat and increasing the time you can leave it on the dog’s nose. Build up the time the dog can manage to keep it balanced.

Possibilities are endless.

Teaching your dog new tricks is a great way to keep him mentally stimulated. There is always more than one way of teaching. Should these methods, fail to inspire. You can find a more tricks online, the more you practice and bond with your dog. The more you and your dog will want to learn.