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## OBEDIENCE TRAINING

The best time to begin obedience training is the moment you acquire your puppy. As soon as your puppy begins exploring its environment, it begins to learn which behaviors are acceptable and which are not. Obedience training begins the process of establishing desired and acceptable behaviors. By using positive reinforcement with treats, toys and praise you can encourage your puppy to repeat desired behaviors. Reinforcement for behaviors must be immediate for the puppy to understand what behavior is being rewarded.

Dogs are naturally attentive to the body language and voices of their owners. By observing us, a dog learns to anticipate our intent. By consistently associating a certain word with your dog's specific action, you can communicate with your dog. By using positive reinforcement with treats, toys and praise you can encourage your puppy to respond to desired words paired with the intended behaviors. Reinforcement for behaviors must be immediate for the puppy to understand what behavior is being rewarded.



Behaviors learned early, whether desirable or not, are the foundations for all future patterns as an adult. The earlier obedience training begins, the better. Obedience training allows you to teach a dog desirable behaviors in any given situation. Practicing obedience skills is good exercise for both of you and provides your dog with good mental and physical stimulation. Obedience training allows you to instill appropriate behavior and, with regular practice, ensures good habits for life.

Behavior consultations, group obedience classes and private in-home training are available for puppies and dogs. Behavior consultations target specific behavior problems ranging from destructiveness to aggression to separation anxiety. Group obedience classes are an excellent opportunity for puppy socialization and tend to be a less expensive option. Private in-home trainers offer personalized one-on-one training sessions in the puppy's environment for the owner and family. Initially, obedience training sessions should be short and fun to introduce your puppy to the process.