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Training Sessions

Several short (3 – 10 minutes) sessions are better than one long one. Be sure to have at least one 10 minute session a day.

Once you have trained with your dog a few times in a quiet, distraction-free setting, you will see that your dog is getting the idea of sitting, lying down, etc. Once that happens, continue training in quiet settings, but also add in real life situations.

Train whenever you get the chance. Real Life situations are one of the best ways to train. For example, during TV commercials, before feeding your dog dinner, before playing, and while you're playing.

While watching TV, have rewards sitting next to you and train during commercials for 3-?? (who knows! some breaks take soooo long). Before feeding your dog, ask your dog to Sit or Lie Down. While you're playing ball you can ask for a few behaviors before commencing the game. Take frequent breaks where you ask for a Sit or Down. Then start up the fun again! Your dog will love training because it means he gets rewarded with all kinds of good things.

Patience, persistence and consistency is the key to teaching your dog appropriate behavior. Always try to end a session with a behavior your dog knows well and will succeed at most every time. We want to set our dogs up for success. The more times they succeed the faster the behavior will become rock solid. If you find yourself getting frustrated or angry stop the session and try again later.

Nothing in Life for Free

Start a program where your dog must earn everything. Pleasurable life rewards can be used to hone your dog's known behaviors; such as going for a walk, being fed and playing ball. You can even ask for more than one behavior for the reward. For example:

- If your dog wants attention, ask for a Sit before petting.
- Before feeding your dog ask for two or more behaviors that they know, such as Shake, Sit or Down.
- Ask for a Sit before you put the leash on.
- Ask for a Wait before opening the door to go for a walk. During the walk stop occasionally and ask for a known behavior.
- Ask for a Down or Sit before starting a game of ball. During the game stop occasionally and ask for a known behavior.