



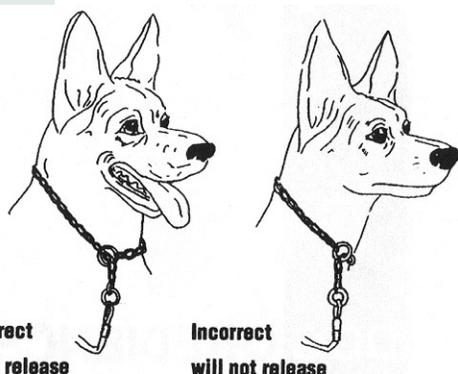
Dog Obedience

Training Tips for Dog Club Members



Training Equipment

1. A chain choke collar is essential in dog obedience training. The collar must slip easily over the dog's head and be about 2 to 3 inches larger than dog's neck. It is very important to put the chain choke collar on correctly, so that it will quickly release after it is jerked.
2. A 6-foot leather leash also is essential. Grasp the loop-end in the right hand. The leash should cross in front of your body and be held firmly in your left hand so that the snap of the collar hangs straight down on the dog's chest.



Important Training Rules

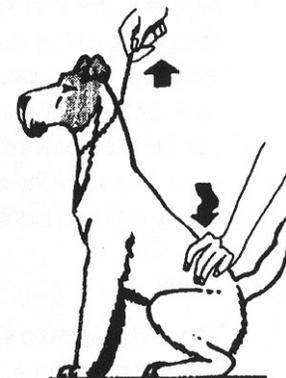
1. Always use the choke collar and leash on your dog when training him.
2. Your dog should wear the choke collar only when you are working him.
3. Work your dog for a half hour every day.
4. Always work with a loose leash.
5. Use a quick, sharp jerk from the wrist; your arm should be held straight at your side.
6. Commands must be firm and clear.
7. Always follow through; never let your dog disobey a command.
8. Be quick to praise when the dog does something correctly.
9. Work at a fast pace.

10. Keep your eye on your dog at all times; immediately correct him as he starts to make a mistake, not afterwards.
11. Never become impatient with your dog.
12. Do not feed your dog before a training lesson.

Dog Obedience Exercises

1. Sit

The dog must always sit at your left side with his shoulder at your left knee. He must be facing the same direction as you, with about 4 inches between you. To train your dog to sit, first fold the leash in right hand. Give the dog's name and command "sit." At the same time, push down on his hindquarters with your left hand and jerk up on the leash with your right hand. When he is in correct position, praise him with a pat and vocal praise.



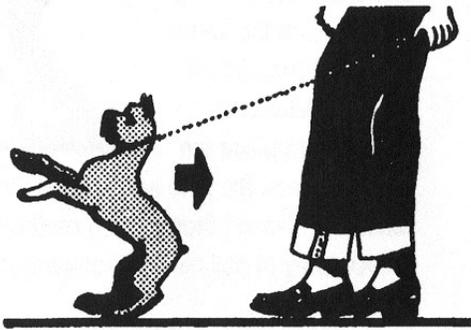
2. Heeling on Leash

The dog should walk with his right shoulder about even with your left knee. Start with your dog sitting at your left knee. With a loose leash, call the dog's name and give the command "heel." Immediately walk forward and give a hard jerk on the leash. If the first jerk does not make an impression, make the second one harder.



Never, never drag your dog. When you have jerked him into position at your left knee and the collar is loose, praise him with "good dog." Your dog will never learn with a tight leash. Always follow a correction with praise. When you stop walking, make your dog immediately sit and sit straight. Correct any crooked sits immediately, using your right hand to jerk the leash and your left hand on the hindquarters. Make sure the dog remains sitting until you are ready to start up again. Never allow him to stand up or lie down; he must sit.

Change your pace frequently from a brisk walk to a run and to a slow walk. Your dog must adjust his pace immediately to yours and stay at your left knee, not ahead, not behind. Also work in some sharp right and left turns.

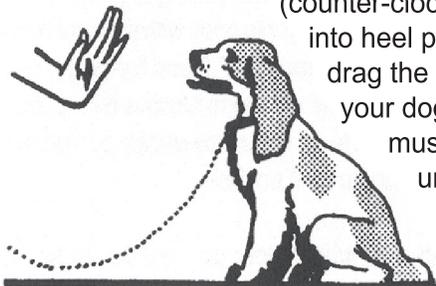


3. About Turns

Always turn away from your dog to your right to reverse your direction. Keep your eye on your dog constantly and as you go into your turn, give several short, quick jerks.

4. Sit Stay

Have your dog in the sit position. With the palm of the hand bump him on the nose and give the command "stay." Drop your leash in front of the dog, turn facing him, and stand close to him on the leash. Remain there for a few seconds, pick up the leash, and return by walking around behind him (counter-clockwise), and into heel position. Do not drag the leash across your dog. Your dog must not move until you



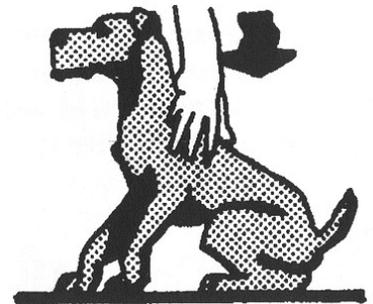
release him. Correct him before he moves. Gradually increase the time your dog stays. Increase the distance between you and your dog until you can safely remove his leash.

5. Down

With the dog sitting, give the command "down," then push down on his shoulders, at the same time wobbling him off balance. A second method is to place the leash between the sole and the heel of your shoe. Give the command "down"; then pull up on the leash. Sometimes it is necessary to pull his legs forward until he goes down.

6. Down Stay

After your dog is in the down position, give the command "stay," both orally and by signal, and drop the leash in front of him. Stand on the leash close to and facing him. Remain there again for a few seconds and return to him in the same manner as in the sit-stay. Again he must not move out of position. Gradually increase the time your dog stays. Increase the distance between you and your dog until you can safely remove his leash.



7. Stand for Examination

This teaches your dog to stand without moving or snapping while someone pets him, while a veterinarian examines or treats him, and for showing and grooming. Walk with your dog at heel and, without slowing your pace, swing around in front of him, and at the same time tap his nose with the right hand and give the command to "stand stay." Stand the length of your leash from the dog while someone touches him on the head, back and hindquarters. Return by circling behind him counter-clockwise and into heel position.

Don't let the leash drag across your dog and do not let him sit or move from his spot until you release him with praise and a pat. If he sits at any time, lift him into standing position from the right side with your hand just in front of his right rear leg. Give the command to "stand" at this time and repeat until he understands. When he does the exercises correctly, praise him.

8. Recall

This is to teach your dog to come to you immediately when you call. This is the most important and perhaps the most difficult lesson to teach. Begin with the dog in the heel position. Give the command and signal to stay. Then walk out in front of him to the full length of the 6-foot leash, turn to face him, and as you give your dog's name and the command "come," give a sharp jerk on the leash and run backwards several feet. Never just pull or reel your dog to you. He must come promptly and sit squarely in front of you until you give the command "heel," at which time he will return to heel position.

9. Finish

This is used to complete many obedience exercises. With your dog in the heel position, give the command and signal for "stay" and pivot out in front of the dog, facing him as close to him as possible without touching. Next, call his name and give the command "heel!" At the same time take one step back with your right foot, keeping your left foot in place. With the leash in your right hand, swing the dog around you and back to heel position. As the dog goes around you, step forward again with your

right foot. Once dog is back in heel position, make him sit. With practice your dog will learn to come to heel smartly without any assistance from you.

10. Heeling off Leash

Never try to heel your dog off leash until he is perfect on leash. Most dogs will require a half hour of training every day for 16 weeks before they are ready to be taken off the leash. If you try him off leash and he makes a mistake, you must immediately put him on leash and work him until he can work correctly.

Revised 1/04

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, David C. Petritz, Director, that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to the programs and facilities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, or disability.

Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution.

This material may be available in alternative formats.

1-888-EXT-INFO

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia>