

# DOG TRAINING ESSENTIALS



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# Dog Training Commands: Whoa! Come! And Heel!

Dog Training Commands: Whoa! Come! And Heel!

We are often awed at watching fine bird dogs in movies and in action. They make outstanding bird dog work and never fail to heed their owners' commands. Then we think- How could this be possible? Could bird dog training bring out the best in my dog?

**The simple answer is yes, but you have to invest hard.**

There are several dog breeds that could be trained into excellent bird dogs. Training them in obeying commands could be a good starting ground. Training professionals acknowledge the fact that dogs need to understand the language they are using in order to make the dog respond to the command. In this type of training, there are just three main commands that should be mastered by both the owner and the dog. They are the whoa!, come! and heel!.

## **The Whoa! Command**

The most basic command is the whoa! command. This instruction suggests to the dog that he should stop and try not to move further unless he is told to do so. If the dog follows this command completely, it would show clearly how obedient and respectful he is to his master. Complete obedience is shown by obeying the command no matter how far the distance is between the giver of the command and the dog.

This command is also useful for dogs that are going too far ahead, when the dog is flushing the bird on his own and the owner wants him to stop, and when the dog wants to play around with the bird. It would also be easier for the owner to come to the dog and reward him for a job well done.

## **The Come! Command**

This command simply suggests that the dog should approach you as commanded. The uses of this command are rather simple. Say for example, retrieving would be a lot easier if the dog would come to you the instant you tell him to do so. Also, there are dogs that are a bit stubborn and would decide to go off in different directions. Giving this command will help maintain a

good distance between you and your dog in case he decides to do things his way.

### **The Heel! Command**

If you want your dog to walk by your side, the heel! command is the most effective tool. It is normally matched with another one-word command such as "okay" or "go" to signal his release. This will let him know that he has performed favorably and he is again allowed to hunt for you.

Whenever the dog performed well, never fail to give him a tap, a treat or a praise to acknowledge his performance. Fine dogs are born with the instinct to please their owners. If you can let your dog see that he is pleasing you with his performance and you want him to repeat it, the best thing you can do is to reward him. Overtime, he will learn to repeat the same desirable action so long as you allow him to.

Bird dog training is not easy. This is the reason why there are too few dog birds around. However, if you really want to turn your dog into a really good bird hunter, you should be ready to invest some time and patience in perfecting the three basic commands used in this training.

## **Things to Consider When Choosing a Career in Dog Training**

### **Things to Consider When Choosing a Career in Dog Training**

Some people choose a career in dog training simply because it is a popular choice however there are those who are really passionate about canines that their life's direction has led them towards loving dogs even more.

Do you fall in the category of people who pursue career in dog training just because someone said it is a good thing or you have fallen so in love with dogs that you are left with no option but to fall even deeper?

### **Back to basic principles...**

Dog training is more than a love for dogs; it also requires knowledge and skills in handling and disciplining them and knowing the basics of their behaviours.

Dog trainers usually have long history of experience with dogs and interaction with many dog owners and handlers and their pets.

### **What is your "dog division"?**

There are two types of careers in the dog world- the pet service training and the dog training. Both have relatively high demands in the market but there are a lot more opportunities in pet dog training than service training.

The pet dog training usually involve dogs that function merely as pets and as companions for outdoor activities therefore, the usual training involved are obedience training, agility training, potty training and training to eliminate unwanted behaviours like barking and biting.

Service training, on the other hand, involves specified training on services required by people with disabilities and those undergoing therapy. Another division of service dogs are involved in chasing criminals, drug and bomb sniffing, search and rescue dogs and hunting dogs.

These are highly intensive trainings and require the handler to get sufficient preparation to lead the dog in employing its specialized functions.

### **Understanding of canine psychology**

What do you really know about dogs- their thinking, their behaviors and their reaction to stimulus? Training adheres to conditioning the thinking of the dog to make specific responses. You should also know well the fundamentals of associative conditioning.

### **What about dog training education?**

A dog training career requires that you have basic skills in dog training and handling. There are no degrees in dog training yet for there are no colleges and universities offering such. However, there are dog "academies" or "schools" that could provide basic training. However, the best dog trainers are often self taught and have natural inclination to dog handling.

Some have apprenticed with excellent dog trainers while others simply have the knack in training dogs. There are also a number of dog training organizations that could supplement latest information on dog training.

### **Comparison of working attitude with people and dogs**

Dog training involves training the handlers of the dogs as well. Therefore if you are pursuing a career in this field, it is very important that you have good people skills and that you can tolerate all types of people.

There are impatient owners who expect fast learning from their dogs without taking advices openly while there are those who relatively open to suggestions. You need to cater both types of dog handlers and everyone in between. In short, career in dog training is not only limited to dog training but also an experience of people training as well.

### **Miscellaneous**

Dog training is not limited to "training" alone; there are also certain aspects that you should be knowledgeable of like maintenance of proper dog hygiene, nutrition and grooming.

You should also have good knowledge on dog competitions, accessories and training aids. You should also be able to distinguish different dog breeds and their fundamental differences.

You don't have to be a guru in dog training to be an excellent trainer; you only have to develop certain skills necessary in handling dogs and their trainers and to have sufficient knowledge on theories and the capacity to put them into practical application.

## **Why Get Cheap Dog Training Collars**

### **Why Get Cheap Dog Training Collars**

Is it worth to invest on your dog's training? Yes. Is it worth to invest big time? On some occasions no.

It is perfectly okay to buy very expensive dog collars if you fancy doing so. There are a lot of choices for you. Starting from stone studded collars to fashion dog collars, you can get anything by spending a fortune. However, for some owners it is never practical to spend so much for an item that could be obtained at a lot lower price with the fundamental functions.



Dog training could be pretty stressful especially if your dog is highly independent and has a high level of curiosity which tends to yield problem behaviors to owners.

After investing for your dog's training without satisfactory results– including the emotional and financial investment- many owners tend to cut down from spending too much on other things that contribute nothing to improving the behaviour of the dog. One good example is the dog training collar.

For many owners it does not make much sense if the dog does not respond well to training and its accessories especially when the dog has begun nibbling on the corners of the dog collar. What is more important to them is the improvement of the behaviour and not really on how expensive or sophisticated the collar and other accessories look.

While dog collars are instrumental in gaining better control and lesser unwanted dog behaviours, the expensive ones could still dent the budget of the owner. This is the reason why many owners resort to buying cheap dog training collars as good alternatives without having to sacrifice the function of the item and without having to add to the financial burden.

To get a cheap collar with good value it is best to first evaluate the product before looking at how much it costs. It is a common mistake among buyers to use the cost as the basis for assessing the value of the item based on its function and reliability.

Cost is a good margin for getting the right collar but it should not affect the way one sees the item. For example, an excellent collar could give the best value at its lowest possible price. However, since it is tagged with a low price the buyer would immediately conclude that it does not perform well.

Remember, we were made to believe that price equals quality. Items at the lower end of pricing have lower quality while those having expensive tags have the best quality. This usually happens but it is not always the case. So be sure to find the best bargains at their best prices.

Advanced technology integrated into the collar could often command much higher prices. The popular electronic dog collar is a good candidate. The price of this collar runs anywhere from \$100 to \$999 depending on the types of

features installed in the item. You can expect a lot higher prices when more advanced technologies are used in making the collar.

Dog collar can cost a few hundred dollars and many people find it very impractical to buy items with outrageous tag prices. So if you are someone wanting to be practical while trying to get a cheap dog training collar, it is best to do your homework.

## Crate Training Dog

Once he gets used to this, you should lock her in. you could walk away from him or watch him as he calms down inside. If he shows any signs of protest, you should not let him outside. Instead, let him settle down first then let her leave after. Do this for exercise for a couple of days until she has learned to enter the crate and leave it on her own.

Many people protest against crate training a dog because, according to them, it is similar to solitary confinement. However, with the benefits listed above and a number of other benefits that are not mentioned here, anyone could conclude that a crate could benefit both the owner of the dog and the dog itself.

With appropriate and sufficient training, crate training your puppy or dog will make him see it as his haven instead of an enclosure that makes him feel unsafe and lonely.

Den or crate training is based on the instinct of the dog to find some security with nesting places that are isolated from all distractions. For dogs, den serves as their home. Through proper introduction and selection of the right techniques, the dog will not be threatened by its appeal to punishment.

### **Benefits of using a crate**

- a) For occasions when the dog cannot run around freely, placing them in a crate will be a good choice for controlling their movements.
- b) The dog will feel relatively safe inside the crate especially when located in places where they are most vulnerable.
- c) They would have a place for solace when they wanted to rest or when feeling under stressed where no one could bother them.

- d) A crate could also be used to limit dogs with problem behaviours.
- e) It is also a good place for puppies that are still untrained and might cause some troubles inside the house like accidents and biting.
- f) This could also be good for dogs with separation anxiety.
- g) It could secure the dog whenever the owner has to bring him outside.
- h) It increases his confidence due to the security it provides.
- i) Could enhance training by giving the dog a direction for routine activities.

### **Size of the crate**

The crate should be large enough to accommodate the dog on all fours, to let him lie down comfortably and to give him enough space to turn around without hitting the walls. However, if you also intend the crate for travel, the crate should be larger than the aforementioned size.

If however, you are using the crate only for training, it should follow the guideline that was just mentioned since a larger crate would give him enough elbow room to do unwanted things in specific areas of the crate.

### **How to introduce the crate to the dog**

The best time to introduce the crate to a dog is when you feel that they are ready for it. After buying the right crate, you could place it somewhere in the house where it would catch the dog's attention. Let him explore his crate first for the first week with the door removed.

If he does not show any sign of interest, try leaving some of his favorite treats inside. After a couple of days, try feeding him inside. This would condition his mind that the crate is for him and he could safely do some activities inside it.

## **Three Principles on Dog Obedience Training**

### **Three Principles on Dog Obedience Training**

Dogs, even when their breeding is maximized and well-adapted to human needs, would always need some basic obedience training for they would never figure this out on their own. Obedience training requires the use of some

principles which differentiate effective training from training without results. They are the following:

### **Principle One: CONSISTENCY**

The first rule in obedience training is to be consistent. This covers the use of words, tone, and the actions that accompany the word or command. During the beginning of the training, the trainer or the dog owner must decide what should be the parameters of training- what you are trying to teach the dog and how to do it.

A word or a phrase, let's say "come", does not make sense to a dog. He does not understand things the way human understands it and he does not understand the language we use. So to make the training understandable, you should use the command in a very consistent manner such that the dog will learn to associate the word with the meaning you attach with it.

For example, if you are using the command "come", make sure that everyone in the household use it in a singular manner. The command "Come" specifically means that the dog should approach the giver of the command use it in that sense. So if you are using this command make it a point that you would not do actions that would make the command confusing for the dog.

If he does not come to you, do not force the dog to come to you and punish him for doing so. This would make him attribute the command with the punishment. What could you expect next?- he would not follow the same command since this leads to punishment.

Consistency also covers the use of the same command by all people. For example, if you are using the command "come", other people in the household should not replace it with words like "here" or "come here boy".

### **Principle Two: KEEP IT SHORT**

The hours devoted to training and the words used as command should be kept short. Keep in mind that the attention span of dogs is very short that making them engrossed with a specific activity would be very hard, if not impossible. Puppies would only react to a specific stimulus at a very long time, for example chasing a moving toy car, and then they would lose interest and move on to the next thing.

They simply don't possess the same amount of interest they had when they are starting the activity, they become easily bored. The same thing happens in training therefore, it should be limited only to 10 minutes to 15 minutes of regular training.

### **Principle Three: DO NOT USE FORCE and PUNISHMENT**

Never hurt the dog if you want him to be trained. Also, never force the dog to follow the command if he is not prepared for it or punish a dog for something he did.

Don't push the animal too hard while training. The dog does not understand that he should learn things "instantly" and he does not realize that you are becoming impatient with the speed he is picking up the training. All he knows is that you are mad.

So do not use force as this does not communicate your meaning properly, instead use negative reinforcement. If he knows that he is praised when he does something right, he should not be praised when he does not follow a command.

## **Dog Potty Training- The Basics of Pooping Control**

Potty training usually begins with puppies. Unfortunately, there are a lot of dogs who do not know yet where and when it is appropriate to poop. While housetraining has been popular for years, many people still have dogs that are not housetrained. The main advantage of being housetrained is that you could trust your dog not to make your house his large comfort room.

Just like other forms of dog training, potty training has several things needed for effective results. They are as follows:

### **The Timing**

Not all dogs are ready for training and you cannot subject them to potty training at all times. The best time to correct misbehavior when it comes to potty is right after he poops. If you see the dog pooping, get his attention immediately and encourage him to continue outside.

Give a command that will signal him to stop, ensure to it that the tone of your voice is low. After which, start introducing him with the command "outside" while guiding him gently to go outside towards a specific location where he is allowed to eliminate regularly.

### **The Act**

Most of the time, owners just discover the accident indoors and did not see the act. In this case, it is best to ignore the incident and wait for the next occasion the dog poops. Never rub his nose in it as this would not give him the proper lesson.

Instead, if you could make the dog come to the area you could scold the poop in his front instead of messing up his nose with it. Why? Because even if only several moments have passed, he would never be able to make a correlation between the action he did and the scolding.

If he is chewing a bone for example, and you scold him for pooping inside the house earlier, he would think that he is being scolded for chewing the bone not for eliminating indoors.

### **The Accompaniment**

There are instances when the owner sees the dog eliminating indoors and was ordered to go outside and came back in and continued pooping. Again, in this case, the puppy has done nothing wrong. He does not know what the owner wants to communicate by going outside.

If you want the dog to accomplish as you say, you should have the patience to accompany him outside and teach him further. This could be made easier by using a leash for better control of the dog.

### **The Command**

Training, in general, makes use of commands which are effective tool to communicate with the dog. However the main problem in here is the use of the words. What people don't understand is that the dog simply can't comprehend the meanings of the words if not introduced to him well.

So in dog potty training, the trainer has to introduce the meaning of the commands well in order to gain some good results. For example, you could begin with the word "outside" to send him the signal that he should go outside. Then it could be followed by the words "go potty" to make him understand that it is time to eliminate.

Whatever he does after, never fail to praise him (in acknowledgement of a favorable behavior) or punish him for failing to follow the commands. Doing this process repetitively will condition his thinking that when you say the words "outside" and "go potty" you want him to go out of the house to poop.

## Rules in Dog Training

A dog owner should set his mind in the right frame if he wants to train his dog. This would prevent him from violating any dog rules, an act that could really detriment the dog's interest on learning.

Following the rules of training will also prevent the owner from doing the things that could harm his relationship with the dog. There are certain rules in training that must be followed including the following:

### **Stay focused**

Incompletion of a task usually leads to confusion. Ensure to it that every time you give the dog a command, both of you will follow through it. Refrain from being distracted every time you give a command.

Say you are asking your dog to sit. Once you give this command, be sure that both of you will see the end of it. Do not tug on the collar of your dog and

stop halfway and be distracted. Always finish one command first then move on to the next.

The dog should sit completely and not just bend his rear legs. If you do not make this happen, the dog will think that next time you give the command it would be okay for him not to complete the task or to ignore it completely. Always stay focused, this way, you would eliminate the possibility of confusion and maximize the obedience to a command.

### **Rewards and punishments**

Many owners are anxious to let their dogs hear a string of praises or be rewarded with several cookies instead of one whenever a command is accomplished. On the other hand, a lot of owners give too many punishments on a single wrong thing that the dog did instead of punishing him just once. Both could adversely affect the training of the dog.

Never over do the rewarding or punishing of the dog's behavior. If you are using praises as reward, do not over praise the dog. Single "good boy" praise will do to recognize that you are in favor of what the dog has done. This should be said immediately after the command is accomplished.

In the same way, a single pulling of the check cord will be enough if the dog did not follow your command. This would send him the signal that something is wrong.

Overdosing the dog with either rewards or punishments will distract him from learning. He would only remember the praises or the punishments and not the thing he did or he did not do.

### **End with a positive note**

For every training session, make it a point that the training will end with a positive praise. This would make the dog look forward to the next training since the last session fulfilled her need to please you. Also, ensure to it that the last command was accomplished correctly so that the dog is oriented properly to following commands.

### **Never lose your patience**

Often when trainers don't get the results they want, they get impatient with the dog. Then they do something really stupid that could spoil the training.



Training should be an enjoyable experience for you and your dog. If it starts to make you lose your temper and your dog a lot more disobedient, you should try to assess your pitfalls.

Dog training is really a difficult business. If you are not prepared for it, you could get help from dog training classes and instructors.

## Training Made Easy With Dog Training Aids

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all dogs are trained? There'll be no chewed off furniture, no scratches on the walls, no dog poop on the carpet. The problem is, hiring a dog trainer can be rather expensive. And hiring one is not a fool proof guarantee that your dog will "learn" what was taught to him.

What most dog owners do nowadays is to do the training themselves. And this is where dog training aids prove to be useful.

One of the most common tools is the dog lead or leash. These are made up of different materials like leather, cotton web, nylon and chain. Experts advise the use of leather leashes because of its durability and ease in use.

It doesn't cut or burn the skin and is comfortable to use. Aside from these, it is lightweight and does not produce much noise unlike chain. Leather leashes may come in different styles and designs. It is sold in various lengths as well, the most common of which is 6 feet.

Together with the leash is the collar. This may tighten or loosen, depending on the dog's movement. Slip or choke, collars are usually made of leather, and come in a variety of designs like rolled, field and braided. In choosing a collar, make sure that it fits the dog well. It must not be too tight or too loose.

Instead of a leash, you may also use a 15-foot line. This is used to control the dog from a distance.

Other aids include bait bags and pouches. These are used to make it easy for you to hand out motivators like treats and food while training.

After some training time, your dog may show some signs of improvement. At this stage, use of the leash may not be required anymore. This is when some dog trainers use leather pull tabs and shark lines. This is also used in cases where the dog needs to undergo agility training. The dog may feel that he is off-leash, but you are still able to control and correct him by giving the tool a slight pull.

Another aid used in training dogs for specific jobs is the whistle. Because the sound can reach far distances, this aid is ideal if training is done in large spaces such as farms and forest areas and in noisy areas.

This aid is usually used when training dogs for hunting or gathering herd. Scent bands and dummies are also used together with the whistle. Dummies such as grouse, quail and pheasant wings are used to hold the scents. The scents make the dummies smell like real fowl.

Other aids include halters, harnesses, bells, clickers, pads and ring gates. With advances of technology, there are also new electronic aids available. Among these are electronic collars and invisible fences. While these tools may seem complicated, with enough information they make great training aids.

Training the dog yourself has its own rewards. With the proper orientation on how training is done and the proper dog training aids, your dog can sit, stay and roll at your call. You need to allot some time and space for training.

It may be difficult, but the bond that training creates between you and your dog is one of the most important benefits that training does.

## Dog Training: How to Eliminate Unwanted Behaviours

Some people train their dogs to develop their skills, others for the sheer fun it could give, but for most people they train to discipline their pets. Dogs, even when highly domesticated, could show a lot of their instincts and natural tendencies. These are they nature. However, to adapt them to the human needs some of their instincts need to be repressed and tailored.

There are several common behavior problems that most people just can't tolerate. Here are some suggestions to solve a number of problems usually encountered by dog owners.

### **I. Undesirable Barking**

Barking is the main medium of communication for dogs. However, some dogs tend to bark excessively in which case the owner can do the following actions:

a) If he is barking don't say no. Dogs just can't understand our language and saying "no" repetitively to a dog could excite him and give him the impression that you too are barking.

b) Practice consistency. Use only one command when you want him to stop barking.

c) Don't get mad at him, be patient enough to drive him to the behavior you want to modify.

d) Reward him whenever he picks up your command. Don't let a good behaviour pass and reward it accordingly.

### **II. Chewing Behaviour**

Puppies are natural chewers, they use chewing for practicing their jaws and mouths. However they could chew for a number of reasons: they may feel bored, they are teething, they just want to play around, or they are curious about something. Like children, they use their mouths to find a great deal of information about their environment.

To eliminate excessive chewing you can do the following:

a) Put him in a crate where he could not have access to items in the house which could be chewed.

b) If you don't want to confine him in a crate, be ready to supervise all his movements closely. You do not want to find a tear on your sofa because your puppy loved chewing the upholstery.

c) The puppy does not know the difference between an old shoe and a new shoe so instead of giving him shoes; give him other items that can be chewed. Toys, but not plush toys, may be good alternatives.

d) Buy for him chew toys. Chewing tendencies could never be satisfied if the puppy doesn't get to chew something. If you don't want him to chump on your furniture, it is best to invest on chew toys.

e) Give your puppy a good amount of exercise. Chewing could also be a result of too much energy in the body. If you could exhaust him a bit, his chewing behavior might be lessened.

### **III. Unwanted Digging**

Another primal instinct, digging could be due to boredom, want for escape, need to find a cooler place to rest, to hide something like a bone or to make a den. While dogs used digging for many valuable reasons, many people find it destructive. Here are some solutions to avoid undesirable digging behaviour:

a) Allow a specific area for him to dig. This way, you would prevent any occurrences of digging in inappropriate places. To condition him to dig the specific area alone, you should try to make it a rewarding experience and punish him whenever he looks for other places to dig.

b) You could also try deterring him from digging inappropriate places by putting small amounts of diluted ammonia or pepper in the area.

Unwanted dog behaviours could be tapered according to your wants through proper dog training but be sure to employ only the best training procedures.

## **Tips on Choosing and Buying the Right Dog Training Collar**

Because of the large variety of dog training collars, owners should be sufficiently informed to make the right choices. Here are some things you should consider when looking for the right collar for your dog.

## 1. Type

**1.1 Electronic Dog Collar** - This type makes use of electronic signals to eliminate the undesirable behaviors of the dog. For example, it will deliver a shock every time the dog barks.

**1.2 Buckle Collar** – As the name suggests, this collar is fastened using a buckle. It is usually made of leather, nylon or cotton and could be rolled or flat. Like many collars, this is one adjustable. Round buckle collars have the main advantage of eliminating the possibility of hair breaking.

**1.3 Choke Collar** – This is the most commonly used metal ring collar for both traditional and modern dog training especially the jerk-and-praise method. In this method, the dog will be given a yank whenever he disobeys a command.

**2. Size of the collar** – If the collar is too small the dog may be choked, if it is too large the dog may easily slip off it. The size of the collar should be enough such that it could provide both the comfort and the security.

To get the right size, it is best to measure the dog's neck first and give some 2 to 3 inches allowance for adjustment. To check if it fits there should be two to three inches gap between the dog's neck and the collar.

**3. Dog's breed** – There are a lot of generic collars for all breeds of dogs. But for fashion purposes only, there are some highly specialized and fashionable dog collars that are made especially to amplify the looks of a specific breed.

For example, bulldogs look good on spiked collars while toy dogs look fashionable with lace and stone studded collars. But if the collar is for functionality alone, the uses and the strength of the collar should be prioritized.

## 4. Fur

**4.1 Color of the fur** – For some people, wearing a collar must be a bit of being trendy. If you want the best of both worlds- collar for training and for fashion, you should learn to match the color of the fur with the color and

the material of the collar. Just like in matching your attire, the color should mix well that it is pleasing to the eyes as much as it looks good to the dog.

**4.2 Type of fur** – Your choice of collar should also depend on the type of your dog's fur. It is recommended to get a flat collar for dogs with short fur to reduce marking and round collar for dogs with long fur as this would prevent the fur to flat out and break.

**4. Budget** – As a general rule, it is always best to look at the item first before checking its price as this practice normally gives someone better judgment on what looks good for the dog. However, you don't have to spend a fortune to give your dog a good collar.

For training collars, functions come first before anything else and sometimes you have to invest some good money for function alone. If you are on a tight budget, it is best for you to search around first before landing on your choice.

Tossing a few dollars more could mark the difference between sacrificing the quality of the item and saving some pennies.

## Your Choices of Dog Training Collars

Sometimes your dog needs to be reminded who's the boss between you two and often times the best way is to get him some training. Apart from looking for a professional trainer for your dog (if you do not have the patience or time to attend to him), among the very first things that you should do is to look for a decent dog training collar.

The classifications of training collars depend largely on the types of uses a collar has.

There are a number of choices when it comes to training callers. There are the fancy collars which are specifically for decoration and style, there are a lot more that have specific uses. They are the following:

### **Choke Training Collars**

Choke collars or slip collars are formed into loops that can be attached to the neck of the dog. The name of the collar is quite deceiving as it cannot cause

choking unless the leash is pulled too hard. However, since the collar has no limit as to adjustment, it also has no limit as to how far it could tighten around the dog's neck.

This should be worn high above the neck, behind the ears. Choke collars, while still popular, are now rarely used for dog training due to the lack of mechanism that stops the collar from constricting. This type is quite controversial as it is unsafe to leave the collar on if the dog is not supervised.

### **Prong Training Collar**

Also popular for its name pinch collar, is characterized by chains with open ends that are turned towards the dog's neck. Thus, when the collar is tightened the dog feels the spikes on the loose skin of his neck. Unlike choke training collars, prong collars have limited adjustment which also limits the amount of pinching the spikes could give the dog. Because of the spreading effect of the blunted spikes it is difficult to puncture the skin of the dog.

However, many owners still prefer to cover the tips of the spikes with rubber. This should be worn in the same way the choke collar is worn. There are cases when the dogs could slip out of the prong. This is why many owners use a second collar, usually a flat buckle collar.

### **Martingale Training Collars**

Normally used for Sighthounds which have relatively smaller heads than necks, martingale collars are special types of dog collars that ensure security and comfort at the same time. This collar makes use of two loops- the large loop which is attached around the dog's neck and the smaller loop on which the D ring is attached to. If tension is applied on the leash, the loops would naturally constrict to prevent the dog from getting off the collar.

### **Electronic Training Collars**

Popular with its names shock collars and remote collars, this kind delivers electrical impulses or a spray of citrus smell whenever the dog misbehaves. For proponents this collar helps break unwanted behaviors easily especially if the owner does not have sufficient time for training. Also it makes handling the dog a lot easier.

Dog training collars are undeniable among the most effective tools in shaping the behavior of the dogs to ones that are desired by the owner.

These could limit their natural inclinations to run (and not really escape), to wander, to bark at strangers and to attack people or dogs in protection of themselves or their masters.

## Types of Dog Training Equipment

In dog training there are tools that you can't go without. The primary functions of dog training equipment may vary but they have individual functions that will help you gain control over the dog, make the dog training easier or simply make the process faster.

### **Collar**

A typical dog trainer will not buy other training aids but would definitely subscribe to the use of collars. Dog collars come in various types with different functions, materials and appeal. As to the function the usual varieties include choke or chain collar, martingale collar, spoke collar, shock collar or electronic collar.

As to the material used to manufacture the dog collar the most famous are the leather collars, nylon collars, fabric collars and metal collars.

### **Harness**

A common alternative to dog leashes, the harness is a training device that is typically used in conjunction with or in replacement of dog collars. This distributes the force of pulling thus, preventing the possibilities of choking and could also prevent the chances of the dog slipping out when only a collar is used.

However, dog harnesses are not usually used for training ordinary house dogs instead harnesses are used for service dog training and assistance dog training.

### **Leash or lead**

This is usually made of leather or rope that is attached to the dog collar for better control or restraint. There are, however, some leashes that are looped



around the neck of the dog that eliminate the use of a collar. There are several types of leash according to length- the very short, the short, the webbing leash and extended webbing leash.

The variations in sizes account for easier training depending on the distance wanted by the handler. For better control, tighter leashes are recommended while distance training is best accomplished using longer leashes.

### **Muzzle**

For dogs with unwanted biting and barking habits and need training to eliminate these behaviors, the dog muzzle is the most dependable type of dog equipment. This is also used for aggressive and dangerous dogs to prevent any damage that dogs could do using their mouths.

The muzzle is placed over the mouth of the dog to prevent it from opening its mouth. Dog muzzles could vary depending on the degree of freedom the device gives to the mouth, the construction material or the shape. It could be made of plastic, nylon, wire or leather.

### **Bait Pouch**

It is a common practice among dog trainers to put dog treats inside their pockets, however it could sometimes be inconvenient. The main disadvantage of which is that some owners may take time in getting the needed reward, thus delaying the purpose of rewarding.

For better convenience, it is advisable for trainers to buy a bait pouch for training. This is an ordinary pouch that is made of canvass tied around the waist of the trainer for easier access to treats.

### **Halter**

This is a headgear and a variation of a collar that is used primarily for guiding, training and tying up an animal for easier control. It is worn over the muzzle of the dog and fits across the back of the head such that when the trainer pulls the head of the dog, it will follow the direction of pulling.

Dog training equipment has various purposes, constructions and names. One device can't simply accomplish all the works of different equipment. Thus, it is helpful for handlers to determine the exact use of the equipment first before buying one.

## Dog Training Harness – A Great Training Aid

As they say, dogs are man's best friend. Unfortunately, not all dogs are sweet and friendly. We often forget that dogs are still beasts which, when untrained, may cause harm to others. This explains the importance of training them. And one great tool to use is the dog training harness.

The harness is most useful if you want to take the dog for a walk. This is one perfect bonding activity that you and your dog can do. It provides you and your dog an opportunity to exercise and get some fresh air. For quite sometime, the more common equipment used is the collar. Unfortunately, this material may pose a danger to your pet.

Collars, while placed around the neck, may cause your dog to choke or get hurt as you tug the leash or as the dog tries to break away. Also, your dog may find it difficult to bark because of irritation in the neck area. The same cannot be said of harnesses, since the pressure lies on the upper body such as the shoulders and ribcage. There is also a lesser chance for the dog to experience irritation, since the harness does not rub against the neck.

But just the same, a harness may hurt your dog if you do not know how to handle it. That is why it is important for you to learn how to train using this tool. Upon purchase, check the packaging for instructions on how to handle and take care of the product. Read training guides and manuals on dog training. And get to know your dog well. Dogs, like people, have different behaviors and attitudes, so you must be able to know that.

If you plan on buying a harness, take into consideration the comfort of both you and your dog. As trainer, you must be able to control the dog's movements by a slight tug. The dog, too, must be able to move well without hurting himself when doing so.

The size of the dog is also another major factor to consider in your choice of harness. Bigger dogs require a thicker, more durable harness. Otherwise, it may easily break or tear with the slightest pull. For smaller dogs, an average-sized harness would be sufficient, since it cannot pull that hard.

The most common type of harness is the one used for walking or tracking. Here you will find a wide variety of designs and materials, all making the harness more durable and fashionable at the same time. You now see harnesses made of softer leather. But for those of the large breeds, harnesses must be made of tough-wearing leather. Most of them are also padded, making it more comfortable for your pup to use.

There is also the no-jump harness, designed to restrict the dog's movements. This will teach the dog not to jump at you or other people when provoked.

In choosing the right harness, there are several things to consider. The good thing is, there are limitless choices available. Whatever dog training harness you prefer, there is one to fit that need.

The key is to know where and how to find them. Check the internet or your local pet shop and see the many designs and styles that you can choose from.

## Kinds of Dog Training Leads

Dog training is one fun activity that dogs and their owners can share. While it may seem convenient to hire a dog trainer to do the job, training the dog yourself also has its benefits. With the advancement of technology, you can actually learn dog training by just a click of the mouse.

Another good thing is, there are quite a handful of training aids available in the market today. Among these tools are dog training leads.

Dog training leads are what most people know as leashes. While each lead may seem the same, what most people don't know is that there are quite a few kinds of leads available. Among the more popular materials used are nylon and leather.

Nylon lead may be cheaper than a leather one, but because leather is more durable, it can actually last longer than the nylon lead. Plain or braided, leather leads are more often the wiser choice.

The lead you choose will have to depend on the size and breed of your dog. Bigger dogs require a long-wearing lead, so you must choose a leather lead. If your dog is small and of the smaller breed, a nylon lead may be sufficient.

Leads also come in different lengths, the most common ones are 2, 4 and 6 feet. While a 6-foot lead is usually used for training, a shorter length will enable you to control the dog's movements, since it keeps the dog relatively closer. However, these shorter leads are ideal if you are merely training the dog to walk. If you are training the dog to fetch things or for tracking, then longer leads are for you.

Leads can extend for up to 12 feet, 24 feet, even 50 feet. If you are undecided on the length, you may purchase extending or retractable leads instead.

Lastly, consider your comfort as well. Choose leads that won't cut through your skin when tugged. It must also be constructed in such a way that you are able to remove it from the collar with ease. An efficient snapping system should do the trick.

To further narrow down your choices, ask help from a professional dog trainer or any knowledgeable person.

Not all puppies may wear a lead. He must be at least 8 weeks old before he may experience wearing a lead. But before this, he must first be exposed to wearing a collar. Wearing a collar may take some time to get used to. Remember also that the collar must fit the dog's neck perfectly to make training as fun and enjoyable as it can be.

Dog training leads are important aids in dog training. You can purchase them by visiting your local pet or dog shop, or through the internet. Websites for dog lovers often feature some leads for sale. Take note of the instructions which come with the product to ensure proper handling and maintenance of the lead.

When used properly, dogs can actually be taught to follow your commands. The key lies in choosing a good training lead, and in using it well. Training may seem difficult and may take some of your time. But time and money spent would not be a waste, since after some time your dog should be as behaved as you want him to be.

## Why You Need to Have Dog Training Pads

Any dog lover would want to have his pet inside the house. Having to share each activity and experience inside the house with your dog makes the owner happy and a lot less lonely. Unfortunately, bringing the dog in would also mean bringing in the dog poop and urine.

That is why most dog owners make sure that their dog is potty trained at the soonest time possible. This is where dog training pads come in handy.

These pads are necessary if your floors are carpeted and hard to clean and maintain, or if you have babies and toddlers crawling just about everywhere. Just the same, even if your floors are easy to clean, you wouldn't want to step on anything gooey, right?

A training pad is made of an absorbent material to hold dog waste and urine. The thick surface is treated with some scent which, when sensed by your pet, will make him defecate or pee on it instead of some other place.

This means that the dog's waste shall only be confined to the pad, except if there will be leaks. The owner shall then regularly check and clean the pad to maintain an odor-free household.

To maximize the use of these pads, keep it in one particular spot of the house. This is usually placed in the kitchen or near the bathroom, for easier and faster clean ups in case of leaks and other accidents. Place it in a particular spot and lead your dog to it.

These pads often have a scent which sends signals to the dog, instructing him to pee in that location. So the next time that he feels like excreting anything, he shall only do so in the pad and not anywhere.

Lastly, do not forget to acknowledge the effort that he did. In this way, he will most likely do the same thing next time. Praise him verbally or through actions, like a pat on the head or by giving him some treats. Positive reinforcement is an effective method of training your dog.

Aside from serving as toilets for your pup, these training pads also serve as beds for some dogs. This explains why there are various designs and types of

pads available. You can find round, igloo types as well as the regular rectangular ones.

Of course we want to keep our dogs warm during the cold seasons, so you might consider getting a heated pad for your pet. A temperature control enables you to adjust the degree or amount of heat as well.

Innovations in the design and technology of the training pad resulted in the creation of new and more efficient designs. Although these may cost more than the traditional pads, these new products prove to be better and more effective, making it easier for you to maintain a dog indoors.

Dog training pads are one of the lesser-known tools in dog training. While it may not be popular, it is still a very basic and helpful tool in training your dog. This aid is most useful for those who do not have a backyard or dog house for their pet, particularly apartment or flat dwellers.

As toilet or bed, these pads remain to be among the most important dog supplies, a must-have for dog lovers like you.

## Dog Training Schools: How to Choose

The truth is there are so many dog training schools that offer their services to anyone willing to pay them. The problem though is not all schools will meet your standards or your expected guarantees. Here are some points of considerations when trying to choose a good school for training your dog.

### **Reputation**

Reputation has different meanings to different people- for some it is the capacity to yield good results regardless of the means, for others it is the popularity of the school itself which makes it highly recommended. But reputation, in general, is a good gauge as to how popular the name of the training school and the appeal of the training methods it uses. It also reflects how many people have trusted on them.

To find a school with excellent reputation you could ask around or search through websites. Veterinarians usually have several names of schools and trainers to give you, your dog breeder could also provide you with some

references and ASPCA or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals can provide a list of registered names that are sure to use humane methods approved by the organization.

### **Methods of Training**

Any self-respecting training school uses responsible dog training methods. The school must have equal concern to your dog as you do, treating your dog one of their own. Beware of schools that employ trainers who still use old training methods such as yelling or hurting the dogs for there exists many of this kind.

A good school should use humane techniques that promote positive training and limits the use of risky negative reinforcement techniques. The former covers praises and the use of dog treats in recognition of the desirable behavior while the negative reinforcement techniques include practices like alpha rolling, choking and yelling.

### **Sufficient knowledge**

The knowledge on training of the schools must range from the oldest unreliable method to the latest training techniques for dogs. Having extensive orientation in this field would optimize the capacity of your dog to learn since it would be exposed to all possible trainings to which it could respond well.

In researching for training schools, secure information regarding the latest seminars that the trainers attended to and the up-to-date facilities they have. Remember that you would pay hefty amounts to get your dog trained, it is but proper that you and your dog receive proper compensation for your investment.

Another thing that you should keep in mind is that the school's exposure to widespread training. There are schools that claim of specialization while others advertise that they have sufficient knowledge on all fields of dog training. Your choice should depend largely on the scope of knowledge the training school has.

### **Classroom Set Up**

There are two types of classroom set-ups- group classes and private lessons. The main advantage of the group class is that it promotes socialization and good behavior in the presence of other dogs. Also, when the owner trains alongside his dog, the owner could benefit from exposure to other handlers' mistakes and techniques.

On the other hand, private trainings could not yield these advantages. There is also a good chance that the transfer of learning and obedience to command given by persons other than the trainer is poor.

It is easy to pick any dog training school but choosing the right one for your dog could prove to be a tedious process.

## Tips on Dog Training and Supplies

Any dog owner will tell you the importance of dog training. If you want your dog to be trained but you don't have the money to pay a dog trainer, then your next option is to train the dog yourself. But before you can do this, you must spend time and effort to know how to do it.

Dog training can be a rather challenging job, but finding the right dog training supplies makes training a lot easier.

But before you start, make sure that you have enough time to spend. Dog training may take a few hours everyday. You must also identify the area where you will do the training. It can be in your backyard or in the park.

To find good training guides, you make an internet search. Here you can download articles and watch training videos found in some websites. You may also enroll in a training program that some websites offer. You may also visit pet shops and find good training kits there.

These are the same sources for training supplies. Before you purchase any supply, compare the products first using factors such as price, performance and usefulness.



The basic tool that any trainer should have is the collar. It can be made of nylon or leather, depending on the size and breed of your dog. It can also be an electronic collar. While this may seem dangerous, manufacturers swear that their product is safe. It also lessens the effort that you need to exert in resisting the dog's movements.

There is also what is called a bark collar, which can control bad and excessive barking. These electronic tools make training easier, although it may cost quite a fortune.

Another tool is the leash. This is used when training the dog to walk. There are also other aids like harness, toys, food, whistles, clickers, bells, poles, and many others. The equipment that you'll need depends on the training program or technique that you will use.

Positive enforcement is one technique that most dog trainers use. This may also be called a reward system, where dogs are given praise and treats after showing some positive behavior. However, on the flip side, you must not punish your dog if he misbehaves. Positive enforcement does not believe in the use of punishment to enforce discipline.

Most trainers will tell you that younger dogs are easier to train than older ones. This is because puppies are yet to take up any habit. Good habits must be established early on.

But this does not mean that older dogs cannot be trained anymore. Any dog can still be trained. It will just take more time and effort if they have already taken up some bad habits.

The key to success in dog training is in finding the best dog training supplies. But this does not mean that you need to have all kinds of aids available. With just a few pieces, coupled with adequate dog training knowledge, you can be successful in this endeavor.

Aside from these tools, you must equip yourself as well by reading dog training guides. Training your dog is not an easy job. But the feeling of accomplishment that you will have is sure worth the effort that you spent once you succeed.

## 7 Tips on Dog Training

Here are some tips that could give you the short cuts to training if used well:

Remember training should be fun – When something is strenuous for the dog, it is much easier to discourage him from doing the task. So be sure to incorporate fun and games into the exercises without defeating the real purpose of the activities.

Apart from filling each session of training with fun exercises, you should also make him feel that he is pleasing for you. Remember that dogs, by nature, only want to please their masters so be sure to acknowledge his efforts.

Positive and negative reinforcement – Use both types of reinforcements only when proper otherwise the dog will be confused. Positive reinforcement covers the use of praise, dog treats and taps while negative reinforcement, depending on the viewpoint of the handler, could be anywhere from punishing the dog harshly to refusing to give him the treat you have offered.

Sustain a no distraction training area – Dogs and puppies alike could easily get distracted by things that are not connected to their training. Always keep in mind that they could not sustain their interest on one thing alone so control the environment such that the dog will only focus on the activity. A secluded place such as an abandoned yard or a large, empty room could be good places to train the dog.

Complete the task- If you give a command be sure that the dog follows through it all the way. Never leave it half-baked otherwise the dog will think that it is ok not to follow your directions. If you gave the command 'come' to the dog, be sure to make him come to you completely.

Be firm and gentle – If you are giving commands, use a lower tone of your voice since dogs sometimes confuse high pitched voices with barking dogs. Be firm with the keyword you use but be gentle in the execution.

As much as possible, don't use force or cruel techniques such as yanking the dog collar whenever the dog misbehaves. Actions like these would make the dog feel unsure of itself, making him lose his confidence.

Keep the training short – Bite size training works well with canines. There are two reason why dogs are incapable of learning for extended periods- one, they

have poor attention span and two, dog's retention capacity is relatively short so chunking the lessons into one session does not yield positive training.

The key here is to condition the response of the dog instead of flooding him with tasks and commands that his brain is not able to accommodate.

Be patient – Dogs just don't learn as fast as we want them to learn. In fact, the faster we expect them to digest the training, the slower the process becomes. This is not because they become slower learners, instead the trainers become impatient with their dogs that they just want to fast-forward everything.

So be patient, nothing good ever came from rushing your dog's training. Guide him as he learns at his own pace.

Train him as a puppy – If you train him during his old age, there is lower chance that he would learn easily. On the other hand, training him as a puppy would yield a better chance of grasping the lessons fairly well. The ideal age for training a puppy is when he is at his 6th to 8th weeks.

As he ages, training becomes more difficult due to the development of some habits that most owners dislike.

## Dog Training Treats: When All You Want To Give Him Is a Treat

Dog training could be done in a number of effective ways. There are those that require the owner to be committed and patient while others require the use of harmful treatments. However, for a relatively reasonable and safe way of training a canine, professionals recommend the use of dog training using treats.

When using this method, the owner could chose either of the two rewards or punishments using the dog treat. When a behavior is favorable or a command is correctly demonstrated, the owner should give the dog a treat as a reward while punishment in the form of denying the dog the treat should be used only when the dog misbehaved or did not follow the command. The dog should get used to this kind of training until he learns to associate dog treats with pleasing behavior.

## **Uses**

As part of a reward or punishment, dog treats could serve the following purposes:

- Encourage the dog to perform as commanded so that he would receive the reward.
- nEncourage active attitude, obedience and interest on the training in expectation of the reward.
- Praises, when used in conjunction with dog treats, will make the training a lot easier.
- This serves as a literal representation that the dog was able to please you.
- When praising does not work well with a specific dog, he might respond to dog treats.

## **When to use them**

The best time to use treat training is immediately after the dog follows a certain command and exhibited a favorable behavior. He should learn to make a connection between good behavior to praises and treats. Over-using treats will usually spoil its uses and will make him dependent on it.

To make the most out of this technique, the dog should only be given treats during the learning phase. If he is not being trained, it is best not to give him the same treats as used for training sessions.

When teaching the dog a certain command, say "down", the treat should be placed right on his nose while moving it slowly down the desired direction in accompaniment of the word "down".

If he performs the command, the treat should be given to him as a reward plus a pat or an encouraging word or phrase, for example "good boy". Repeat this routine until you could see that he already understands the use of the treat.

As you advance with the training though, you could try replacing the use of dog treats with praising or patting. The aim here is to make him follow the directions. You could use dog treats once in a while but assure to it that he is not seeing the treat before he performs the command.

## **Types**

There are dog treats that are as plain as cookies and used only for the purpose of reward. But there are special treats that could help in improving internal health, for digestion and even for cleaning the teeth of the dog.

### **Where to buy them**

Dog treats could be bought in food stores, groceries, some specialty stores, pet shops and online vendors. These should cost anywhere from \$5 to \$30. There are very expensive treats though and some discount bulks that are nearly as varied as human snacks.

However, it could also be home prepared with recipes available online or from books.

## **How to Start Training a Dog for Agility**

As a rule, agility training should start while the pet is still a puppy. However, owners could still facilitate training with older dogs. The question "when is the dog considered old for agility training" is central to choosing when to start training the dog.

Being "old" greatly varies from dog to dog, from the extent of a dog's experience to the innate and natural tendencies it has. In short, there is no specific age at which the dog should be restrained from training.

However it is always far easier to start training with much younger dogs since their learned behaviors are still not rooted into their habits.

For choosing old dogs for training, the handler should not create the impression that the dog would no longer learn so there's no need to waste time. The attitude of the dog as much as that of the trainer is both highly essential to faster learning. The more dedicated and patient the owner is the faster the dog learns.

There are several approaches to starting training for agility. A few of which are discussed here briefly:

### **Physical exercise**

The introduction to agility training should start with physical exercises. If the handler has enough interest to dedicate on training the dog, the age will no longer matter for it is the condition that will rule over. Simple exercises like jumping or hopping may agitate the dog and encourage him to move a little bit. For puppies, these exercises are much easier to do since they have enough energy to use.

### **Let him play around**

Like teaching little children, the easiest approach to agility training for younger puppies is to turn the exercises into a series of games. The majority of puppies are capable of passing through tunnels and chutes so take advantage of this chance and introduce the tunnels, obstacles and the training area itself as huge playground.

This approach will create positive impressions on him which will also prepare him for future training.

### **Promote his agility**

If you don't have a sufficient area for setting up obstacle courses, it is best to use certain games that also encourage agility. Simple equipment like improvised tunnels or walls could be made to augment training.

### **Keep it short**

Dogs don't experience passion when it comes to activities but they have the innate desire to please their owners. This means that they don't get devoted unless they are rewarded for good actions they have made and that you show your favor for their actions. Their attention span is also very limited so they could not continue training for extended hours.

If you want to start training your dog for agility, establish the rule that you should keep each training session and each lesson as short as possible. You don't have to finish everything in one sitting. You should divide each exercise into sections that the dog could easily understand. Also never end with a negative note. Always ensure that the dog finishes each exercise with praise.

Training your dog for agility does not lie on how old or young he is, it lies in the foundation of responsiveness, independence, drive to work alone and to

follow the command, and your desire to work with him with enough patience and knowledge of his capacities.

## Hunting Dog Training – Some Things to Consider

Men rely on hunting dogs to retrieve their kills. Without them, the hunter will have to do all the work with no the assurance that they will be bringing something home at the end of the day. To make the work easier, the hunter requires the help of a well-trained hunting dog.

However, not all dog breeds could be adapted to hunting works and only specific trainings that promote hunting capabilities would bring out the best in a hunting dog.

But hunting dogs are not garden varieties that you could have whenever you want. They are trained and trained well for the demands of hunting. And oftentimes, training for the hunting dog breeds is a tedious and extensive process that requires knowledge and patience from the trainer and appropriate attributes from the dog.

### **What is the right breed?**

As said earlier, not all dogs are fit for dog hunting. There are actually dog breeds specializing in this work and have long history of the particular service for men. In short, they are well adapted to the kind of works usually needed in hunting.

A hunting dog which will respond best to training are breeds like retrievers, spaniels and pointers- each of which have capacities that are unique to their breeds. It is up to the trainer to hone their capacities and use them for their right purposes.

In general, hunting dogs have excellent sense of smell for tracking purposes. Also, hunting dogs should be fit for outdoor activities and could easily be conditioned for training. The best candidate for dog training on hunting is a

dog that has all of the said characteristics. The most common choices as hunting dogs are Labradors, Beagles, Bloodhounds and Dachshunds.

### **What dog to get?**

One just can't get a full grown dog and expect him to respond well to training. The best choice is a puppy since it has just started forming its behavior. Also, you need a dog that has affinity to his handler. This would not develop on its own. So you have to personally train your dog or at least train alongside your dog with a professional trainer.

### **What tasks are usually involved in the training?**

There are six basic tasks that a good hunting dog should master. These are as follows:

- a) Retrieving
- b) Marking
- c) Quartering
- d) Shaking
- e) Following hand signals
- f) Steadying

### **What about gun fire and scent?**

There are dogs that are sensitive or scared at hearing gun fires. So it has to get acclimatized through training. Typically, this is accomplished by conditioning the dog through a procedural way of introducing gunfire along with game birds.

This training will let the dog associate gun fire with game. If the gunfire is heard, the dog will know that there is a game. After retrieving the game, the dog will expect the next gunfire.

On the other hand, tracking is based on following the scent. There are as much scent as there are games so be sure to train your dog on a particular scent. If you want him to hunt deer you should get him used to deer scent.



Dog training for hunting is much harder than other forms of dog training. However, if your passion is hunting you would undoubtedly require the services of a well-trained hunting dog.

## What Trainings Are Involved in Rescue Dog Training

Dog is man's best friend for so many reasons, among them is the animal's ability to be of great help during occasions of emergency. Like obedience training and agility training there are several principles from various types of dog training must be observed when considering rescue dog training.

### **Obedience Training**

Rescue dogs should be obedient at all times since any misbehavior could lead to defeating the purpose of rescuing. The practice of commands like heel, sit, come, stay, and jog exercises should be satisfactorily accomplished to help ensure the obedience of the dog to the handler and his commands.

### **Agility Training**

Agility training is not only valuable for sports dog, it is also very useful for dogs that are intended for rescue works. In its basic sense, agility training helps develop the dog physically, allowing him to perform very difficult tasks that might also be encountered during rescue operations. With the aid of a good trainer, the dog should be able to negotiate a number of hurdles included in any agility training exercises.

### **Retrieving**

Rescue works require relatively large exercise of retrieving capabilities. In fact, it is basically retrieving a person or items that needs saving. In order to practice the dog in this type of work, he should undergo a series of retrieving exercises that might include recovering wood, leather and other objects using the "fetch" command.

### **Right positioning while in training**

Positioning in rescue training basically conditions the dog's response in relation to the requirements of a specific exercise. This could be facilitated by using a good combination of inductive and compulsive training.

Training for positioning should start early while the dog is still a puppy. There are two kinds of positioning- the heel and front position. The former basically means that the dog should stand parallel to the trainer's left foot while the latter means that the dog should stand in front of the handler while following an imaginary line passing between the legs of the handler.

There are two methods of training the dog for the right position to take. The compulsive method and the inductive method. The compulsive method, when used for the front position, will literally guide the dog to stay in front of the handler.

When used in conjunction with another command, say "sit", the same principle applies- the handler should help the dog stand and sit in front of him parallel to his left foot when the heel position is being asked.

The inductive method, on the other hand, requires the use of dog treats or food in conditioning the response of the dog for both positions. For example, a handler could offer a treat to a dog before giving a command. If the dog is ready and takes the incentive, the handler should give a command first such as come, sit or down first before giving the dog a treat. However, this should only be given as a reward for following the given command.

While physical guidance is used in the compulsive method, it should only be administered firmly and gently but never in a harsh and injuring manner. Any harsh manners could become counterproductive for the training.

Rescue dog training is not just a single training; it requires the dog to master all types of training while being able to use the learned behavior as second nature.

## Service Dog Training: How to Prepare Your Dog

There are three types of assistance dogs- the hearing dog, the guiding dog and the service dog. All have the same purposes, to help people with disabilities with their life's daily tasks. Service dogs go beyond helping people with hearing or sight impairment.

They could also be trained as seizure response dogs or mobility assistance dogs depending on the special training the owner needs. However, dogs could only accomplish such services if they have received proper service dog training.

## **TRAINING**

There are two forms of training service dogs: self-training and program training.

Self-training, like most kinds of dog training, is facilitated by the owner themselves. While it could be harder than hiring a professional dog trainer, self training could enhance the relationship and interdependence of the owners and the dogs.

A number of dogs could be trained for service works. Some people choose to train their old pets as suitable partners especially if the dog has shown some tendencies to become good in medical condition assistance. However, some people obtain their dogs from dog breeders with training the dog for service in their minds.

Handlers of dogs could research on several techniques and procedures for training a dog for this particular purpose. There are a number of online resources and written literature on how to train a dog for service works. However, some people choose to hire professional organizations specializing in this field to do the work for them.

The main disadvantage is that the dog would learn on a faster pace due to highly developed techniques that these organizations have. However, training stops when the dogs were sent to their owners unless the dog owners are knowledgeable in this type of training. For owner-trained dogs however, training never stops.

Nevertheless, if the owner buys a dog from a breeder with the intention of making a service dog out of it, the breeder would first give prior training on

basic commands such as sit, come, stay and no. Then, the owner would fill in the newer commands that he needs such as opening the door or turning off the lights.

On the other hand, program-trained dogs are especially bred and trained for service works. Normally, these dogs are trained for more than a year to get acclimatized on special situations and people to whom they are trained to respond.

Training could be administered in a number of ways. In United States, training could be administered by select prison inmates. This process has been proven to be of great value since inmates could facilitate proper training while improving their socialization skills in the process.

To avail of a service dog, the applicant must undergo an application and evaluation process. After this, the future owner will have to be listed on the waiting list while a dog fit for the specific services is being trained. Such dogs could be given without charge while some organizations will require the handler to pay some fees with or without financial assistance offered.

Once the owner obtains his dog, he has to work with the dog for sometime to get him used to the way the new handler deals with training. This could take a few weeks up to months. The dog needs to be sent back to the training organization to update training.

Service dog training does not only produce dogs that could be of good assistance to those people with disabilities. They are also good emotional supports and companions.

## Therapy Dog Training – The Benefits of a Visiting Dog

Sometimes when people are sick their need for love, support and attention just don't go within what most understand as normal. They need a lot more. Unfortunately, not all people have the time or the patience to deal with people who are sick, ill or disordered. However, dogs when well-oriented to dog

therapy training could augment the emotional and physical support that most people could not provide.

Therapy dog training require specializations that are rooted on fundamental dog training. As such, training for this work entails the need to form behaviors in the dog that are of great help to people who are undergoing therapy. Therefore, basic dog training will not suffice if the dog needs to demonstrate other obligations like performing various roles and interacting well with the patient.

Therapy dogs are used in hospitals were mostly the patients are the children and the elderly. The handler and the dog will provide the patients with sufficient attention and activities that will let them drift away from the present problems in their lives.

However, therapy dogs are not only valuable in hospitals, the comfort they give are also necessary components in other therapy centers like nursing homes, schools, mental institutions and retirement homes.

The type of training that therapy dogs undergo are especially created and modified from various other trainings to fit the needs called for in situations that usually occur during hospital visitations. Their training will equip them with the appropriate skills to allow strangers to enjoy their company. To provide enjoyable experiences, most therapy dogs are trained to do tricks and performances that the audience will enjoy.

Most dog breeds could undergo therapy training. However popular choices for training include breeds that have high temperance since they have to work with people that they are not familiar with.

Training of therapy dogs vary from state to state however, it is general rule that a therapy dg should have certification of good citizenship before it can enter into the formal training and service. Certification as well as training could be obtained from local therapy dog training classes or animal shelters. After obtaining this certification, therapy training for the dog will begin.

This kind of training will condition the dog to ignore things like hospital equipments, people who are not the subject of therapy and noise. They are

also trained to help with basic tasks like simple activities. However, they must not be confused with service dogs.

These are the dogs, which are under the law, help people who have disabilities. More often than not, they work on a continuous basis. Therapy dogs are more like visitors to patients and not really dogs that will accompany and help people with disabilities with their daily tasks.

A visiting dog will also help in changing the routine from time to time. Therapy could be quite boring for many people thus the need for change of pace will always contribute something positive to the therapy. Animals could also make the patient feel less depressed or lonely since they create distractions from the unproductive thoughts of the patients.

Dogs could also encourage the patient to become less passive and more responsive and active during and after visitations. Therapy training will also help the dog entertain the patient; they may either provide fun or diversion from the pain and suffering currently experienced.

Therapy dog training is relatively unpopular but the services of the dog for this purpose have been used for so many years.

## Why the Use of a Training Dog Collars Sometimes Counterproductive

Dog trainers, especially those who are not professionals in the field, usually confuse dog training with control. In any dog-man pair, the human always have the need to gain control. This is not really bad except that sometimes, the man abuses the privileged of control.

Dog training collars provide that control. While the intention is normally good- to remove unwanted (but instinctual) behaviors of the dogs for example- the process of training is sometimes incorrect and abusive of the dog's weaknesses and the tools used for training are not well-adapted to the needs of the dog.

We, humans, often forget that dogs are individuals too. Some dogs are very aggressive and hard to control, some are funny and gives us much comfort

and joy, others are just laid back and refuse to undergo training and some are naturally fast learners while others are slow learners.

Training collars were invented to gain enough control over the canines, however some people fail to adhere to the basic principles of these tools. Choke or chain collars, for example, are one of the very first tools invented to help lessen the tension between man and dog.

But there are people who overuse and misuse the choke collars. Some handlers are so harsh that many dogs experience neck damages and some even choke to death. In short the use of this type of collars is very dangerous, if not counter-productive.

Some handlers, on the other hand, lack sufficient knowledge on the specific collars that would work well with their dogs. For example, the popular choice of collar these days are the electronic dog collar due to its remote access to dogs which provide continuous "training" for even when the owner is not around. While this may be a popular alternative to old fashioned dog training collars, many people just don't completely understand its disadvantages.

There are some very mundane reasons as to why collars could be, at times, counterproductive. For one, there are people who just don't take the extra time to check if the collar is fit or not. With improper fitting, the collar could pinch the skin (especially the Martingale collar) and scratch it causing burning spots.

These are very uncomfortable to dogs as much as having skin lesions would make someone feel irritated. The rule of thumb for getting the right fit of collar for your dog is to allow two to three inches gap between the attached collar and the neck.

Another reason why dog collars could be potentially counterproductive is that they work on the principle of pain and fear and not really on discipline. Electronic training collars work by sending electronic shocks to the dog wearing it or unpleasant sound that will discourage the dog from barking.

Even when it proves to be efficient in delivering its purpose- to distract the dog from barking- the results are not as good. Why? Because the dog starts to lose its confidence.

Quick fixes for behavior control are more often than not tempting to use and leads to overdependence to control devices. While doing it the long way usually proves to be more valuable.

Therefore, before one chooses a dog training collar, it is recommended to do your research first so your dog's comfort would not be compromised.