

Training tips



by Dawn & Dusk

a home for old dogs and abandoned puppies



SUCCESSFUL TRAINING,
WHILE BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP
BASED ON TRUST

Hello!



I am a Dog.
Please treat me like one.
I can learn many things
but I cannot speak your language or read your mind.
By recognising how I learn
you can help me to understand
what it is you expect of me.

This is how I learn best

Train for success

I learn most from being rewarded.

It makes me feel confident and willing to learn more

Avoid mistakes

Getting things 'wrong' frustrates me, and can make me want to give up

Be clear and consistent

If your reactions to my behaviour aren't always the same, how am I supposed to understand?

Don't expect too much

Consider my age, the circumstances and my health





I am a creature of habit

Once a habit has been established, it makes me feel safe.
I like routine, a bit like a human toddler.

Bad habits die hard.
so if you let me make mistakes,
you can't blame me for behaving 'badly'



**I learn best if I find things out
on my own.**

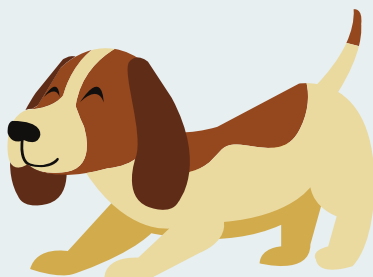
Discovering for myself what gets me what I need is
more fun and efficient than being told what to do.

Before we begin, please remember...

I am a dog, not a human being

I have no conscience,
nor do I know what you mean
by Right or Wrong.
I only know the consequences
of my own behaviour

I do not think about the
past or plan for the
future.
I live in the present



I never do anything out of spite,
or to get back at you
and I am never deliberately stubborn

Here are some things you can teach me...

whilst becoming my trusted friend

- How to greet people without jumping up
- How to spend some time in a crate
- How to be clean in the house
- How to come when called
- How to use toys and bones for chewing
- How to be on my own for a while



Greeting people with all 4 paws on the ground

Do I really have to jump up to make people notice me?



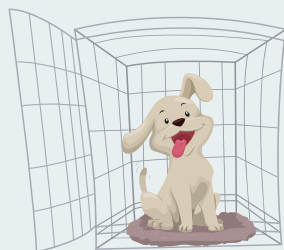
- When I approach you, bend down and give me a cuddle straight away. Please, do not make me jump up to be seen and then get angry with me!
- If you are too late and I do jump, do not pay any attention to me as I will prefer any kind of attention over being ignored! Saying "down" or pushing me away means nothing bad to me: at least you're acknowledging me.. I will just keep jumping if you do that.
- Protect me from ignorant people. If other people give me attention for jumping, I will never understand. When new people come in, put me in my crate until you've had the chance to instruct them what to do. Let me out when all the excitement is over and I can greet them calmly. Make sure they reward me for that, just a gentle cuddle will do.

The more often I greet people without jumping,
the quicker it will become a habit.

It's up to you!!

Why I would like a crate

Learning to be happy in a crate
can make things so much easier,
both for you and for me!



My crate is my safe space, where my comfy bed is, where I can play with toys and chew on bones and where everybody leaves me alone. If I am crate trained, I won't panic if I'm ever locked up; at the vet's, a boarding kennel or when I'm being transported. If I'm scared of something, I can hide there.

A crate will help me become clean in the house, stop me from practicing what you consider to be bad behaviour (like stealing food or chasing the cat) and it will help me to go to sleep when I'm a bit too tired and can't slow down. It will stop me from learning bad habits, meaning I will not be punished or yelled at!

It is always fun to go into a crate because there is always a treat in there. It is NEVER a punishment.

Of course, I'm never in it for too long, but it will help me through the difficult moments.

How to start crate training...

and make it a fun place to be

Make sure the crate is always open, with their favourite bed in it. Put a tin with treats on top, so they are always close by. Now, every time your dog goes into the crate, go over and give him a treat. What they find out for themselves, they will remember best. Going into a crate is fun!

Feed them in the crate and give them their bones and chews in it. Close the door, but open it before they have finished eating. Gradually increase the time the door is closed and give treats while they're in there.

When you feel your dog is sleepy, guide him into the crate and give treats. Pull up a comfy chair next to it. Sit down with a good book and just be there without paying too much attention to the dog, so he can go to sleep.

If your dog starts barking, you have gone through the steps too quickly. You'll need to start again. However, wait until he is quiet and settled, before you let him out and begin the training process again.



Teach them where their toilet is

All puppies have a natural instinct to pee and poo away from their living space. They will often go to the same spot

Teaching them to do this outside is really just creating a habit. The more often you succeed, the quicker the habit is established.

Relieving yourself is just a bodily function, and never 'wrong'! Punishing a pup for peeing or pooing in the house, doesn't teach them the place was wrong, just that their action will provoke your anger.

"How am I supposed to know you wanted me to do it somewhere else??"



How to succeed as often as possible...

so the good habit starts to develop!



Pick a toilet spot not too far from home and keep it clean. The smell will still be there. Always go to this spot to take your pup to the toilet.

Separate walks from toilet breaks. If you take the dog for a walk, he will be distracted, busy with other things, and might only think about his full bladder once he's back at home...

Get to know your pup, observe him well, and you will be able to tell when he needs to go (sniffing the ground, getting restless, turning in circles). After meals or play and when he wakes up, are certainly moments to take him outside.

Act fast, don't wait for the 'accident' to happen, make sure your shoes/coat/lead are ready to be grabbed! If your pup is small, pick him up and carry him to the toilet spot.

You can even teach him to do it on command, simply by saying the same word every time he pees or poos! Of course he then gets a treat!

"Come here, Buddy!"

I would love it if you came running!

Calling a dog towards you is something only humans do.

No wolf or dog ever demands that another one comes when called.

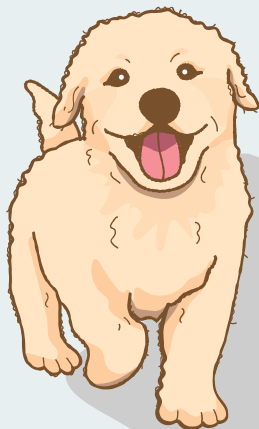
It is not a natural thing for a dog to do.


The more good things the dog learns to expect from you, the more likely he will be to come to you when called

The dog will only develop a habit of coming when called if you make sure you train for success.

He will learn to associate the words "come here" with his action

"Why would I?
Just because you say so?
That's no reason! "





So how does that work then, in real life?

The first steps to having a dog that comes happily
every time you call him!

First decide what word or sound you want to use
to invite your dog to come to you.

Their name has often been used for other things
so it's best to pick a new one.

Create a connection in their brain:
this word or sounds means you're coming towards me.

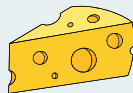
For now, only use that word
when they're already coming towards you!

This way, **the word gets meaning.**

Of course, there needs to be a reason for coming too,
so it goes without saying, there is always a reward for
coming to you. Use as a reward that matters to your dog



(food, attention, play)



Every time your dog comes to you (on his own initiative),
mention the word and give him a reward

They remember best what they learn by themselves!

Then what, how do I make him come to me?

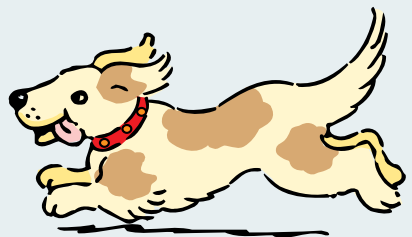
Well, you're off to a good start, you've created a habit:
"every time I hear this word, I'm going towards my guardian"

Now, you can start using the word to invite him to come to you.
However, you need to consider a few things
before you start doing that,
or **the word will lose its meaning.**

Only call your dog when there is a very, very good chance
he will be motivated to come. So don't call him if he is distracted,
playing with other dogs, or chasing something.
Remember, he is in the learning stage and you cannot expect him
to just drop everything and come running.

If you've called him, but he is still in doubt about coming,
try running away or throwing treats in the other direction.

Hopefully, he'll come running!
And then, of course, a Super Reward!



Your dog should always feel
it's safe to come to you.
You cannot punish him
for staying away too long,
for doing something 'bad' before coming back,
or for not coming to you quickly enough

There is nothing sadder than a dog
that is afraid to approach his guardian,
expecting to be punished.

He does not know
what he's being punished for,
just that it will happen...

It will teach him to avoid his guardian
and cause many other behavioural problems.





Chew on your bones, not the furniture please!



Dogs chew for different reasons:

Puppies because they're discovering the world
and they're teething.

Older dogs chew to keep themselves occupied, to relieve
stress or let off steam.

The trick to teaching them what to chew,
is really quite simple:

prevention and offering alternatives!

Chewing on furniture in your absence, is called
'self rewarding behaviour'.

It is comforting to the dog,

so he will keep doing it until you break the habit.

Put them in safe space while you're away (a crate would be
best, but make sure you have crate trained him first!).

Make sure he has plenty of chewing material there.

No dog knows the value of material things
and the idea that they chew on things because they're angry
at you, is an anthropomorphism.

They also cannot feel guilty.

The reaction you're seeing when you come home, is simply the
dog recognising anger in you and trying to appease you.

I know it's hard for you, being alone...

so I'll make it as easy as possible for you

Being alone is scary for an animal whose survival depends on having company. So you have to teach them carefully.

If you've added a new dog, or a puppy, to your household, avoid leaving them alone for at least a few weeks.

Start by crate training them, so they have a safe place and they can be left alone without the risk of learning bad habits while they're on their own.

Build up the time you're gone in small steps and make sure they always have a chew that will occupy them during your absence.

Don't make a fuss about leaving, or about coming back.

It should all appear completely normal to the dog.

If your dog starts barking while he's alone, you have left him alone too soon or for too long. Build it up more gradually.

Go back inside when the dog is quiet, even if it is just 2 seconds, not while he is barking

or he might learn that barking makes you return.



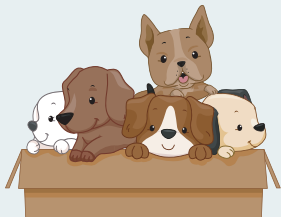
This e-Booklet was brought to you by Dawn & Dusk

We are a small registered (W822008987) association based in the rural countryside of South West France between the borders of departments Tarn (81), Tarn and Garonne (82) and Aveyron (12).

Our mission is to provide care for young puppies who have been abandoned, old dogs that need a place to rest their tired bones and end of life care where appropriate.

Donations are gratefully received and will help us to care for the dogs, including buying dog food and equipment (such as collars, toys, chews, beds) and paying for veterinary care and medication

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ASSOC. DAWN & DUSK - Varen



www.dawnandduskfrance.com

About us

Anke Terbruggen

Ever since I dropped out of University and decided to follow my passion, I have been learning about dogs and working with dogs... Every aspect of dogs has had and continues to have my interest, and both my professional and private life have been filled with all things canine.

I was a trainer at a dog school for 15 years, a Vet Tech for 5 years, a breeder and show judge (Rhodesian Ridgebacks) and worked for the Dutch Guide Dog School for 10 years, specialising in breeding, socialisation and education of young guide-dogs-to-be, helping 'puppy walkers' raise their pups.

Of course, my own home has always been filled with dogs too, pure breed dogs, strays and rescues alike.

When I moved to France and discovered the sad reality of life in the French countryside: stray dogs, abandoned hunt dogs who were often mistreated and terrified, and refuges being over crowded, I decided to dedicate the rest of my life to the dogs that need help the most: old dogs that have no place to go and abandoned pups.

Together with a group of wonderful people, we've created Dawn & Dusk, currently the home for 8 dogs needing specialised care.

My own dog family consists of 5 French "mutts": the most gorgeous, intelligent and wonderful dogs imaginable...

