

Ottawa Humane Society

101 Champagne Avenue South

Tel: (613) 725-3166

Spend your dog's active time training her appropriately.

### START THINGS OFF RIGHT!

- Practice training in different situations: at the dog park, around noise, children, etc.
- Exercise your dog! Dogs need the socialization and mental stimulation of lengthy daily walks for their emotional and physical health.
- Spend your dog's active time training her appropriately rather than being frustrated when she uses that energy to tear up sofa cushions.
- If your dog is doing something you don't like, distract him and take the time to teach him something else, such as sitting instead of jumping up to greet.
- Always remember! It is completely ineffective to punish or reward your dog after the fact. Dogs respond to immediate gratification — not delayed punishments or rewards.
- You should never send your dog away to have her trained — your participation is part of the training process, so you need to know what, and how, your dog is learning!

Please support the animals in our community.



**Ottawa Humane Society**  
 101 Champagne Ave. S.  
 Ottawa, ON K1S 4P3  
 Tel: 725-3166 / Fax: 725-5674  
 www.ottawahumane.ca  
 email: ohs@ottawahumane.ca  
 Charitable #: 123264715 RR0001

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### CHOOSING A TRAINER

Choose a trainer you are comfortable with. It is a good idea to observe a class beforehand. This will give you a chance to ask the trainer questions and talk to people in the class about their experiences.

Determine exactly what you want to get out of the class, such as behaviour change or skill development. If you are not sure, discuss this with the trainer so that she can guide you. If you have a good understanding of what you want, the experience will be better for everyone.

If possible, choose a trainer that will come to you and help in the environment that you need help with, such as at home or the dog park.

Choose a trainer who provides adequate and humane instruction (that is, instruction which does not frighten or inflict pain) on any recommended training equipment to ensure it suits the dog.

Do not choose a trainer that uses any of the following techniques:

- Any dog training method or technique that frightens, inflicts pain or is abusive. For example: lifting the dog off the ground with leash/collar and swinging her in a circle, hanging, hitting, kicking, rubbing dogs in feces and/or urine, prolonged isolation and/or food, water or shelter deprivation.
- Any equipment that is used abusively or neglectfully and causes harm to any dog is unacceptable.
- You will find that most trainers use both positive and negative techniques — make sure the trainer you select uses more positive than negative interactions with both the dogs and the people.

### TYPES OF TRAINING

**Crate training:** Provides your dog with her own personal space. It is also used to train the dog to be calm and keep her safe when you are not there.

**House training:** All eliminating is done outside or in a specified area.

**Manners training:** The dog will wait for you, doesn't jump up, walks nicely along side of you, and chews on his own things and not yours.

**Good Citizenship training:** Tests dogs in simulated everyday situations to be good citizens including: accepting a friendly stranger, patiently sitting for petting, walking through a crowd and dealing with distractions.

**Obedience training:** An extension of manners training or sometimes for competition. Dog learns the commands heel, sit, down, stay, come, etc.

**Conformation training:** This type of training is done for dogs that will be shown (beauty pageant of the dog world).

**Agility training:** The dog learns gymnastics for dogs such as: jumps, teeter totter, tire jump, A-frame, tunnel, weave poles, etc.

**Behavioural problem solving:** Done to address a specific issue such as separation anxiety, fear, hyperactivity, which often includes some of the types of training mentioned above.

**Specialized training:** Herding, tracking, field trials, search and rescue, guide dog, disability service, hunting, protection, etc.

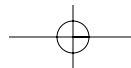
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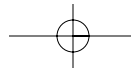
## DOG TRAINING

### YOUR FIRST STEP IN DOG OWNERSHIP



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## SO NOW YOU HAVE A DOG...

Owning a dog can be a very rewarding experience, and how you train your dog has a big impact on whether your relationship will be one of companionship or frustration.

A big mistake people often make when they first bring their dog home is to give him too much freedom. You may think you're being nice, but in fact, you may be doing more harm than good.

Adopting a training program from the beginning is a fun way to get to know your dog and sets the stage for a successful relationship.

## WHAT IS TRAINING?

Training is a form of communication between a dog and his owner. Since dogs cannot speak, it is up to the owner to learn how to communicate with the dog. All owners can benefit from training classes, even if they have previously owned a dog or trained many in the past; remember that every dog is different.

*By taking an active role in teaching your dog, you will be able to train him the way you want.*

## WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN TRAINING?

If you don't train your dog, he will train himself — and not necessarily in a good way! Your dog will learn from you. By taking an active role in teaching your dog, you will be able to train the dog the way you want.

## KNOWING YOUR DOG

Similar to children, dogs understand different things at different stages of their development. Below you will find a brief description of the kinds of things you can expect from your dog as she grows; types of training are further described in the next section.

Please note that these are only guidelines. Some dogs progress or mature slower than others. Be prepared to see behaviour change over time.

*Puppies need quiet time. Too much stimulation teaches them that being hyper and nervous is acceptable.*

### 0-4 MONTHS

- Housetrained and lets you know when he needs to go outside
- Begins to walk on a leash without pulling
- Sits quietly
- Sits and stays with limited distractions for a short period of time
- Greets people calmly and does not jump
- Chew her toys — not furniture, fingers or shoes
- React calmly to different people, children, sounds and other dogs
- Types of training at this stage: crate training, house training, puppy class
- Games to try at this stage: hide and seek, ball chase and retrieve

Puppies need quiet time. Too much stimulation teaches them that being hyper and nervous is acceptable.

*Remember that as pups mature, their independence grows.*



### 5 MONTHS-1 YEAR

- Consistently walks on a leash without pulling
- Walks on leash unless you can call him back under all circumstances
- Sits quietly under most distraction
- Sits and stays under most distraction
- Types of training at this stage: continue previous stage training and add manners and obedience — basic and advanced
- New games to try at this stage: recall games in the house and yard

Remember that as pups mature, their independence grows. Puppies are socially dependent on us, so during the first few months, they will often listen better and stay close to home. It is when they mature, especially through adolescence, that their world becomes much larger. So keep them close to you and under control at all times, and continue your training program on a regular basis.



## 1 YEAR AND OVER

- Dogs become mature adults between two and three years of age
- Between one year and maturity, your dog should be able to walk on a leash and sit and stay quietly under any distraction
- She should come when called and, if possible, be allowed off-leash in designated areas
- He should be totally housetrained, which means no "accidents" in the house and no chewing
- If your new dog is older, talk to your veterinarian or consult a dog trainer about training needs. You may have to undo previous training and resolve issues such as separation anxiety.
- Types of training available at this stage: all types, including agility, tracking and specialized training

Dogs can always learn something new — working with a trainer on a specific behaviour that you want to change can be done at any age.



*Dogs can always learn something new!*

