



LUNE VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB

TRAINING – HANDY HINTS

Animals learn by a process of trial and error. The outcome of an activity will affect whether the puppy develops it into a habit. The more times the activity is repeated the more the puppy will learn. Therefore it is essential that the exercises learnt at club are repeated at home.

Rewards – giving your puppy a reward when he does what you ask will motivate him to do it again. A reward can be any combination of verbal praise, food or play.

Training is fun, to get the best results make sure you start teaching your puppy in a quiet environment, if there is more than one member of the family training the puppy make sure you all use the same commands so as not to confuse the puppy.

Keep the training sessions short, tired dogs don't learn. Mental work can be more tiring than physical activity. Training before a meal is better than after, no one works well on a full stomach, puppies included. Remember to keep the sessions frequent and varied.

Be patient and accept your dog's failures as well as his successes. Be careful to separate the 'sit' and 'down' commands so as not to confuse the dog by saying sit-down as one word.

Exercise is a powerful stress reliever for dogs. Giving your dog regular walks and runs will enhance his and your life. Remember that the lessons learnt in the house or garden can be practiced in the park and will help improve your overall control of your dog.

Don't however let your puppy drag you to the park at the end of their lead only to ask them not to pull you in the park. You may feel daft stopping or turning in the street every few steps but it will be worth it in the end.

Don't let good behaviour go unnoticed or unrewarded. If your dog is doing what you want him to do, let him know how pleased you are e.g. if he sits without you asking praise him by saying 'good sit' and reward him with food or a toy.

Be careful not to repeat your commands too many times otherwise the puppy will get bored and ignore you.

Be careful when playing when your puppy is teething. At around 4- 5 months of age puppies lose their baby teeth and their mouth can become tender. Should they feel pain while playing a tuggy game it may put them off play altogether.

