



LUNE VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB

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 and remember to keep the sessions frequent and varied.

- ✓ Briefly practice the 'attention' and 'sit' command, this will help them with the next exercise.

TEACHING THE DOWN COMMAND

1. Ask your puppy to sit in front of you.
2. Show the puppy you have a food treat in your hand.
3. Lower your hand slowly down to the floor, palm down, directly between the puppy's front paws.
4. On reaching the floor, slowly drag your hand away from your puppy. Your puppy should follow the treat and he will slide into the down position.
5. As soon as his belly touches the floor give him the 'down' command and reward.
6. Make sure you keep your hand on the floor when giving the treat to prevent your puppy from following your hand back up again.
7. Repeat this several times. When you are confident that your puppy will lie down by following your hand to the floor you can ask him to go 'down' using a verbal command and a hand signal such as pointing to the floor.
8. Remember you must put your hand on the floor when giving the treat.

TEACHING YOUR PUPPY TO COME WHEN CALLED

Stage one

1. Start with your puppy on a lead and sitting in front of you. Hold a treat in your hand ensuring the pup knows it's there. Take a few steps back luring the puppy with the food to follow you giving the 'come' command as they move and reward them with a treat.
2. Gradually build up the distance your puppy has to follow you, repeating the 'come' command as they move and reward them with the treat.

Stage two

1. Get someone to hold the puppy, stand in front of them say his name and show them you have a food reward in your hand. As soon as you have their attention back away a few paces and call your puppy.
2. If the puppy is a bit slow getting to you try crouching down and make yourself more inviting by outstretching your arms.
3. As soon as your puppy reaches you praise like crazy and drop several treats on the floor. You can then calmly and gently get hold of your puppy's collar and reattach the lead.

Unless your puppy is in danger do not try calling them to you if they are engrossed in something else. Get their attention first. Otherwise all you will do is teach them to ignore you!

SOCIALISATION WITH AN UNKNOWN DOG

The puppy should be carefully introduced on a lead to an appropriate dog you know and trust. They should quietly and gently make friends without jumping on the puppy. If your puppy backs off or shows undue wariness do not force the meeting.