



# LUNE VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB

*Dogs are eager to learn. Their brains need stimulation. It takes time and patience, but it doesn't have to be a chore. Training should be a positive on going experience.*

## FOOD MANNERS

You should be able to let your puppy take a treat without snatching and in a controlled manner.

1. Hold a desirable piece of food in your closed hand. Whatever your puppy does by way of begging/nudging do not open your hand.
2. When he relaxes and accepts the fact you are in control by sitting patiently, say 'take it' and open your hand.
3. Waiting for the correct command is training an acceptable behaviour and reinforces to your dog that good manners work and bad manners don't.

## THE 'DROP IT' COMMAND

If you have problems getting toys or articles away from your puppy teach it the drop command.

1. Hold a tasty treat in one hand, let the puppy sniff your hand and release the treat.
2. They should then drop the article in favour of the food. Give the 'drop' command and reward verbally and with the treat.

## PUPPY BITING/MOUTHING

Biting during play is essential and normal for all puppies. However it is not acceptable for dogs to bite people and puppies need to be educated into how to moderate their biting.

1. Take the fun out of the biting. This means no laughing, squealing or shouting.
2. If your puppy does catch you yelp loudly and give a 'no' or 'wrong' command.
3. Immediately turn and ignore your puppy for 20 seconds then resume play.
4. Repeat every time you feel his teeth.
5. Be consistent. It may take many repetitions before your puppy understands that biting results in loss of fun.

## THE RELEASE COMMAND

Once you have rewarded your puppy let them know they have finished the exercise by giving them a release command such as 'OK', this tells them it is ok to move. This is often a good opportunity for you both to relax and play with your puppy.