

**717-476-2449 www.myk9buddy.net**

TRAINING TIPS

1. Whenever you’re interacting with your dog, they’re learning. Be sure to think about how you want your dog to act as an adult and start rewarding that behavior as a puppy. For example, if you don’t want your dog to jump on you, don’t pet your puppy when their feet are on you.
2. Incorporate training into your daily life. For example, when you’re cooking, ask your puppy to sit. Reward the sit position a few times (as you’re working) and then release. Not only are you training the sit, you’re also helping them understand that keeping their feet on the floor in the kitchen is a great idea.
3. If you want to formally train (this is great for kids), do your training during the commercials on TV. This will keep your sessions short, frequent and doesn’t interfere in your entertainment!
4. As you’re training, be sure your dog understands each step completely before you challenge them with the next step. A good gauge for this if they can do the step (ie. sit while you count to 10) 5 times in a row. If they can, move to the next step (ie. sit while you count to 15). If they can only do it correctly 3 out of 5 times, stay at that step. If they can only do it correctly 2 out of 5 times, back up to the previous step (ie sit while you count to 7). This will insure that your dog has a solid foundation before you move forward.
5. Short sessions will move your training forward much more quickly than long sessions!
6. Playing “bitey hand” and rough housing games with puppies encourages them to use their teeth and bodies in ways that not all people appreciate.
7. Exercise such as fetch or walking is important but too much exercise can just increase your dog’s stamina so that it doesn’t help tire them out. The best way to tire your dog out is to play sniffing games (hide treats in the house or yard), take them for a sniffing walk in the woods, use food puzzles such as wobble Kongs or snuffle mats or train tricks. These activities are “mental” activities and will tire them out more than physical activities.