



Dantapelle Cobberdogs Brisbane

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FAQ - Training your Puppy

We recommend having a read of these books.

*Cesar Millan – “Cesar’s Way” and “Be the Pack Leader” and
Patricia McConnell – “Other End of the Leash”*

- It is recommended that you enrol your Puppy in a **Puppy School** and work on their socialisation and obedience. Pups need mental and physical stimulation to learn and grow. The perfect time is now !
- If you aren’t a reader, or don’t have time, try and find these books on audible or similar. Please train your Puppy. Not just when at puppy school... 24-7 ! it is an ongoing job !
- Puppy School means you will sometimes have an obedient puppy. Training your dog means you will always have a great dog and trusted companion and you will share a stronger bond.
- Above all, **you must be consistent**, and any other person in the household (spouses, children etc) sharing care of your Puppy must be following the same rules. Inconsistency is what can cause training “not to stick”. Dogs are very smart and observant, they will soon learn whom has a “soft touch” and whom makes them follow the rules.
- Punishments and corrections should happen during or very soon after a negative behaviour, **dogs live in the moment**, and they actually do not *remember digging up your yard last Monday*. They will act guilty if spoken to about it, because your tone of voice and body language has changed....
- **Mental Exercise** is just as important as Physical. Leaving a food treat until you say “OK have it” is the perfect game ! So is 1-2-3- Go ! waiting for your command and sitting/staying until you let them run. Look up Invisible Leash training, this one is great, have your dog under only voice command.
- **Dogs are all about the Energy, and Body Language**. You can watch for signs of change in Energy and/or Body Language, and you can use your energy and body language to give a non-verbal command to your dog.



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FAQ – Puppy Biting & Mouthing

Courtesy of Dr Renae Carmody, Brisbane Mobile Vet, Ph: 0431 238 900

Puppies want to please us, but they need to learn now. Likewise, we must make sure we reward the behaviours that we want.

Below are some suggestions for discouraging and preventing biting and mouthing. Remember puppies are individuals and some strategies will work better for your puppy than others will.

- 1.** It is important to find a way to meet the need to bite - a normal behaviour, (also common at teething) - through play, and things safe to chew on - not humans!
- 2.** Use time outs to de-escalate biting and mouthing behaviours and calm down your pet. This can be done by removing the pet or yourself from the pet's attention when play biting occurs, including eye contact and talking to the little one; this time out should be brief but repeated if biting continues during an interaction. Remember to come back to attention and play with love and excitement once the pet has settled down and quits biting.
- 3.** Use command words, such as "sit," to distract from biting. Give a reward only if the biting stops and the command is followed. When biting and mouthing, redirect the puppy to something more appropriate to chew on such as squeaky, or chew toys.
- 4.** In some situations, a firm, strong command such as "no bite" may be effective to distract from mouthing and biting. This command must be performed during a biting behaviour. Be careful that this does not cause fear or increase excitement.
- 5.** Make sure to allow plenty of play time, exercise time, training time etc
- 6.** Treat or food puzzles or licking mats can encourage food-seeking and hunting behaviours that can decrease the need for mouthing and biting.
- 7.** Remember to reward for good behaviours with attention and treats.
- 8.** Best not punish a puppy for biting but a firm 'no biting is ok'. It can affect the bond between the pet and humans and may even lead to fear, aggression, and/or anxiety.

Little puppy bites are very normal, and all puppies do this but with lots of love and consistency and training they will get better and better. 



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FAQ – Puppy Disobedience & Dominance

These are proven strategies that work WITH the dogs nature, and not against.

Now is the time for **Exercise, Discipline and Affection** – in that order (and **Rules, Boundaries and Limitations**). Your dog will respect you for it and follow you as the Leader.

Consistency is key, Dogs will follow a calm, assertive, consistent leader. This goes for anyone in the house, your mum, your child, your uncle. You don't need to feel like you can't love your dog, but you do need to nip negative behaviours in the bud.

The Basics:

- A tired and happy exercised dog is too tired and satisfied to be naughty. **Walk your dog every day**, it's a bonding thing with his/her pack.
- Square your shoulders and use your body, we are primates, they are canines, but we speak one common language, **Body Language**. If you read the book by Patricia, she describes as she "herds" a strange dog off the freeway using only body language, it's lovely.
- Dogs can learn words with repetition and positive reinforcement. Be careful not to **Nag**, and never let a command go ignored. E.g. *Sit Barney, Barney, Sit, look at me, Sit, Sit, Sit !* (Barney is not sitting any time soon). Make sure your dog is looking at you, give a command and wait. E.g. *Barney, Sit*.
- **Energy is Important !** If you mean business, lean forward and speak assertively. Touch what is yours, **Claim your Space**. Get in their space if they are invading yours. When rewarding, retreat, speak softly and sweetly.
- **Puppies will NIP**, it is how they learn bite pressure and it's natural and normal, also they have "itchy teeth" when teething. If biting/nipping, YELP like their littermates would if nipped and say NO very sternly, maybe even a tap on the nose. Correct and re-direct to a bone or chew treat/toy.
- **Dogs respond to energy**. Yelling and squealing and waving your arms is excitable Primate behaviour, a dog is just going to get excited when this happens, or think you are "barking with him"
- **Don't let your dog walk in front**, he isn't the Leader, YOU ARE. He must walk next to your knee. Even a nose in front means a lot, they KNOW !. By the way, yanking on the lead and screaming, will not make them walk next to your knee (well, not if you have Staffies and Rotties). There is a technique to do this, Correction and Direction ("*Uh Uh.... Heel*")
- **Don't let your dog barge through the door before you**, you are the Leader. You go through the door first and invite him, you go through the gate first. If not, start again, he will be tired of the delay to coming inside/dinner/walk, whatever the reward is. Sit , Stay, then come.
- **No paws on the leader or leaders**, unless invited. A lion doesn't come up to the Leader of the Pride and sit on his head without asking, he wouldn't live long and prosper. **Permission, then Touch is OK**.
- Same with sitting up high, on lounges etc with their humans, they must ask first, then it is OK.
- Your dog will be very obedient if you're holding the dinner bowl. Use this time to your advantage. **Wait for Calm**, Make them Sit before dinner, Shake hands if you will, then place bowl down, and give your command to eat.
- **No jumping up !** no-one cares when a 2kg *Fluff Ball* jumps up but when a 60kg Rottweiler does, everyone loses their mind. It's bad behaviour, regardless of dog or breed, unless invited to do so.



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FAQ – Toilet Training your Puppy

Toilet Training

This can be a trying time. Please be patient with your puppy. Their muscles are still too little to hold it in for a long time and make it outside or to a door. We recommend using training aids such as below:

Pee Potty Mat - <https://www.kmart.com.au/product/pet-potty-mat/1571357>

Place this near where your pup sits or sleeps and encourage it's use, moving it closer and closer to the door, and eventually outside.

We find it useful to use pee pads to absorb messes under the grass matting.

<https://www.kmart.com.au/product/20-pack-puppy-training-pads-60cm-x-90cm/2688372>

And an attractant or pheromone mimic spray to encourage your pup to use the mat. Kmart used to have one so keep an eye out, similar to this:

<https://www.petbarn.com.au/nature-s-miracle-dog-house-breaking-potty-training-spray-236ml>

Thank you !

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