



Six Tips For Successful Teaching

Tip 1: Always Be Consistent

Consistency is the key to your dog's success. Make sure that when you are working with your dog, you are not wavering on what is expected of them. If you are working on cues, lay out a plan of what you want and how you want it, and stick to it.

Tip 2: Keep Teaching Sessions Short But Often

Try and keep your sessions around 10-15 minutes in length, once or twice a day. Dogs tend to enjoy and focus on sessions much more when they are in shorter spans of time; and you can definitely get a lot done in that seemingly small amount of time!

Tip 3: Stay Calm And In Control

Dogs are very good at picking up on our moods. Remaining calm and in control will help your dog stay calm and in control as well, which will help make your time learning together go much smoother. Consequently, becoming frustrated or mad because your dog isn't understanding what you want will most likely cause the progress you've made to come to a halt or even be reversed.

Tip 4: Do Not Over Praise

The amount of praise you give your dog is just as important as what you are teaching. Whether it's treats, saying "Good boy/girl", or giving love; overdoing it with any form of praise will always do the same thing - distract your dog from what they just did right. Too much of a great thing will most likely cause your dog to forget what the two of you are doing. Limiting praise to something short and sweet (one small treat, for example) has been proven to keep dogs focused and have a more powerful, long lasting impression on your dog.

Tip 5: Forget Discipline

The idea behind teaching your dog is that you will be creating a stronger bond than the one you currently have. Typical forms of Discipline/Punishment tend to tear down the positive environment you're trying to build up. Rather than punishing them for doing something you don't want, teach them to do what you would prefer.

Tip 6: Always End On A Positive Note

Ending on a positive note is a must when it comes to teaching your dog new things. If there comes a time that your dog isn't able to learn a cue you're trying to teach and frustration sets in, ask them to do something they already know, give them praise, end the session on that note and come back to the cue at a later time. Remember - working with your dog should be a positive and fun activity for the two of you to enjoy, and by keeping it that way, you'll reap the benefits!