

# Your Dog's First Job

## Training your dog on the right paw

A dog with a job is a happy dog! Provide your dog with mental stimulation, or they will find less desirable ways to spend their time. Manners is a great start. Benefits include reducing your dog's attention-seeking behavior, giving fearful dogs confidence, eliminating guarding behaviors, building a stronger bond, and communicating effectively with your dog.

Train your dog on the right paw! Use positive reinforcement training techniques to teach basic manners. Find a trainer in the directory and enroll in a basic foundation class.

When interacting with your dog, always set the dog up for training success! Use a one-time verbal command with clear hand lures. Reward your dog with treats and fade treat use over time after building reliability in multiple settings. Keep training sessions short and simple with gradually increasing difficulty. Do several five to thirty-minute dog training sessions a day. Always be clear, consistent, and patient. Practice often and don't forget to have fun!

Once your dog understands basic commands, begin requesting those skills to earn rewards around the house. Before you give your dog a toy or attention, your dog should perform at least one cue. It is important your dog knows the cue well before adding this to your routine.



Reward all good behaviors. Tell your dog "Yes!" when you find them doing something you desire. Patience, consistency, praise and practice will help your dog understand. Saying "Yes!" creates balance, better communication, and cohesiveness.

Once cued, wait for the behavior. If your dog does not perform the cue, walk away for a few moments, then try again. If this is repeated, you may be asking too much too fast. Slowly build the difficulty in your training sessions. Be patient and positive.

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