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The Science and Soul of Dog Training and Behavior

## Top 10 Training Tips

Whether you have a puppy or a senior citizen  
your dog will thank you for paying attention to these training tips!



### #1. BE POSITIVE!

Dogs learn much faster and are more reliable if they learn to feel good when they do what you ask. You'll have a much better behaved dog if you learn to use positive reinforcement rather than forcing your dog into a behavior.

### #2. LEARN TO "SPEAK DOG"

Dogs don't come speaking English, and they don't read minds. Communicate less with your voice and more with your body (like dogs do), and your dog will understand you better.

### #3. LEARN ABOUT LEARNING

Training animals isn't intuitive, and we're not taught how to do it in school. Don't assume you know how just because you love your dog!

### #4. LEARN TO "READ DOG"

Dogs have remarkably expressive faces, but we often fail to pay attention to what they're trying to tell us. Look for relaxed bodies and open mouths on happy dogs, and stiff bodies and closed mouths on dogs who are, at best, concerned about something.

### #5. TRAIN THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Avoid long training sessions every evening by scattering training exercises throughout the day. That way you'll always have time to train your dog, and your dog will learn to listen wherever and whenever you ask.



### #6. MASTER A FEW EXERCISES

You're much better off teaching your dog a few, simple exercises and practicing them in a variety of contexts, than teaching your dogs lots of signals that only work if he's not distracted.

#### #7. BE CONSISTENT

Don't say "Ginger Come!" in the morning, and "C'm 'ere, Ginger" at night. Our dogs are trying to learn a foreign language, and we just confuse them if we keep changing the words!

#### #8. TEACH GOOD BEHAVIOR

If your dog consistently does something you don't like, figure out what you DO want him to do, and teach him to do it, rather than correcting him for doing what's wrong.

#### #9. KNOW YOUR DOG

Your second Golden Retriever might not love to play fetch just because your first one did. Every dog is different, and they don't read the breed descriptions!

#### #10. LAUGH A LOT!

Why not? Training should be just as fun for you as it should be for your dog. You'll both do better if you make it all into a game and have fun with it.