

TRAINING TIPS & TRICKS

🐾 Impulse Control → Even the most well trained dogs can be poorly behaved. You need to train your dog how to behave when you're *not* telling him what to do! Instilling impulse control means teaching your dog that he gets the things he wants for polite behavior, not for demanding behavior. If your dog wants to go for a walk, dancing around when he sees the leash is going to make the leash go back on the hook; sitting quietly to be leashed up is a successful way of saying please and will get the desired result. While waiting for his meal to be prepared, barking and whining will mean that the dinner bowl goes back on the shelf out of reach; sitting calmly and waiting to be released to his bowl will earn his meal.

Ideally, with impulse control exercises, you don't want to tell your pooch what to do explicitly. That would be solving his problem for him. Instead, wait for him to *offer* polite behavior. This way your pooch is learning how to be a polite dog *every moment* of the day, not just the moments that he's receiving direct instruction from you. Now *that's* a true canine companion!

🐾 The Territorial Pooch → Why does the mailman always get bitten?! Because his job is to come to the house, deliver the mail and go. So, as the dog looks out the window, he sees the mailman's approach and barks to alert the family. Then the mailman turns and leaves, and Fido thinks that it was *he* who affected the departure. Now imagine all the passersby, people and dogs, passing the home with no intention of entering. Again, Fido attributes their continuing on their way to his barking. He starts to get an inflated sense of his role guarding the home. So, when people actually *do* come to visit and enter the home, Fido is forced to escalate his behavior in order to drive the interloper away. And thus territorial behavior is born! So dogs who bark at passersby should be prevented from practicing the behavior when no one is at home. Close the blinds, pull the couch away from the windows, or simply close your dog off from the room with the view. And, when you *are* at home, call him away and distract him to think about other things

🐾 Stop Pulling! → Dogs find the act of pulling against their leashes rewarding. It's just their natural instinct. But there are tools that can help: The Easy Walk harness is much like a normal body harness but with the leash ring at the chest. The Gentle Leader head halter attaches to the leash below the chin, and gives especially good control of the dog's head and can help alleviate many unwanted behaviors. Each works on the principle that the dog no longer gets the satisfaction of pulling against the leash and so will pull less.

🐾 "Do Your Duty!" → Want your dog to eliminate on command? It's easy! Look for cues that she's preparing to go, like circling or sniffing. Then use your cue, like "Do your duty!" Softly praise her as she goes. You can even give her a tasty tidbit or two afterwards to sweeten the deal. If you do it enough times, she'll eventually "do the deed" on cue!

🐾 "Come" at the Run → Does your dog evade your calls at the dog run? She's probably figured out that your calling her usually means an end to her favorite pastime: dog-play! So, instead, every few minutes, call her by name. Start easy at first, with near calls when she's not in the middle of play and with plenty of encouragement. When she comes, grab her collar and give her some love; then release her with "OK, go play!" Do that several times during a play session and then she won't anticipate that one time that means an end to her play date.

🐾 Get Mental! → Wouldn't you like some tasks that your dog could do that would mentally stimulate her while she also quietly entertains herself? Well, interactive puzzle toys – like the Kong, Twist'n Treat, Tricky Treat Ball and Tux – occupy her with puzzling out how to get to her food, making her "work" for her kibble! Don't be limited to peanut schmears!... go to www.myWoofGang.com for some more interesting and challenging recipe ideas!



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