

TIPS & TRICKS

🐾 Pretty Please! → Consider a “sit” to be your dog’s way of saying “please.” This can be especially helpful when you need her to wait quietly while you juggle your belongings or open your umbrella before venturing out into the rain. Before you give her a tasty treat, cross an intersection or open the door - before virtually any activity she considers wonderful, wait until she’s sitting pretty!

🐾 “Come” at the Run → Does your dog evade your calls when you’re ready to leave the dog run? She’s probably figured out that your call usually means an end to her favorite pastime: dog-play! So, every few minutes call her by name when she’s not in the middle of play. Start easy at first, with near calls and 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 leaving the run.

🐾 Quit Pulling! → Dogs find the act of pulling against their leashes rewarding. It’s just their natural instinct. If your dog is a fantastic puller, there are a couple of Premier products on the market that can help reduce this behavior. The EasyWalk[®] harness is much like a normal body harness but with the leash ring at the chest. The Gentle Leader[®] is a head halter that attaches to the leash below the chin. It 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. Call or write for advice on what might be best for your dog.

🐾 Crate Training → Dogs, like their wolf predecessors, like to have a den to call their own. And it’s a great training tool for you as well. To attract your dog to her crate, put a Kong[®] of her favorite food in the crate and close the door, with her locked out. It won’t take long for her to figure out which side of the door she’d rather be on! Build up her tolerance to time alone in the crate gradually.

🐾 Do Your Business! → 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 command, like “Do your business.” Softly praise her as she goes. You can even give her a treat afterwards to sweeten the deal. If you do it enough times, she’ll eventually “do the deed” on command!

🐾 Eye Contact → They say the eyes are the windows to the soul. Well, eye contact can be a great way to strengthen the bond between you and your dog, too. Every time her eyes meet yours, say “Good girl!” and give her a treat. She’ll start looking at you more often. Try smiling as you gaze at her... it will soften your eyes and relax your face, an attitude she will definitely appreciate. Note: Don’t try this with a dog you don’t know! It can be threatening to a dog with dominance aggression issues.

🐾 Get A Job! → Wouldn’t you like some tasks for your dog that would mentally stimulate her while she also quietly entertains herself? Well, interactive food distribution toys like the Kong[®] occupy her with puzzling out how to get to her food, making her “work” for her kibble! Go to myWoofGang.com for some recipe ideas.



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