

CHRIS BRIGGS DOG TRAINING

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TRAINING FOR A PUPPY

Requirements: To be able to have a well-controlled and happy dog.

Jumping up, biting hands, pulling on clothing, house training, and generally not behaving is common to most young dogs. All puppies want to play and tend to jump up and paw at their owners. Leadership is essential and already puppy should be aware that you are his leader and mentor. There is a lot of talk these days about dominant dogs but really it is how dominant you allow your dog to become that really matters. You must be the dominant partner and not allow your puppy to dictate his terms.

Life Experiences:

Dogs like people learn from life experiences.

Introduce your dog to as many different situations as you can. Have your dog on the lead and under control. Teach him to respect other creatures and not let him believe that birds, cats, squirrels etc are only there for him to chase. Remember trained working dogs don't go chasing everything that moves. They are under control and only go when instructed to.

The secret of having a well-adjusted dog is to prepare and anticipate for any eventuality. Be careful not to over protect and allow the dog to gain confidence by his life experiences.

Avoid holding your dog on a tight lead when something new excites or disturbs him. Teach him to stand/sit by your side in a controlled manner.

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For Information:

Diet: A puppy's diet should be well balanced and must include Calcium and vitamin D, which are essential for bone formation. Milk will supply these needs and they are best found in a commercial product such as Lactol.

Protein is necessary and this is found in meat, fish, eggs, and Soya beans. Again a commercial puppy product would supply all the protein.

Carbohydrates are also an essential part of your dog's diet producing energy and warmth or is stored as fat. These are found in cereals, biscuits, porridge and bread etc.

Modern puppy foods have all the correct balance of vitamins and protein. These foods are convenient and easy to use.

Suggested alternative diet you may want to follow: The times suggested below are a guide for you to follow. The quantities are very much for you to judge and adjust as he grows. Don't overfeed; better to be left a little hungry than him leaving food uneaten. A rule of thumb is as much as he can eat in 3 to 5 minutes. Be sensible and you will soon get it just right. Don't leave food down and be present while Puppy is eating. If he is not eating all of the food put less down next time.

The meat, fish etc can be replaced by a formulated puppy food of your choice.

Early Morning 6.00 – 7.00	Lunch Time 12.00 – 1.00	Evening Meal 5.00-6.30	Supper Time 9.30 – 10.00	Bed Time
Wheetabix or Ready Brek in Milk. (Lactol) Cod liver oil as directed on bottle.	Minced lean meat or tripe or fish with wholemeal bread in gravy.	Meat, tripe, liver or fish with biscuit meal. (Puppy type)	Milk (Lactol) with Farex or oatmeal or scrambled egg. Stress (food supplement)	Hard biscuit e.g. Bonio

Clean Fresh Water Must Always Be Available.

As puppy gets older he will drop off some of his meals usually the lunch. He should always be kept on two meals even when adult. The quantities split between breakfast and supper. Our adult dogs still enjoy their cereal and toast every morning.

Puppy should be bonny but not fat.

Do not overfeed. **A fat adult dog is not healthy.**

Never allow puppy to guard his food. Get him used to you being around and touching him and his food while he is eating. You should be able to remove his food without any signs of resentment from puppy at any time.

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Puppies Biting

There are a variety of approaches to use. It is often affective to feign hurt and utter a gasp of pain. A sensitive dog will react at once to this method and be more careful in the future. It can also be stopped by showing displeasure in your tone of voice, making sure he understands you are angry at his biting. Offer your hand to him and as he is about to bite warn him by grumbling at him. If he ignores your protests hold him firmly by the collar, looking him in the eyes and with real displeasure in your voice tell him to stop biting. Be insistent and positive. He will respond to your protests if he feels you really mean it.

Offer him some item that you are happy for him to bite and chew. (sterilised bone)

Remember puppies need to bite and chew.

Do not smack or hit your dog this will destroy trust.

Toilet Training.

An indoor kennel will speed up house training and give you piece of mind.

After meals and on frequent occasions take him outside and stand with him encouraging him to go to the loo adding your favourite command. Reward his success with lots of praise. If he has an accident in the house the area needs de-odorising. (Use "Odour Eliminator" available at vets and good pet stores) It is of no use rubbing your dogs nose in his mess or chastising him after the event. Prevention is better than cure. Anticipating the event will speed up the training. Dogs are very quick to learn but need to understand what is required of them. Do not leave the door open for the puppy to go in and out at will as you will not be in a position to control the training. Putting paper or nappy pads in the house is only teaching the puppy to go to the toilet in the house.

Attention Seeking.

This can take several forms. For example barking, whining, pawing, jumping up and generally pestering you for attention.

The more you respond by shouting, pushing your dog away or generally resisting the attention the worse the situation becomes.

Totally ignoring your dog is often the best course of action. In other words zero response from you to your dog. No shouting, no pushing away, no staring and definitely no responding to nuzzling your hands. Taking this action seems hard and uncaring but it does work. Be patient and give it time. Of course you want and need to stroke and pet your dog. You do this under your terms and when you want to not when your dog demands it.

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Car Travel:

If you intend to take him out in the car it is a good idea to spend time with him sitting in the car so he becomes used to getting in and out as part of a daily routine. Teach your dog to wait before allowing him to get in or out of the car. Start the engine and drive small distances. This takes the fear and apprehension out of car travel that most dogs go through as they get older and become more aware of things around them.

I do not feel it is safe to travel with a dog loose in the car. For the safety of yourself, your dog and other road users he should be restrained by a purpose bought seat belt, dog guard or travelling cage. A dog jumping on your knee and or getting between your feet when you are driving is not to be recommended.

Public Transport:

Riding on buses, trains, taxis etc can be traumatic for dogs. A positive approach not showing any apprehension yourself is always the best way to tackle any new experience. Dogs are very adaptable and will accept most situations if they feel secure with their owner.

Shaping Puppy's Life.

Puppy must learn to take his proper place in the pecking order.

It is important that a dog gets used to separation. Even when at home all day make sure that your dog gets used to being in another room on his own, don't always have him with you.

All puppies need to chew particularly when their teeth are growing and I favour a sterilised bone. These are safe and hygienic and last for a long time. Be careful not to leave your dog with anything that could splinter or get stuck in his throat or that he may swallow whole. It would be a tragedy to come home to find your dog in agony or even worse that he has choked to death. Take care that he cannot get at any electrical cables etc.

Living with your dog:

As soon as possible decide where in the house your dog can go.

For example, if you are happy to let your dog on the furniture chairs, etc., do not expect him to understand why you are cross when he runs in from the garden and jumps up on your brand new sofa.

In the evening when the family is relaxing get him used to being still and not pestering for attention. Don't allow him to dominate visitors. Don't allow visitors to tease and dominate him. Introduce him and then let him lie and relax in his usual place. Set sensible rules and follow them.

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The garden is the place where most dogs are allowed their freedom providing it is well fenced in. I believe too much freedom for the dog in your garden is not of any benefit to your dog at all. Giving your dog the full run of your garden is no substitute for exercising your dog. When the dog is very young he needs very little exercise and most of this can be given at playtime. Unsupervised play is of no help in developing a proper relationship between yourself and your dog. A dog can wreck a garden just as easily as your favourite sofa. In a very short time your lawn can be reduced to a muddy patch and all the borders destroyed. This does nothing for your feelings towards your dog.

A small paved or concrete area securely fenced off is far more sensible. This will also keep your dog cleaner and the small area can be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Remember:

- Dogs enjoy routine.
- They are a pack animal and will follow a leader.
- To establish a good relationship with your dog you need to be the leader.
- Do not confuse, be consistent with your teaching
- The best relationships are built on respect, trust and love.

Children and Dogs.

Most children love dogs especially puppies. In fact a puppy is often brought into the house at the request of children.

The problem is that under certain circumstances children and dogs are not good for each other. To be more specific children are not always good for dogs. There needs to be firm parental control. The snags are that children can and do get very excited.

Their high pitch shouting and screaming get the puppy/dog in a high state of excitement some time bordering on frenzy. The puppy becomes uncontrollable often barking, yelping, jumping up and biting.

It is fun to play with a puppy but to have a controllable puppy it is essential that the play is kept in check. If things are getting out of hand remove him to a quiet safe place.

Teach the children to be considerate and not treat a living animal as a toy that can be discarded when they get fed up. Show the children how to groom and care for the puppy. How to clean up his mess and the importance of doing it.

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Puppy 's Training:

- All teaching should be carried out in short sessions. (5 to 10 minutes).
- Fit in as many sessions a day as you can.
- Playing with your dog helps in establishing mutual trust.
- Teaching must be enjoyable for you and your puppy.
- Sensible and controlled training forms a good relationship.
- The teaching sessions should be the highlight of your puppy's day.
- Praise and displeasure should be shown by the tone of your voice.
- Do not shout.
- Set aside time for training so that you can give puppy your full attention.

NB. If you are not in a good frame of mind, DO NOT TRAIN.

Comment [.1]:

COMMANDS YOU CAN USE.

Heel	Dog walking by your side.
Come	Calling your dog back to you
Sit	Dog in the sitting position
Down	Dog lying down
Stay	Dog not moving after being left in the sit or down
Leave	Dog ignoring distractions etc.

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Walking to Heel.

Allow time for your puppy to get use to a lead and collar. First introduce the lead to your puppy in the house and familiar surroundings. Walk with him around the house with gentle guiding.

Practise taking the lead on and off without always going out for a walk. This should help to control the initial excitement.

When he is use to the lead and confidant start teaching him to walk in a controlled way.

Walk to the door with him on the lead under control. Make sure he is not pulling you.

If he pulls ahead of you turn sharply in the opposite direction making him understand that you are making the decisions and not him. Use a sharp command "THIS WAY".

When he is back to heel turn again and continue on your way. Repeat until he understands that walking ahead is not allowed. Give plenty of praise and encouragement.

If he is not paying attention, use a sharp tone of voice and a tug on the lead. (***Be careful not to injure your dog by continually jerking the lead***) Never walk off with him pulling on the lead. Be determined by refusing to go forward until you have him by your side. The aim is to train your puppy to walk by your side in a pleasant and relaxed manner on a slack lead. Give plenty of praise and encouragement.

When out and about if you see a dog or person approaching be determined to have your puppy on a slack lead. Using a firm voice tell him to behave. As you get nearer do not hesitate, walk on confidently. If he plays up, show your displeasure with him by letting him hear your frustration at his continued disobedience. Make him get to heel and back on a slack lead. Do not stand any nonsense.

When he is walking well on the lead teach him to walk by your side off the lead. (Away from roads etc) Just drop the lead at first letting it trail on the ground. If he tries to run off put your foot on the lead and bring him back to heel. Practise until you have him under voice control. Give plenty of praise and encouragement

Note: A modern head collar can be a great aid to teaching your dog to walk in a controlled manner. For small and toy breeds a harness is very effective.

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Calling Him Back:

Use a toy or a titbit to get him to you. If he is being stubborn or not paying attention put the lead on and you call him to you. Praise and reward him every time he comes to you.

He must be taught to realise that “come” means stop what ever he is doing and respond instantly. Be sure that he comes right to you. Then give plenty of praise.

If he is allowed to turn away it indicates that he is distracted and is not concentrating on you.

When he is coming back without hesitation on the lead to you, take him out and practise on a longer lead until he can come back whatever the distractions every time without fail.

Play with a toy and encourage him to come to you when you show it him. Look for opportunities when he is coming to you on his own to add the “come” command. Fuss and praise him.

Play hide and seek running and hiding from puppy then calling him to you. Make the game lots of fun.

Teach him to run between you and a friend gradually increasing the distance as you get more confident in him.

Practise often and finish on success always.

While teaching the recall don't let him run free in a situation where you might not get him to respond to your call.

Every time you give a command that is ignored you have, in fact, taught your dog to be disobedient.

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Sit and Down.

Teach your dog to sit on command. Do this by giving the command “Sit” and then firmly push your dog into the sitting position. As soon as he is sitting praise him by patting and telling him he is a good boy. Repeat this exercise often remembering he hasn’t learnt it until he sits every time with one command.

Repeat the above for the Down position. Practise the Down (lying down) often and do not be satisfied until you can tell your dog to go down with one command and without any assistance from you. Always praise and encourage your dog’s efforts.

Sit and Down Stays.

Spend time teaching your puppy to “Sit stay”. Get him to sit by your side then command him to “stay” move a small distance away from him and keep repeating the “stay” command.

If he looks unsettled or you think he is about to move, get back to him quickly. Firmly tell him to stay, then praise him. Repeat this exercise often. Remember not to leave him too long in the one position and always return to him and praise him for his efforts.

Repeat the above for the Down Stay.

- ◆ Get him to lie still for short periods when he is in your company. Make sure that he understands that he can not do and go where he wants all the time. When you are on the phone or talking to a friend teach him to relax and lie down.
- ◆ Don’t allow him to start jumping up at you. Use a firm tone of voice, push him into the down position (lying on the floor) and praise him.

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Training Equipment:

There is very little equipment needed to train a dog.

A good quality leather, rope or nylon lead. (Approx. 50-55 inches long) Not a chain lead.

A leather or nylon collar. A good fit. It is of no use if the collar slips off the dog's head. The collars need to be changed to the correct size as the dog grows.

Ensure your dog carries an identity disc.

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Dog-Training courses are available in the daytime 10.00 – 12.00 and in the evening 7.30-9.30. These are available on Mondays and Wednesdays in Derby. Courses run for 6 weeks. To book phone 01332 510672.

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PUPPY TRAINING.

Advice sheet.

In alphabetical order

Biting	All puppies bite. They have very sharp needle type teeth. (milk teeth) Dogs haven't any hands and they use their mouth to grab and hold with. Puppies bite a lot particularly as they are teething. Give your puppy a safe and sensible alternative item whenever any biting takes place.
Collar	As soon as you fetch your puppy home fit a collar with a name tag. A collar makes it possible for you to hold the dog without pinching and grabbing fur or skin. Make sure the collar is comfortable and fitted correctly. Check regularly as puppies grow very quickly. Change your collar as the puppy grows.
Diet	Ensure your puppy is getting a well balanced diet that includes the vitamins required for all round health. Most puppies require between 4 & 5 small meals a day.
Discipline	Shouting yelling or smacking your puppy should be avoided. Puppies need to be shown by demonstration what is required of them. It is far better to reward success and where possible ignore faults. The use of an indoor kennel prevents any destruction of your home and possessions when you are unable to supervise your puppy.
Examination	Teach your puppy to get used to a full examination. This must include mouth, teeth, feet, pads, rear end and tail. When carried out with firm hands and a confident approach the puppy will enjoy the attention and accept this handling as normal.
Feeding	Get your puppy used to being handled while being fed. Do this by stroking the puppy once or twice while feeding. Don't make a big issue of this just let the puppy get used to your presence. Never leave uneaten food down. Allow approx. 5-10 mins. for the food to be eaten. Then remove if not all eaten. Re-try again a little later.
Grabbing clothing	Puppies have sharp claws and can easily become entangled in clothing. Jumpers, tights are always in danger. Wear clothes that are not in constant danger of being hooked up by probing claws.

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Greeting your puppy.	When you first see your puppy in the morning or when you come into the house restrain yourself. Don't go overboard and excite the puppy with an over the top greeting. Be calm and controlled. Wait a few minutes and then fuss gently and take your dog into the garden for toilet duties and a little play.
Grooming	Everyday spend a few moments grooming your puppy. Use suitable equipment and make the experience pleasurable.
House Training	After food, after a sleep and at regular intervals accompany your dog into the garden. Select a suitable spot and encourage your puppy to go to the toilet. Add a command such as "be quick", "be clean", "hurry up" etc. Give plenty of praise as the task is being done.
Indoor Kennel (cage or crate)	Indoor kennels are a great asset in developing a good relationship with your dog. The benefits include quick no fuss house training. Your puppy has a secure and safe den. No worries concerning chewing when you are not able to supervise. Indoor kennels must not be used as a punishment cell.
Jumping up	Most dog owners teach their puppies to jump up from the day the puppy arrives. Not on purpose but by responding to the appealing way puppies try to reach up with their paws. The usual response is to reward this action with love and attention. (very hard not to). Hence as the puppy grows it soon learns how to get attention. Negative response to jumping up works very well. Turn your back and ignore the puppy. As soon as the pestering stops reward with praise or titbit.
Lead	Once your puppy is used to the collar attach a lead. Get the puppy accustomed to the lead. Walk around the house and into the garden. Your lead is a great training aid. A lead can be used inside and outside the house. The puppy should not associate it with just going for a walk.
Leadership	Your puppy should see you as the leader. To help you establish this important role, undertake basic and simple training from an early age. Reward your puppy whenever a task is carried out successfully e.g. sit, wait, give a paw, come to you etc.
Playtime	All puppies need to be played with and loved. Try and play in an educational way. So that you can teach at the same time e.g. calling your dog to you, play hide and seek your puppy seeking you. Teach your puppy to sit and lie down. Avoid any games that encourage the puppy to be vocal. Barking, growling etc.

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Separation	Care needs to be taken that your puppy does not become over attached to you. If this occurs leaving the house or even shutting a door between you and the puppy can be traumatic. From day one make a point of not always allowing your puppy to be with you.
Socialisation	Your puppy should be introduced to people and other dogs. The world we live in is noisy and can be frightening. Sensible confident introduction to everyday life will enable your puppy to be well adjusted. Training classes will assist with socialisation.
Visitors to your house	Instruct your houseguest not to immediately fuss your puppy. Encourage them to ignore his presence until they have been in the house some time. If the puppy is made the focal of attention jumping up and monopolising will always happen.
Young children	Young children and puppies are not always the best mix. Puppies have sharp teeth and claws. Children get over excited and so does the puppy and the play often finishes in tears. It is usual for the puppy to take the blame for any scratching or torn clothes. I feel a puppy must not be put into a situation that can become out of control. Adults should supervise the play and make sure it does not get out of hand.

Health and Well Being.

A dog should be checked over by your vet frequently for any signs of deficiencies and have regular inoculations against the recognised diseases.

A dog must be wormed regularly as advised by your vet.
An adult dog needs worming at least twice a year.

Grooming is an important part of keeping your dog in a clean and good condition.

Regular exercise is essential.

Spraying with “Nuvan Top” or any approved treatment available from your vets will keep fleas at bay.

A sensible diet will ensure good health. A fat dog is more likely to be unhealthy.

Best of luck with your new puppy. Enjoy the growing up from puppy to dog, it lasts such a short time.

Chris.