



General Training tips

Thank you again for allowing me access to your dog and the opportunity to help you with any training needs. Now that you have started your training there are a few things to remember.

1. Train your dog every day in some way. It may just be making your dog sit before eating, not jumping up on people or walking by your side. These little things are vital to maintaining control of your dog.
2. One command from you, should equal one response from your dog.
3. Be firm but fair, remember dogs respect and need leadership.
4. Don't put human qualities into your dog, this is called anthropomorphism. Treating them how you want to be treated as a human generally doesn't lead to a well-trained dog.
5. They are Instinctive, opportunistic, predators and this why your dog acts like it does. It doesn't always live its life to please you. Sometimes those instincts come out and you need to deal with them appropriately.
6. Don't speak in sentences to your dog keep it short and clear, Sit, good dog.
7. Aim to improve your dogs' skills. After mastering commands in a basic format, move to longer time stays, big distances, out of sight, off lead walking etc. Always keep challenging your dog, they love it.
8. Keep training sessions short and fun, remember to always end on a positive note.
9. Praise and reprimand at the exact time of desired or non-desired behaviour.
10. Never give a command you can't or aren't prepared to enforce; this will down train your dog.
11. Be patient with them, some dogs learn quicker than others.
12. Be organised with your equipment and how you handle your dog.
13. Be confident when training, dogs are extremely perceptive to body language, they will pick up on your lack of confidence.
14. Practice a lot of stays and aim to progressively make them longer time and further distance. If they move place them back exactly where she was.
15. Randomly do recalls at home, if they don't come, go, and guide them to you then reward and let them go. Make your dog realise coming to you is the best thing in the world and it is always positive no matter what.
16. Don't over praise her when training, this will lead to lack of focus from excitement, just enough to let her know she is doing great.
17. Remember always release them from a stay, don't let them choose when to move.
18. Voice inflection is vital, don't be boring to your dog, be more interesting than other distractions.
19. Plan your session and what you want to practice.
20. Successive approximation is the breaking down a goal into very small increments. Don't go from step 1 to 10 by skipping steps in between, take it slowly and progression will come.
21. Say name before command, use dogs name to get attention not to do anything.

22. Practice in different environments, to make your dog realise they must listen everywhere not just at home.
23. Your focus with a lead is to keep it loose, when possible, this makes it clear to your dog they are in the right position and doing the right thing. Keeping pressure on the lead when not needed will cause your dog to resist and cause confusion.
24. Food can work well as primary reward, but only give it when your dog gives you 100% effort. Try to use food at the end of a sequence of commands. To keep the power of food use it.
25. Set up scenarios to practice, don't wait until they happen, and you aren't prepared to deal with it. The more your dog is used to it the less they react in real world situations.

Please remember dogs are not complicated, its humans that make it seem so. Be very clear what you want from your dog. They are instinctive, opportunistic, predators even the cute little ones. If you let them, they will take advantage of you very quickly. Without a leader it is not clear what is expected of them. Everything should be binary, they can, or they can't, no grey areas this is what creates issues. Dogs don't take things personal when you ask something of them. They respect, understand, and need authority and leadership, this is what keeps control.

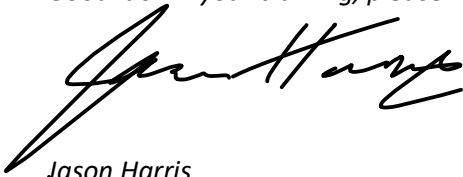
BASIC OBEDIENCE COMMANDS

Sit / Down / Stay / Heel / Come / Leave it / Place / Free

The above commands are all you need to have an extremely obedient dog as they can be taught to an extremely high level on and off lead.

The bond you have with your dog will have a huge factor on how good they listen to what you ask. Respect goes both ways, so spend the time developing a very strong bond with your dog. Don't be a part time dog owner that just feeds them and gives them a quick pat when you get home. If you don't have the time to put the work into your dog, you should not have added one to your lifestyle.

Good luck in your training, please remember I am always here to help.



Jason Harris

www.jasonharrisdogtraining.com.au

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