



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Information Guide

How to get started with dog training



www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Dog owners have an obligation to their dog and to their community to ensure that their pet is a happy, socialised, well trained animal.



THE KENNEL CLUB

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How to get started with dog training

Some may say that dog training isn't for them, but dogs like routine and need to know where they stand in the family pack. Asking your dog to sit or lie down and not jump up is your social responsibility as a good owner in addition to caring for and getting the best fun from your dog. A trained dog is a happy dog.

There are lots of schools of thought on dog training and it is important that you find the right approach for you and your dog.

However, attending dog training classes will help you to ensure that you meet the ethical and moral responsibilities that come with dog ownership, as well as helping your dog to have a happy relationship with you and the wider community.

Puppy Socialisation

Socialise your puppy

Puppies need to meet and have pleasant encounters with a wide variety of adults, children and other animals. Begin when they are very young, taking care not to overwhelm them with too much. Do a little every day, especially during the early weeks. Attending a well-run puppy training class will help keep your puppy sociable with other dogs (contact the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme for a contact list of local clubs). However, please remember that your puppy could be unprotected from some canine diseases until it has been fully vaccinated – speak to your vet for more information.



Educate and teach good manners

Puppies need to know where their boundaries lie just as children do. Teach them gently but firmly what is acceptable and what is not.

Use positive, effective training

Reward based training can begin as soon as your puppy has settled into the household. Use positive methods for all education, from house-training to coming back when called.

Help your puppy find its place in the hierarchy

Puppies need to learn their place in the human pack. Strong-willed puppies need to learn that they cannot have their own way all the time and what you want must come first.

Teach your puppy to be left alone

Pack animals like to be with others and our pet dogs need to be taught to tolerate being alone. Begin with short sessions when your puppy is young and build up to longer absences gradually.

Cope with chewing

Puppies chew while teething and during adolescence. Provide plenty of suitable chews and change them often. Teach your puppy what to chew and what to leave alone. Try not to leave your puppy in a place where it can damage your things or itself. Prevention is better than cure.

Be prepared for adolescence

Adolescence can be a difficult time during which your puppy's behaviour may deteriorate considerably. Try not to worry – it soon passes!

Don't be afraid to ask

If you are experiencing difficulties, ask your vet or other experienced people for advice. Problems with puppies are usually easily solved so ask for advice sooner rather than later.

Finally it is vital that you are patient with your puppy – don't expect too much too quickly as all young animals need time to learn what we expect of them.

Advice on dog training

Find a Dog Club

Whatever you and your dog need, there's a club out there that can help. Finding your local training classes, finding out more about your breed, or getting involved in great canine hobbies like Agility, Heelwork to Music or Obedience has never been simpler.



The Find A Club service allows you to search our database of over 3,000 clubs. As clubs associated with the Kennel Club they must abide by strict codes of conduct, must be well managed and in line with Kennel Club principles of fairness and integrity. Above all, each of these clubs supports the Kennel Club's commitment to the health and welfare of dogs.

Join a club and there's a whole world of exciting doggy fun to be had.



For more information call **0844 4633 980** or visit www.findadogclub.org.uk

Training clubs that run **the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme - the largest dog training programme in the UK** – are a great place to start, as

these clubs will cover every aspect of dog ownership, from Puppy Foundation level through to Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme can provide you with a list of classes in your local area.



For more information call **0844 4633 980** visit www.gcds.org.uk or email gcds@thekennelclub.org.uk

Who should you ask?

The Kennel Club Accreditation Scheme (KCAI) is the "gold standard" for teaching dog training and canine behaviour in the UK. Scheme members abide by a Code of Conduct and are committed to providing you with the best advice and service. The Scheme is the UK's first and only national qualification in teaching dog training and is recognised by City & Guides. Look for the badge of quality when choosing a trainer.



For further information call: **0844 463 3980 ext. 305 or 277** or visit: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/kcai or email: accreditationscheme@thekennelclub.org.uk

Before enrolling with a dog training club it can be beneficial to attend a session without your dog and decide whether this is the right environment for you and your dog. Things you may wish to consider include:

- Do you like what you see – are the trainers friendly, are people happy and enjoying training their dogs?
- Are the dogs happily focused on their human family?
- Are the instructors giving lots of encouragement and information to all attendees?
- Are the instructors maintaining a controlled, safe environment for all?
- Are instructors treating everyone fairly and meeting the needs of the whole group?

When you have selected your training club you will need to enrol in their training programme which will help you to enjoy a happy and rewarding relationship with your dog.

Remember that dog training classes are a great way to socialise your dog but play with other dogs should only be allowed (as a reward) if your dog is happy to respond immediately to your command.



Some training tips

- Always be consistent to avoid confusing your dog.
- Be patient. If you find yourself getting annoyed with your dog during training, stop what you are doing, walk away and do something different. Try training later on in a different frame of mind.
- Train for short spells on a regular basis. This will help to keep your dog interested.
- Your dog needs to know its name so that you can gain its attention. This is essential learning for the dog before you can expect it to respond to commands and signals.
- Start as you mean to go on. Don't allow your dog to develop bad habits.
- Dogs respond to body movements and different voice tones, which can all be used in training.
- Understand your dog and learn to anticipate its next move.
- Handle and stroke your dog gently every day with constant praise so that it gets used to being handled.
- Play adds an extra dimension to a dog's life and can make training fun.
- Remember that a trained dog is a happy dog so persevere!





THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

The Kennel Club works to protect and promote the health and welfare of all dogs in the UK. We want happy, healthy dogs living long lives with responsible owners. All profits from the organisation go straight into funding the many programmes run in the best interest of dogs and dog owners.

Anyone can register their dog with the Kennel Club. By registering you will demonstrate your commitment to your dog's well-being and to the health and welfare of all dogs. You can register online today at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogregistration.

What ever your dog's needs, the Kennel Club is here to help and support you. Find out more by contacting us on 0844 4633 980, or visit our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk and sign up to regular news and features about the wonderful world of dogs.

Additional guides on a wide range of subjects are also available to download from our website at www.doginformation.org.uk:

- Asthma and your dog
- Breeding from your bitch
- Choosing and bringing home the right dog for you
- DNA profiling and parentage analysis services
- Do you know dog law?
- Do you know how to look after your dog in its senior years?
- Do you know what to do if you lose your dog or find a stray?
- Find a rescue dog
- Health screening and the Kennel Club
- How to breed dogs using artificial insemination
- How to get involved in fun activities and competitions with your dog
- How to register your dog with the Kennel Club
- Kennel Club endorsements
- Moving house with your dog
- Road travel with your dog
- So you are thinking of working with dogs?
- Thinking of showing your dog in the UK?
- Thinking of using your dog as a stud?
- Travelling abroad with your dog