

## **Raising a Proper Pooch at Home and On the Go**

Having a dog means lots unconditional love and affection but it also means teaching your beloved pet manners so you – and everyone else – can enjoy his company no matter where you are. Keep reading for a few tips on training for the beginner.

### **Master the basics at home**

There are a few commands that all dogs should know: [sit](#), [come](#), [stay](#), [heal](#), and [leave it](#) are the most common and perhaps the easiest to learn and teach. These commands are important because, should your dog ever wind up outside off his leash, he will need to be conditioned to obey for the safety of himself and anyone in the vicinity.

According to the American Kennel Club, teaching your dog [impulse control](#) will help him remain calm when exciting things happen. But aside from obedience, there are multiple benefits associated with training your dog. A dog who is well-trained is a better companion and learns his place in your pack/family. When he learns to recognize you as a leader, he won't be tempted to assert his own [dominance](#), which Canis Major explains is a potential menace to society.

When you train your dog properly, he or she will understand when it is appropriate to react to outside stimuli and when to let things go. His behavior, however, is directly tied to your own. For instance, if you react negatively to someone knocking on your door, your dog will, too. This may lead to barking in response to every sound made outside the home. When you live in a densely packed neighborhood, apartment complex, or townhome, situations such as this can become a nuisance, creating friction between you and your neighbors

### **Public behavior matters**

Your dog training should extend beyond your driveway, even if you don't plan on letting Tank tagalong every time you leave the house. Teach your dog etiquette in public spaces, such as restaurants, the park, and shopping centers that allow pets. Redfin offers [more information](#) on how to use your own home to acclimate your dog to public situations.

How your dog behaves in public is a direct reflection on you as a pet owner. It is not simply enough for him to have good behavior when no one else is looking. As we mentioned earlier, a dog who will respond to his owner's commands is a dog who is poses less of a threat to the outside world. Dogs who understand proper etiquette both in and outside of the home also run a lower risk of being surrendered to animal control.

### **More reasons to train**

Victoria Stilwell, a world-renowned dog trainer and television personality, reports that [dog training](#) not only strengthens your bond but also teaches valuable life skills and increases your dog's sociability and enjoyment with his peers. She cautions, however, against relying on outdated punishment-based philosophies and suggests instead using positive reinforcement. Training your dog is the best way to ensure that he or she is more adoptable in the event that you are no longer able to care for them. It not only enhances their current quality of life but may protect them from harm later down the road.

It takes time and, depending on your dog's temperament and your patience level, it may not be easy. Some dogs are simply more trainable than others. If you're found yourself at your wit's end, don't despair. Contact your local animal shelter and ask who they recommend for dog training. You may find the issue is less with your dog and more with your methods. Keep at it and don't give up. You can teach an old (or young) dog new tricks and he will be a better companion for it.



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