



## Why train my dog?

### Becoming a more valued family member

Becoming a good dog owner takes time. Just like children, dogs need rules and boundaries, and look to you to show them how to behave properly. Training your dog is a chance to strengthen your bond and give your dog a lifelong grounding that will see good behaviour encouraged, and less desirable behaviours minimised.

It's vital that the dog you choose for your family is suitable. So please consider size, activity needs and the suitability of your home before bringing home a dog. After all, it's a big commitment.

#### We understand...

...it's important to be consistent and constructive in your training and reward the desired behavior.

### Training: the Fast Facts

- Training provides dogs with basic good manners.
- It's important to get your dog accustomed to other dogs, people, sounds and noises.
- Through training, you and your dog learn how best to communicate and how to work together.
- Always teach your dog how to behave with others.
- Create opportunities for your dog to demonstrate the desired behaviour and reward this immediately. Remove conditions that act as a catalyst to undesirable behaviour.
- Don't lose your temper when training your dog.
- Use consistent cues for teaching desired behaviours and be aware that dogs may respond differently in different circumstances.
- Help your dog to respond to basic cues of 'sit', 'stay', 'come', 'heel' and to walk on a loose lead, preferably using a front attached harness.
- Teach your dog not to jump up on people as it may frighten, annoy or intimidate them.
- Make training fun as you learn together.

## We understand...

...your dog will be a better companion, be more welcome in public and be a pleasure to the community when well trained and socialised. Plus some councils offer a registration rebate for trained dogs.



## Join a Puppy School

Here your puppy can interact calmly and safely with other puppies, with people, and in new environments during a vital development stage. See your vet or ask your council for local classes, which only use reward based training methods.

## Enjoy basic training

Dogs can be unpredictable, especially when left unsupervised with children. Teach your dog to 'sit', 'stay', 'come', 'heel' and walk comfortably on a lead. Importantly, if you visit an off-lead park, you must be able to see your dog and it must be under effective voice command control at all times when unrestrained.

Children should be calm, respectful and not 'play-fight' or do 'tug-of-war' games with dogs, as sometimes dogs get over-excited or frightened. Similarly, the dog must be taught how to interact with children. Never leave children and dogs together without active adult supervision. Unsocialised, bored, neglected or untrained dogs can cause problems for their owners, visitors and the community.

## More advanced dog training

These classes help owners to develop a strong bond with their dog to achieve a higher level of communication and understanding. Training using positive rather than negative methods will help dogs become calm and confident rather than fearful or anxious. They teach dogs how to behave around unfamiliar dogs and people, and are a good place to meet other dog owners.

## Proof of training for a registration rebate

A DogSA obedience club or Delta accredited trainer can provide a certificate or letter when you have completed a level of training. Contact your local council to determine what evidence of training they require for a rebate.

## Training: a Good Owner tip

Training lets you enjoy a broad range of activities and dog sports. A trained dog will safely join in the fun when friends visit, you go for hikes, beach walks, swims, and everything else that the family does together.

**To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good dog owner, visit [dogandcatboard.com.au](http://dogandcatboard.com.au)**



An initiative of the **DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD** and your local council. Council information and contact details can be located at [www.lga.sa.gov.au](http://www.lga.sa.gov.au) View the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* along with Information Sheets on selection, health, behaviour and care at [www.dogandcatboard.com.au](http://www.dogandcatboard.com.au)