



LUNE VALLEY DOG TRAINING CLUB

Training is fun! To get the best results make sure you start teaching your puppy in a quiet environment, in the house or garden. Once they are responding well to your commands try the exercise whilst out in the park. Remember to carry treats to reward them with.

WALKING IN A CONTROLLED MANNER

1. Ask your puppy to 'sit' beside you, show your puppy that you have a treat in your left hand: hold the lead in our right hand. Motivate you puppy to follow your hand while giving a command such as 'heel', 'close' or 'let's go'. Praise as he follows you.
2. Reward your puppy while they are still in the position you want them in, help your puppy by keeping your hand with the treat in it close to your leg and lower it down to your puppy.
3. If your puppy pulls or tugs on the lead, you can:
 - a. Stop, be calm and wait for him to top tugging. When he does and the lead is relaxed praise, reward and set off again.
 - b. Or, simply change direction. As you turn, lower your body slightly and motivate your dog to follow with your command in a happy voice. Praise and reward him as you move off again.
4. Keep the distance you walk short, if you succeed in reaching your target without having to stop or turn then break off the exercise and reward.

TEACHING THE SIT STAY COMMAND

1. With your puppy on the lead put him in the 'sit' position and stand in front of him.
2. Put your palm near his face and gently but firmly say 'stay'. Wait a second and reward.
3. Repeat this and gradually lengthen the time between the command and the reward until he is staying for ten seconds.
4. Then you can take a step back, if your dog moves to follow you, quietly and patiently put him back in the 'sit' position and try again.
5. Slowly lengthen the distance between you and your puppy. Always go back to your puppy before you praise and reward.

SOCIALISATION WITH AN UNKNOWN ADULT OR CHILD

The puppy should be carefully introduced on a lead to an appropriate adult or child. They should quietly and gently make friends with the puppy without immediately descending upon it in friendship. If you puppy backs off or shows undue wariness do not force the meeting. Get the person they are meeting to sit on the floor or offer the puppy a food treat. Let the puppy gain confidence to move closer.