

Bendigo Obedience Dog Club

Training Tip 5; Training Time



How can we make the most of training time?

- Plan regular short times dedicated to training
- Don't do everything every time. Have a 2 minute session on just one exercise
- Remember that training time is also every time you interact with your dog.
- Incidental training

Training time:

Have a plan of when you are going to have time to focus on training. Add it as part of your normal daily routine. This might be a session in the morning before work and when you get home.

Short Sessions:

Keep your training sessions short. Lots of short sessions in a day will be more effective than one long session. Dogs, especially puppies, need small amounts of training often in order to learn. Short sessions keep the dog interested and engaged in what you are doing.

In a short session, pick one or two exercises to practice/teach and keep it fun.

Remember: A puppy can only concentrate for a few minutes at a time (just think how hard it is for a toddler to sit still for more than a minute – your puppy is at a similar stage of development).

Every Interaction is Training:

Whilst making dedicated training time is good, just remember that every interaction you have with your dog is training....how are you helping teach them not to nip, jump, give you the ball etc?

Incidental Training:

Incidental training is when you take advantage of a behaviour you want from your dog when you have not asked for it.

Example 1: Your dog is off lead in a secure area and comes back to you without you calling – rewarding your dog for choosing to “come check in” will increase the motivation to come to you when asked.

Example 2: if your dog brings balls/toys back all the way to you, as the dog picks up the ball/toy and turns to come back – use your recall word! The dog is going to come, so get the word association happening of “come” means running back to you.

Remember that your dog is learning during EVERY interaction it has with you—make them count and FUN for you and your dog. Training your dog DOES take time. Your dog is learning a whole new language, so be patient.