

Training Outline

Tips for you!

1. Keep training sessions positive and short enough that they don't get bored.
 - a. Be consistent in what you are asking and how you are doing it.
 - b. Reward with "Yes" and treat in a positive tone.
 - i. Can eventually move off treats as you go but treats are really good at keeping puppy's attention, especially in the beginning.
 - ii. If they aren't interested in treats, try to do training during a time where they are most hungry, before meals, especially before the first meal a day. This will typically create more of a desire for treats.
 - c. Do multiple short sessions a day.
 - i. Feeding time is a great time to turn into training.
 - d. Don't spend too much time on one thing.
 - e. Make it fun and keep it positive.
 - f. Don't get frustrated.
 - i. If you get frustrated, either move on to something else the puppy does know, or just stop altogether.
2. Even the smallest improvement is still an improvement.
 - a. Celebrate even the smallest improvements and build on them.
3. Always end on a good note.
 - a. End the session with lots of positive reassurance and if necessary, end with doing something they already have down.
4. Utilize BaxterandBella Online Puppy School, professional trainer, or even youtube for training tips.
 - a. Understand that there is no one way to do things.
 - i. If one way doesn't seem to be working, try it a different way.
 - ii. Each dog learns differently and at a different pace.
5. Don't give up and say "I have already tried everything and it's not working".
 - a. If they don't seem to be getting it, it's likely that you are not teaching it in a way that they can understand, they need more time, and/or you're not being consistent enough.
 - i. CONSISTENCY IS KEY!
6. Teach them the difference between good and bad
 - a. Mark good behavior with "yes" and bad behavior with "no".
 - i. Do not be afraid to tell your puppy "no", it is a VERY important command that your dog should know.

Basic Obedience

1. Approach with a "sit".
 - a. Your puppy should always approach you politely and sit calmly and wait for your next command.

- i. Do not get your puppy hyped up and excited when they approach you, be calm and wait for them to calm down as well.
 - ii. Don't ever let your puppy jump on you, grab your hand or clothing in their mouth, or bark when they approach.
- b. Any time you are approaching a door, gate, other person/dog/etc., make your puppy sit calmly and praise the positive and patient behavior.
- c. Leash/Collar
 - i. Wait for your puppy to sit and put on without struggling.
 - 1. Your puppy should not bite at the leash/collar, move his/her head to avoid, paw you, etc.
 - 2. Once it is on, your puppy should sit and wait for your next command.
 - a. There is nothing wrong with letting your puppy wear their collar and leash in the house while supervised to get them used to it or to help you work on things such as recall.
- d. Walking on a leash
 - i. Teach "heel" command
 - 1. Start slow and walk, stop, sit, wait, repeat.
 - 2. Talk to your puppy, give reassurance, and keep their attention on you.
 - 3. Any time they get walking too fast or react to some sort of distraction, direct them into a sit and get their attention and focus back on you.
 - a. Praise them when their attention is on you.
 - 4. Do not let them start to pull you to go faster/sniff something/etc.
- e. "Place", "sit", "down", "stay", etc.
 - i. Essential commands for your puppy to learn.
 - ii. Use "treat lure" until they understand what you want.
 - iii. Make them do the command completely before you reward them.
 - iv. Introduce hand and voice signals after they have started to understand what it is you want.
- f. Recall
 - i. Start with your puppy walking around and every time you say their name and they give you their attention, praise.
 - ii. Keep your puppy on a leash until you are confident with their recall.
 - 1. Call your puppy to you and use the leash if necessary to direct them to you.
 - 2. Use lots of treats and praise when they do come to you.
 - iii. Work on recall often.
 - 1. In the house, outside, etc.
 - 2. Don't chase your puppy and create a game out of them not coming.
 - a. This is where the leash comes in handy. If your puppy doesn't come, use the leash to direct them to you.

- g. Retrieve
 - i. Make your puppy bring it back and give it up every single time.
 - ii. Keep them on a leash until you're confident the puppy will bring it to you.
 - 1. Do not chase the puppy ever, it will become a game that is not fun for you.
 - iii. Make your puppy give it up as soon as you ask.
 - 1. Do not play tug of war, not a cute habit.
 - a. Open their mouth manually and get the toy if you have to. Do not tug on it.
 - 2. Give lots of praise when they give it up.
 - iv. Make your puppy sit and be patient for you to throw it again.

Crate Training

1. For the size of your crate; your puppy needs to be able to stand, lay down, and turn around comfortably in the crate. Any less room and it is too small and your puppy will be cramped/growth issues may occur. Any more room and it becomes not only a "bed" area but also a "potty" area.
 - a. You DO NOT want your puppy to have enough room to potty in the crate.
 - b. A blanket/crate pad is not always necessary. Some puppies like a blanket/pad and others don't.
2. Give a treat and positive praise every time you put your puppy in the crate.
 - a. The crate is a good thing, not a bad thing.
 - b. Do not use the crate as punishment.
 - i. Use it as a safe and positive area for the puppy to sleep, settle down, or during a time that you cannot supervise your puppy in the house.
3. Give your puppy toys, chew items, etc. in the crate for distraction.
 - a. Your puppy doesn't have to sleep every time they are in the crate but they do have to be quiet and behaved.
4. Make sure your puppy potties before going in the crate.
 - a. If your puppy doesn't potty, wait 10-15 mins and try again.
5. If your puppy cries when it is initially put in, let it be.
 - a. Give them time to settle down and don't intervene.
 - b. You can also try pottying again if it continues longer than 20 or so mins.
 - c. Make the area that the crate is in as quiet and dark as possible so there are less outside distractions.
 - i. You can put a blanket or towel over the crate if necessary.
 - d. Tell the puppy "no" if the behavior continues too long. Keep in mind, using the command "no" is really only successful if the puppy knows what "no" means.
6. After a few hours, if your puppy seems restless or they begin to whine, take them outside to potty.
 - a. When you take them out, make sure you go DIRECTLY outside.
 - i. Either carry your puppy or if you are having them walk, make sure you keep their attention and get outside quickly so they do not have time to stop and squat before making it outside.

- b. If this is during the night, do not let your puppy play. They are to go outside and potty and back in the crate till the next potty break or morning.
- 7. There is no exact age/time where your puppy doesn't need to be in the crate anymore. There is nothing wrong with crating your dog when you are gone for work, cannot supervise them, etc. for their entire lifetime. It is for their safety and the safety of your personal items.

Potty Training

1. Take your puppy outside and show them the potty area often, especially in the first days of getting your puppy.
2. DO NOT leave your puppy to run around your house unsupervised.
 - a. The key to potty training is not letting them start to potty in the house at all and catching them in the act if they do try.
 - b. Any time you cannot supervise your puppy, put them in their crate, or an area that you do not care if they do potty (play pen with designated potty area, outside, etc.).
 - i. Keep in mind if you have a designated play area in your house that they have room to potty, this can take you backwards with potty training and I don't recommend it.
 1. My first recommendation if you cannot watch your puppy while you're; at work, getting ready for work/outing, out of your house running errands, cooking supper, etc. is to crate your puppy.
3. Your puppy will likely need to potty right after a nap, 10-15 mins after eating/drinking, after a play session, and every couple hours during the day/night.
 - a. You really can't take them outside to potty too much in the beginning.
 - i. If they don't go, watch them closely inside and take them out 10-15 mins later.
 - b. The time in between pottying will likely increase as they age but there is no set amount of time in between that is exact. It will vary on the individual pup.
 - c. If your puppy drinks a lot of water at one time, keep in mind this is going to make them have to pee very frequently.
4. 3.Praise your puppy for pottying outside. If you catch your puppy starting to potty inside, take them outside immediately to finish.
5. Bells on the door are always an option. We do not use these personally so I don't have many great hints/tips but I have heard good things about them.
6. BE CONSISTENT

Socialization

1. The key to socialization isn't so much QUANTITY as it is QUALITY. This means it isn't quite so much about how MANY times your puppy experiences new things/people/etc. but what the QUALITY of those experiences was.
 - a. As a puppy, they will go through fear stages so it is important that you are letting your puppy experience new things and making those new things positive as much as possible.

- b. Even just one bad experience or the feeling of being uncomfortable can make your puppy have issues with children, other dogs, men, women, thunder, loud noises, etc.
 - i. In this same idea, dogs are very smart and can sense how their owner's feel. If YOU are uncomfortable with something, this may in turn make them uncomfortable. So make sure you are being positive and giving off a feeling of being comfortable with things you want them to feel secure about.
- c. Any socialization especially with children and other animals needs to be supervised at all times.
 - i. Children especially need supervision to make sure there are boundaries and mutual respect being had between the child and the puppy. Both are young with mental capabilities that are not fully developed yet and they do things they may not know are wrong or incorrect yet, but could be detrimental.
 - ii. Things can go bad real quick and you need to be there to make sure the interaction between them is good.
- 2. New things can be intimidating, the more the puppy is around those things, and as long as the experience is positive, the more comfortable your puppy will get.
 - a. Make sure you introduce new things/people slowly and ALWAYS in a positive manner.
 - i. Treats are great to give to new people to give to your puppy to show them that they are good.
- 3. If your puppy acts fearful of something, don't just avoid it and/or assume that the fear can't be redirected because most times it can.
 - a. Feeling uncomfortable with new sounds, places, people, etc. for the first time can be very normal. It is your job to teach them that they do not have to be fearful.
 - i. Your puppy will be a lot more comfortable all around, if things they are fearful of are minimized. So don't settle for your puppy being fearful/uncomfortable with things. Help them overcome it!.
 - 1. Take whatever they are fearful/uncomfortable with and introduce it slowly and positively with you showing that you are comfortable with it.