

ENG-132 03

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Draft 1

Many people all over the world love to have pets in their their lives for many reasons and companionship is just one of them. It is important to remember that pet ownership is a responsibility and that the owners are accountable for the actions of their pets. Although the context can vary for every animal, the vast majority of a pets actions are influenced by their owners whether intentionally or not. Due to the life expectancy of most pets and the increased return on your investment of pet ownership, I believe that all new pet owners should investigate and follow-through with the best puppy training techniques. Although many people agree that puppies should behave, I believe it is up to pet owners to be accountable for the behaviors they have trained, whether intentionally or not, and that responsible pet owners should take proactive steps using widely accepted training techniques.

Animals have been on this planet longer than humans have, yet somehow we've risen above them all in the web of life. Some animals began to be domesticated (trained,) as working animals and for companion pets as long as 15,000 years ago. Today, animals are commonplace, usually cats and dogs, however snakes, ferrets, snakes, spiders, rats, and many other animals are also kept as companion pets too. Among these, dogs especially have the potential to harm or scare others with their bite or barks, even in our own home, it is nice to have the joys of a puppy- and not have the issues of chewed on shoes. There may be many tips and tricks, yet many want to know what science says about the best puppy training (Jalongo 1067).

Pets and animals are a big responsibility, and with the time being invested, it is better to invest more up front and train a puppy well so you'll have more fun later. Most experts agree that it is much easier to train a puppy than a full grown dog. Older dogs can be trained, however it is more time intensive and your results may vary. Some of the most basic commands to be taught include sit, stay, and come, however all three should come after teaching a puppy it's name and where to go to the bathroom. Although dogs can be trained using puppy pads, which include a scent to attract puppies, puppies can also be potty trained directly by taking them outside every 1 to 2 hours for at least 10 to 15 minute at a time (Howell).

There are many different ways to train a pet, some people take classes, send their puppy away to special schools, let their other pets acclimate a new one, or ignore it completely (not advised!) Thought most people will do their best to train a new pet themselves, some other people may employ the services of pet behaviorist and attend pet training classes, especially for socialization, bite inhibition and avoiding separation anxiety (Harvey). Whether training their puppies themselves, attending classes with their puppy, or even sending their puppies away for weeks at time to special school. Another common method that is often used by pet owners is to stagger their pets, so that a new puppy is trained by other older pets.

Since the days of Pavlov, we've known a thing or two about training dogs, and although many people may have their own opinion on how to best train a dog, we now also have the benefit of science. Time and time again, the same methods rise to the top. Positive reinforcement and avoiding punishments are keystones of a good program as the amount of patience the owner has can become very important. As building skills can become time consuming, it is important to keep your puppy interested in the training program. One important part to keep your puppy motivated is the selection of treats. The most common treat is to use your puppies own kibble to motivate them and don't forget your personal affection too! Also, small pieces of "high-

value” items can also be used such as freeze-dried liver, cooked chicken or turkey (Lunchick 1066).

It is more fun to play with a puppy than to read this whole paper about them, however now we know that pets have been a part of our homes and families for a very long time and that it’s important to be sure they display positive behaviors. There are many different ways to train a puppy, however we’ve seen that teaching small skills in small sessions with small treats, done consistently over time to be one of the most rewarding ways to train your puppy, and to spend time having fun at the same time. Remember, every interaction with a pet is a training session- the next time you see your pet, be sure to teach them something nice.

## Works Cited

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