

Principles of Canine Learning

Goodpuppy™ Social Club



Since behavior is often associated with place, **practice commands should be given in every room in the house and in familiar outdoor places.** This will teach your puppy to be eager to please in every place in the house or outdoors. Too often, practice commands are given in only one or two places. The consequence is that the puppy obeys reliably only in the location it was trained. Thus, **you need to practice obedience in every place, indoors and out.**



Since behavior is often associated with time, **1 minute practice sessions should be given intermittently during each hour of the day that members of the family are at home,** including weekdays, weekends and holidays. **A practice time of 15 to 30 minutes is NOT recommended** because too often the puppy learns to obey at the time associated with that long practice activity, and does not obey well at other times. **It is best to give commands which can be completed in 1 minute practice sessions (up to 5 minutes with stay), at intervals not less than 2 minutes apart, and from 2 to 5 times an hour.** Learning proceeds best and puppies do not get bored when commands are taught in short periods several times during each hour that family members are home and awake.



Since behavior is often associated with a specific person, **all members of the family, except very young children (under 2-1/2 years of age), should participate in teaching.** Puppies should learn to respond as eagerly for children as they do for adults. **Many unwanted behaviors are prevented when puppies recognize children as leaders and the source of rewards for prompt desired behavior (being eager to please children as well as adults).** Children usually need adult supervision to properly learn to give commands and rewards, and to use humane restraint. The end result will be a puppy that responds to children quickly and eagerly.

