



At HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital, we know that your greatest concern is "Am I doing everything possible to assure my Pet's best opportunity for Good health and long life?" At HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital, we have written policies, procedures and standards in place to ensure that the answer to this question is "Yes!" It's all part of Our Team Commitment To You.

SOCIALISATION & TRAINING

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The socialization, handling and training of a puppy is best done between the ages of 6 and 18 weeks. It was at those time that the young dog will accept almost anything provided that it is (or accompanies) a positive experience. The main factor in training puppies at this age is this focus on positive reinforcement. A new puppy does not yet know what is right or wrong, so rather than scolding it for doing something undesirable, encouragement should be given for performing desirable behaviour.

NOTE – If punishment or reward is given, it must occur within 3 seconds of the action. Otherwise, the dog will not associate the punishment with the crime.

TRAINING SESSIONS



Training sessions must be short, sharp and exciting. Young puppies only have a very short attention span. So, limit your training to five minutes, two to three or even four times a day.

Also be consistent with your commands. Pick one word for each action that you wish your puppy to perform and stick to it. A single command word (rather than two or three combined) is easier for the dog to recognize.

THINK ADULT

In all areas of training your dog, think of how you want him/her to behave and what role you want him/her to play when s/he is an adult dog. This is how you must treat him from the time that he enters your home.

For example, it is very difficult for a dog to understand why he is suddenly made to sleep in the backyard, when he has spent all his life (to date) inside the home.

Your pup is not going to stay small forever, so you must seriously consider what is going to be desirable behavior for an adult, fully grown dog in your family.

EXERCISES

Before EVERY command use your dog's name and get his attention. Make the way in which you call his name interesting and sexciting - so that he's got a reason to forget about what he's doing and pay attention to you.



HANDLING



Handle your puppy every day. Poke your fingers in his ears, mouth and between the pads of his feet. Clean his ears and trim his nails. In this way he will readily accept it when he needs to be examined, medicated and groomed.

Also be present when he eats so that he doesn't become possessive about his food. Perhaps even place you hand in his food bowl and allow him to eat around your hand.

COME HERE

Only ever use this command in connection with a POSITIVE experience, otherwise you may find that you have a dog that runs, away when you call. Also call your dog when you know he is going to come anyway (e.g. for a meal or a walk).

SIT

Sit is a dog's way of asking; "Please" or "may I" So before performing any task the dog should ask you permission. (E.g. please may I go for a walk, cross the road, have my dinner, etc.)?

