



Train your dog in 30 seconds

*Want a well-behaved obedient dog?
Training will help you achieve that*

With the single exception of heeling, whatever trick or behaviour your dog needs to learn can be set up in 30 seconds, pain-free and without force.

Dogs learn all the time, especially puppies; the key to developing a great and loyal canine companion is making sure that what your dog learns is what you want him to know.

Whether you want to train your dog yourself, find a class or work one-on-one with a trainer, you can create a routine that helps develop your dog's innate intelligence.

Training sessions at home can be short and sweet for tricks like sit, drop, shaking hands, or roll over; quick, focused sessions will work wonders. And Rover won't get bored.

Research in Australia and overseas shows that dogs, like people, learn most efficiently when their behaviour is rewarded. Research further indicates that punishment is pointless (Herron et al 2009).

Whether you want to train your dog in just good manners, competition-level obedience, treibball, or another dog sport, it all begins with the basics. Your dog may already be a well-behaved pet but needs an outlet for boundless energy – there are classes and groups that will meet these needs.

If your dog has already developed unwanted behaviours, like jumping up on you, barking, digging and so on, working with an experienced trainer will show you ways of eliminating these unwanted behaviours and setting up new ones.

So how do you choose a qualified positive reinforcement trainer?

1. Ask around

- Ask your local vet clinic, AWL or RSPCA animal shelters, groomers or other people who work with dogs to see if they can personally recommend a trainer that uses positive reinforcement methods – i.e. someone who focuses on rewarding the desired behaviour and ignoring or managing undesirable behaviours.
- Look up an APDT trainer by going to www.apdt.org.au and click on the Trainers Directory tab.

2. What to ask the trainer

- What is your area of expertise - pet dog training, behavioural problems, competition obedience?
- What's your experience in training dogs? Do you teach or consult with people?
- Do you have any accreditation or formal training?
- What methods do you use?
- What class would my dog be suitable for? (puppy, beginners, advanced?)
- What is the instructor/student ratio in your classes?
- May I come and preview one of your classes?
- May I contact a recent client for a reference?
- Does the trainer require dogs in class to be vaccinated or to have a health check?

3. Assess the answers

- Is the trainer happy to take time to answer your questions?
- Are methods based on rewarding desired behaviours? APDT Australia advocates dog-friendly training methods based on positive reinforcement training.
- Avoid trainers who insist that physical abuse of any kind is necessary to train a dog. Abuse begins when knowledge ends.
- Does the trainer invite you to preview the class - good trainers welcome visitors (without dogs of course).
- Avoid trainers who *guarantee results*. Variables in dogs, owners and the environment mean that training outcomes cannot be guaranteed.

Can you *guarantee* your children's behaviour for the rest of their lives?

4. At the class

- What feeling do you get at the classes? Are dogs and owners having a good time?
- Is the atmosphere relaxed but orderly?
- What is the instructor's attitude to the dogs?
- What is the instructor's attitude to the owners? Reward training isn't just for dogs – it's for owners too. A skilled trainer will demonstrate and explain each training exercise clearly and attend to questions courteously and professionally.

APDT Australia is a non-profit organisation committed to providing ongoing education for dog trainers based on sound scientific principles and current best practice. Its members have a vast range of skills, knowledge and experience, with a wide variety of approaches to training dogs and their people. All members agree to abide by our voluntary Code of Ethics:

- Perform services to the best of their ability within the guidelines of this Code of Ethics.
- Employ only humane, dog-friendly techniques in the training of dogs.
- Actively reject the use of harsh, physical, psychological, coercive and aversive methods in the training of dogs (including the use of electric shock collars and/or pinch/prong collars).
- Make the welfare of the dog of primary importance.
- Be honest and trustworthy.
- Treat all dogs with respect.
- Do no harm.
- Promote responsible dog ownership.
- Actively pursue ongoing education in order to provide a service based upon sound scientific principles and current best practice.

- Promote a positive human/canine relationship between owner and dog.
- Work at developing and applying positive methods of dog training.
- Provide a service of the highest standard within the limit of my skill, knowledge and ability.
- Respect the confidentiality and privacy of clients.
- Not advertise myself as a member of APDT Australia Inc. without prior approval of the Association.
- Not represent myself as a spokesperson for APDT Australia Inc. without prior approval of the Association.

APDT Australia's mission is education and we encourage our members to use dog-friendly training methods based on rewards not punishment. In Australia there are currently no requirements or standards that people must meet in order to advertise themselves as dog trainers so it is a case of 'buyer beware'!

The APDTA Australia Trainers Directory has listings for professional trainers around Australia.