

# Teaching your dog new tricks.

Training and socialising your dog.



*An initiative of the Dog and Cat Management Board and your local council.*

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**Dog bites occur  
when dogs have  
not been taught  
how to act around  
dogs and people.  
Socialise your dog.**

## Socialising

**It is very important for dogs, to be socialised with other dogs and people.**

Dogs that haven't been socialised may become shy, fearful and can sometimes even become aggressive. They may not develop the necessary social skills to interact with other dogs.

**Socialising your dog involves introducing it to a whole range of new experiences including meeting different types of people, dogs, other animals, places, smells & noises.**

When introducing your dog to new experiences, pay attention to your dog's composure. If it is holding its ears back, has its tail down and is trying to make itself appear smaller it is telling you that it is afraid.

### FIRST ENCOUNTERS

Be careful when introducing your dog to other dogs. It is crucial that your dog is on a leash when it is being introduced to other dogs. Allow your dog to approach side on, have a quick sniff and then step back for a moment. Reward your dog for its brief interaction with a new friend.

### YOUR DOG & VISITORS

Just as your dog needs to interact with other dogs it will also benefit from meeting many different types of people. Teach your dog to sit before you allow visitors to stroke it. Allowing it to jump up may frighten or annoy some people, and children may feel very intimidated by the behaviour.

## **Training**

**Always dedicate some time each day to training and exercising your dog.**

It's important that your dog has a degree of obedience training so it will respond to you as its owner and be a well-behaved and social member of your family.

### **LET THE TRAINING BEGIN**

Your training program will be much smoother if you consider a few basic things. First of all, your dog will have to learn a whole new language – Yours!

**Use short, simple words such as “Leave” - “Sit” - “Come” etc., praising and rewarding the dog when the behaviour is what you want. Do this with a consistent tone of voice. The trick to training is to make it clear to your dog - immediately - that only good behaviour is rewarded with attention of any sort. That is the basic formula for training a dog.**

**Apply it with patience, persistence, consistency and kindness – you'll be amazed and pleased with the results.**

## Handy hint “Sit”

Dogs can also be taught to sit using food as a motivation and a reward. Give your dog the “Sit” command and keep repeating it while moving a piece of food from in front of your dog’s nose up over its head. It will sit in order to try to watch the food – feed immediately and give praise.

### **USE A 2 SECOND RULE**

Your words and actions must be within two seconds, whether you are praising or reprimanding your dog. Dogs have no concept of the past or the future. Most importantly, they must be consistent. Don’t nag your dog constantly. If the dog is ‘in the way’, let the dog go outside for a while. Dogs will display ‘dog type’ behaviours, such as play fighting, chasing and jumping around, some barking, yipping and other vocalisations. A dog is a dog – not a human being.

### **NEVER CALL THE DOG TO YOU TO DISCIPLINE IT**

The dog must always associate coming on command with a reward, even if that reward is simply a pat. When it comes to you it must be praised for doing so. Later on when you are doing some obedience training or calling your dog in the park, you will be rewarded with a dog that comes easily and quickly, anticipating the kind words and pats it will receive when it gets there.

**It is very important for dogs, in particular puppies, to be socialised with other dogs and people. The best way to do this is to take your dog to a puppy pre-school or dog training school. Contact your local council or the South Australian Canine Association for your closest training school. Remember, if your dog is trained and issued with a training certificate, you will receive a rebate on your dog registration fee. Visit [GoodDogSA.com](http://GoodDogSA.com) for more information on training and socialising your dog.**

**Each year, dogs bite more than 100,000 Australians.  
Be a responsible dog owner.**

**Two out of three dog bites happen “in the backyard”.  
Supervise children with dogs.**

**Dog bites can occur when dogs are wandering at large.  
Never pat a dog you do not know**

**Almost 50% of all serious dog bites occur in children under 10 years of age.  
Never disturb a dog when it is asleep or eating.**

**Two out of three dog bites involve the family, neighbour or friend’s pet dog.  
Teach your dog how to behave with visitors.**

