



# Homework

At Peace Love Dogs, we believe that every interaction with a dog is a learning opportunity. We take advantage of this by teaching owners how to incorporate training into their everyday life as much as possible. We want your dog to behave in real situations, not just when it's a training session.

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## TRAINING SESSIONS

There are skills that require you to set aside time to practice before you can incorporate it into your regular routine. Here are tips for success:

- \* Use your dog's scheduled meals as a training opportunity. This turns mindless eating into a productive activity to help satisfy your dog's intellectual needs.
- \* Keep training sessions short. We recommend 5–10 minutes for beginners, and 15–20 minutes for dogs and owners that are more familiar with training.
- \* Keep training sessions fun! If you (or your dog!) are frustrated, learning happens slowly or not at all. Take a break and come back to it later if necessary.
- \* Make training sessions frequent. Practicing once a day will make progress, but if you practice 2 or more times a day you will notice results.
- \* Start with a warm-up of easy behaviors to help build your dog's confidence.
- \* Do not constantly increase the difficulty when your dog is learning. Going back to an easier step will help keep your dog engaged in the training and keep their confidence up.
- \* Use a variety of rewards to keep your dog engaged and to avoid relying on high value treats.
- \* Practice in a variety of locations, including outside of your home.
- \* Play with your dog after every training session. This helps teach your dog to work in anticipation of the playtime afterwards.
- \* If something isn't going well communicate with your trainer!