



Training tips for dealing with problem behaviour

At one time or another, every owner has to deal with problem behaviour. Here are some basic guidelines to help:

1. Control the dog

... and you control the situation. Put on a training collar and lead – this means business to the dog, not playtime. A dog who is on a lead cannot run away or chase people, and his owner has a chance to help him to understand what he should do by guiding him with the collar and lead.

2. Be positive

Instead of saying "No", try giving your dog something positive that he can do for you, such as "Sit" or "Heel". This positive approach means you can praise generously for his good actions, instead of simple yelling at him. For example, a dog who jumps up can be told to sit, then praised for sitting.

3. Allow a dog to be a dog

Often, what owners consider a problem is normal dog behaviour that they find unpleasant or annoying. For example, digging is a natural canine activity but distressing for a garden proud owner. Instead of scolding for what comes naturally, it might be kinder to set up an area in which you have buried small treats to make it more attractive than the rest of the yard, and praising your dog for digging in "his" garden.

4. Exercise, exercise, exercise

The most common cause of problem behaviour is boredom and lack of sufficient exercise. While you work or go out, your dog has little or nothing to do, and his need to exercise will not go away. A familiar house or yard is boring, and few dogs exercise on their own without interaction from their owners. Take time to play with your dog, walk, jog or swim with him every day. A tired dog is always a well behaved dog.