

## TRAINING YOUR PUPPY

Most owners can benefit from attending good training classes, and training in the company of other dogs is very useful, because of the realistic distractions it involves. Ideally, you should start your classes as soon as your puppy's vaccinations are complete, but classes can be invaluable for older dogs too.

There are lots of schools of thought on dog training and it is naturally important that you find a class and training Instructors with the right approach for you and your puppy. You can find training classes by using the Kennel Club's Find a Club service – visit [www.findaclub.org.uk](http://www.findaclub.org.uk) to find a club near you running training classes. You can also ask your vet and other dog owners for recommendations. Dog training can be lots of fun and very rewarding. After all, a trained dog is a happy dog, and a happy dog makes for a happy owner too.

### Finding the best dog training club

Before enrolling with a dog training club it can be beneficial to go and visit several classes first (without your puppy) to make sure you have made the right choice. Things you may wish to consider include:

- Do you like what you see – are the trainers friendly, are people happy and enjoying training their dogs?
- Are the dogs happily focused on their human family?
- Are the instructors giving lots of encouragement and information to all attendees?
- Are the instructors maintaining a controlled, safe environment for all?
- Are instructors treating everyone fairly and meeting the needs of the whole group?

### Important training tips:

- Start as you mean to go on. If you are always consistent you will avoid confusing your puppy
- Puppies have a very short attention span so train for short spells on a regular basis
- Keep it short and keep it simple, but most of all keep it fun
- Puppies respond better to cheerful voice tones rather than to threatening orders
- Gentle play builds trust and a strong bond between you and your puppy as well as making training fun
- Patience is the KEY ingredient in dog training. If you try to rush things you will only get frustrated and confuse your puppy
- Keep it interesting: cultivate a range of different rewards incorporating play, fuss, praise, treats and toys. This will stop both of you from getting bored