



# NEWBURY & DISTRICT DOG TRAINING SOCIETY

Established 1962

## Important notes for every dog owner

1. **Clean up** after your dog, £1000 fine if you don't. From 1st February 2017 every dog owner/walker/handler **MUST** carry waste bags if you don't it's a £100 fine.
2. Every dog/puppy must be **microchipped** or tattooed, and also wear an **ID tag** with telephone number and address on, **do not** put the dog's name on the tag.
3. **Avoid nylon leads** as they can burn your hands. **Flat collar** and haltie if needed.
4. You should **wear flat comfortable shoes** nothing that will make loud noise on wooden floor etc. No flip flops. Ensure your clothing has nothing flapping in the dogs face.
5. Feed your dog's **dinner after a training class/session**. The dog will want the training treats more readily and be more keen to work for you. Don't worry about the amount of treats you use just reduce their meals accordingly. Treats need to be **HIGH value** meat/cheese/liver etc.
6. Dogs **control their body temperature** through their tongues and pads in their feet, sweat through tongues. Essential to ensure lots of **fresh water** always available indoors and outside. Remember when it is really hot your dog can **burn their feet** on the pavements.
7. **Dogs nose** is very precious. Millions of sensors in their nose please therefore never smack your dog's nose.
8. Please never leave **young children** and your dog alone together. It is not fair on either of them.
9. **You control everything**, you own everything including the dogs bed and toys. You decide when its play time and you decide when and where the dog goes to bed.
10. **Door/Gate manners** - You go through doorways first then invite the dog through.
11. **Food manners** – tell the dog to sit and wait for you to put the food down on the floor then you choose the command to release the dog to eat such as OK, go on then etc.
12. Puppies have a very **short attention span** so don't ask your dog to do something if you haven't got a treat ready. Good or bad behaviours need to be pin pointed to the puppy when in the act, so say 'YES' or use a clicker to mark a behaviour reward or correct QUICKLY.
13. **Reward your dog, don't lure them**. Luring gets the dog to perform the exercise but they don't learn if you do it every time. Let the dog work out for himself what you want.
14. **At first one command one treat** (the treats need to be small as you want them coming back for more) treats can be weaned off by asking him to do 2 commands for one treat, then give him a treat every now and then this will keep him guessing if he's going to get a treat or not. Other ways to treat our dogs is to play ball, a massage behind the ears or by stroking them.
15. **Don't train** your dog if you are in a **bad mood** as it won't be good for the dog or you. **Little and often is the key for training**. Remember a fully matured dog will only ever have the mental ability of a 3yr old so don't expect miracles.



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16. One set of **consistent commands** for all the family. Write them on a post it note and put them on the fridge door. Practise these exercises in many different places **start indoors** and then outside in your own garden before trying in public areas.
  - a. Sit
  - b. Down (try to get him to go down from a sit and from a standing position)
  - c. Wait
  - d. Stay
  - e. Come
  - f. Close or heel
  - g. Watch
  - h. Leave
17. **When you have five minutes or so** (while making a cup of tea or while the adverts are on the tv) do some short exercises like a recall, down or stay and treat.
18. Your **tone of voice** is critical when using commands. Higher pitched more notice the dog will take. Also remember to use your dog's name when practising heelwork and praise the dog when it is doing well. To encourage good behaviour, **laugh/smile** after they have done a sit or down etc., they will find this great fun, therefore encouraging the behaviour.
19. If you are getting **bad behaviour** such as your dog jumping up excitedly for your attention. Turn your back on the dog and ignore them waiting until it calms down and you get the behaviour you want and then gently praise the dog so they learn bad behaviour will not get your attention. **Time out** is good for any unwanted behaviour. Remove them from the situation. However always think what have **you** done wrong as usually it is a mistake we have made that causes the reaction.
20. **Never laugh** at your dog if they do something wrong. It is like children what is amusing behaviour for a toddler is not amusing behaviour as a teenager.
21. Don't let **puppies/dogs under 12 months run up and down the stairs or to jump in and out of cars etc.** This is bad for their joints, bones and leg development and will cause problems later in life. We would recommend **no agility until they are at least 18months old.**
22. Remember puppies should only be **walked for 5 minutes for every month in age.** So don't over walk them when they are little.
23. **Socialising** is important. Take them where lots of people and noises are to get them conditioned. Into town, on a bus and train. Into your local pub.
24. Don't let your dog **off lead** in an open area until you are happy you have a solid recall. Use long lines to practise this. Remember the rules are when you are out walking if you see another dog approaching you and it is on the lead do not allow your dog to run loose up to it. If you see another dog off lead it should be fine to approach but use your judgement and instinct.
25. **Aggressive behaviour** – If your dog gets attacked by another dog, firstly walk him/her around, DO NOT make a fuss. Making a fuss might make YOU feel better but it's bad for the dog you are simply saying to the dog it's ok/good to be scared. Once the dog has been



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walked around for a couple of minutes check for any wounds, most of the time there aren't any wounds but its best to check, if there are some and you are concerned then take the dog to the vets immediately.

26. **Practise checking/handling** your dog all over its body this gets them used to having their feet, ears, eyes, backend and teeth checked and also generally being handled by a vet etc. You should clean your dog's teeth daily with a small tooth brush.
27. If the **dog is constipated** crack a raw egg into their food. If the **dog is loose** break a hard boiled egg including shell into their food. Any symptoms persist contact your vet immediately.
28. **Don't throw food outside** your dog will get most of the food/treats but not all of them. If this food is left there overnight slugs and snails will crawl all over the treats, next day the dog may find the treats eat them this causes **LUNG WORM**. LUNG WORM is deadly. Play hide and seek outdoors this is fine but don't throw food. Slugs and snails have all got the potential to carry the dangerous lungworm parasite. So, when your dog rummages through undergrowth, drinks from puddles, eats grass, or generally sniffs around outside; they can end up eating these slugs or snails either accidentally or on purpose. Although slugs and snails can give off foul-tasting substances that prevent them from being ingested, some dogs just appear to ignore these warnings. Also, any contact with the slime trail in outdoor food and water bowls, even over toys left out in the garden, can be enough to cause infection too.
29. When doing **heelwork** remember dog to come with you step off with your left foot. Dog not to come with you step off with right foot.
30. **Bonding Games** (with all these games you decide when it starts and when it finishes, don't be bullied into starting a game):-  
Throw a treat to your left, let them run to get it. The throw a treat to the right, let him get it etc.  
Ball games like fetch  
Playing tuggy  
The Touch game  
Spin to the right and spin to the left. I like to say 'twist' (anti clock wise) and 'other way' (clockwise)  
These are all good bonding games and will help get your dog's focus on you.