

GOOD THINGS TO TEACH YOUR PUPPY:

In addition to sit, down, stay, etc, these are very helpful thing to teach your puppy.

1. Give a name to elimination. I use "busy." If, the second the puppy pees or poops, you quietly but enthusiastically say, "Good busy," it won't be very long before you will be able to say, "Go busy" and achieve the desired result.
2. Teach your puppy to WAIT at the door of his crate, at any open door, before he is allowed to eat his food.

You can begin this most easily with the crate. Unhook the door, say "Wait," and then open it a tiny bit. If the pup starts out, gently push the door back toward him and say "Wait." Try again. Be gentle with the corrections, each time reminding him to "Wait". You should be able to open it a little wider each time until you have it open all the way. Gently praise ("good wait") and then quietly release.

It's good to also always ask for a "wait" before going through any door, such as every time you take him out to potty. A dog who always waits at every open door is not going to accidentally run out into traffic.

Also, ask your puppy to "wait" before he eats. Once he has learned sit, you can ask him to "wait" while you put his food down. Then stand up straight and wait until he looks at you (he will look at you eventually). Tell him "good boy" and then "release."

******All of these behaviors, besides giving you a safer and more well mannered dog, also establish your position as leader and give your puppy a sense of security.**

3. Choose and consistently use a release word. I use "release." OK is a common release word but is not ideal because we use it frequently in every day conversation. It is easy to release your dog without meaning to.

Never reward a release. You reward behaviors **as they are happening** (sit, down, stand). Release simply means "We are done, relax." It's like "at ease" in the military. If you reward the release, the pup will anticipate that reward and break his stay, etc. , etc.

4. If you have a fenced in yard, keep a cookie jar near the door and reward every time the puppy comes when you call. Don't call if you don't think he is about to come anyway, but if he is headed in, say "Come!" and have a party when he gets there including treats. The more you treat a desired behavior, the more firmly established it becomes.