

Puppies can begin training as young as 8 weeks and walks can begin as soon as your puppy is fully vaccinated.

The best reward for training is the dog's own food, a favored toy and affection.

Teaching a New Command

Sit: From a standing position, hold a piece of food directly in front of their nose and say the dog's name. Slowly move the food over the dog's head until the nose points straight up; its rear end will naturally be leveraged into the "sit" position. Say "sit" as it assumes the position, then give rewards and praise. Having your dog sit when they meet people, especially children, teaches them to greet properly rather than lunging or jumping.

Down: Begin in the sitting position and hold a piece of food directly in front of their nose. Say the dog's name and with a swift movement, move the food down to the floor directly next to the dog's front paws, say "down", then give the reward and praise.

Stay: As soon as the dog is sitting, make eye contact, extend the palm of your hand toward the pup, and in a firm voice say "stay". Wait only a few seconds, then return to your dog, calmly praise them, and give the reward while the dog is still sitting. When they successfully stay for 10 seconds, you can increase the distance and time until your dog fully understands the concept.



Don't shop, ADOPT



The best time to begin training is when your dog is calm, like after a walk or play session, and always remember patience and consistency are key.

Handling: Your dog should accept all forms of handling without resisting, showing fear or anxiety. Handling should be practiced regularly and when you reach a part of the body or a type of handling your dog resists, proceed gradually and gently until your dog becomes accustomed to the handling and accepts it. Rewards and affection can be given for each successful step.

Socialization: If they don't have a chance to learn about the people, animals and things in their environment, they may become fearful or aggressive. Socialization and exposure to as many people (including children), car rides, animals, sights and sounds as possible is important to their social development. Another excellent way to promote socialization is to take your dog to training classes. Ask your veterinarian about classes in the area.

Any pushy, demanding, undesirable, or over-exuberant behavior should be ignored and corrected with a firm "quit" or "off" command; dogs do not respond well to forceful training.

California Law

- ◆ No person shall tether, fasten, chain, tie, or restrain a dog to any stationary object for more than 3 hours in a 24-hour period. A person who violates this chapter is guilty of an infraction or misdemeanor.
- ◆ All dogs over 4 months must have a rabies vaccination. The initial vaccination, with another vaccination one year later then a rabies booster every third year. Only a licensed veterinarian can administer a rabies vaccine. All dogs should also be immunized against parvovirus, distemper and hepatitis.



Feline Specific Training

Destructive scratching: Provide a safe stimulating environment and keep your cat's nails trimmed. You can buy or build a play center for your cat to climb, perch, and scratch properly with spring-mounted, dangling, or bouncy toys to bat around.

Unwanted chewing: Indoor cats with little access to grass may chew houseplants. Offer them lettuce, catnip, or a kitty-safe herb garden in exchange. If the area cannot be barricaded or blocked off, chewing can be discouraged by using commercial anti-chew sprays, citrus oil, vinegar or a stack of plastic cups set to topple when the cat enters the area.

Play time: Teasing a cat with your fingers and toes may seem like fun, but the attacks can escalate when this behavior is encouraged. Play interaction should involve tossing or dangling toys to chase and catch and/or providing a feline playmate of the same age and temperament. Physical punishment, such as swatting, thumping, or smacking should never be used. Instead, try a squirt of water from a spray bottle or an audible alarm to discourage unwanted behavior.

Wallie
Shelter Mascot



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Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Thursday: 10 - 5
Friday - Saturday: 10 - 4

(Adoption kennels close last 15 minutes of business day)

Online License Services

licensepet.com/wl3/reghespwl



@HesperiaAnimalShelter

CARING FOR YOUR PET

