



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Obedience Training

Training is communication. Make training and communication part of your daily life with Fido. You will find that consistent training will enable you to enjoy a much better relationship with your companion animals. And, despite the common adage, old dogs can learn new tricks. The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA's obedience training philosophy is positive-only reinforcement. Here are a few basic tenants of our program.

- Respect is essential to the training relationship. Gain her respect by using the “nothing for free” method: make her say “please” (by obeying a simple obedience command) for meals, treats, playtime, walks, etc.
- Be consistent. Never give a command unless you are prepared to follow through.
- Set her up to succeed. Praise and rewards are much more effective training tools than punishment. Praise her the instant she obeys. Reward her with the good things that are part of her daily life (meals, affection, etc.).
- “Look at me.” Teach Fido to pay attention when you say her name. Paying attention to you is the first step in training.
- “Come here.” Treat these words like gold: use them only when something wonderful is in store for Fido. If you call her away from playtime and then put her on-leash and take her home, you are punishing her for coming to you. Instead, call her from playtime, give her a treat, and let her go play again.
- “Sit” and “Lie down.” Use a treat to lure Fido into these positions. As soon as she obeys, the treat becomes a perfectly timed reward. You are also teaching her to watch your hand as you give the sit and lie-down hand signals.
- Phase out the treats as soon as Fido is responding first time, every time. Don't phase out the praise. Ask her to do several commands for one treat.

For more information on classes, see our application and schedule

For more info, call our free Behavior Helpline (650/340-7022 x783 or, for Spanish, x786) or consider a low-cost consultation. To make a consultation appointment, call 650/340-7022 x667. The PHS/SPCA Behavior Department, like many shelter programs, is funded by donations.