

## Siberian Husky Obedience Training

### Learn obedience training for your Siberian Husky.

You are about to begin Puppy Class 101. Rule No. 1: The puppy must learn that you are now the alpha dog and his new pack leader. Rule No. 2: You have to teach him in a manner he will understand (sorry, barking just won't do it.). Remember always that he knows nothing about human standards of behavior.

#### Word Association

Use the same word (command) for each behavior every time you teach it, adding food rewards and verbal praise to reinforce the positive. The puppy will make the connection and will be motivated to repeat the behavior when he hears those key words. For example, when teaching the pup to potty outside, use the same potty term ("Go potty," "Get busy" or "Hurry up" are commonly used) each time he eliminates, adding a "Good boy!" while he's urinating. The pup will soon learn what those trips outside are for.

#### Timing

All dogs learn their lessons in the present tense. You have to catch them in the act (good or bad) in order to dispense rewards or discipline. You have three to five seconds to connect with your puppy or he will not understand what he did wrong. Thus, timing and consistency are your keys to success in teaching any new behavior or correcting bad behaviors.

Successful puppy training depends on several important principles.

1. Use simple one-word commands and say them only once. Otherwise the puppy learns that come (or sit or down) is a two- or three-word command.
2. Never correct your dog for something he did minutes earlier. Three to five seconds, remember?
3. Always praise (and offer a treat ) as soon as your puppy does something good (or stops doing something naughty). How else will the puppy know he's a good dog?
4. Be consistent. You can't snuggle together on the couch to watch TV today, then scold him for climbing on the couch tomorrow.
5. Never tell your dog to come, then correct him for something he did wrong. He will think the correction is for coming to you. (Think like a dog, remember?) Always go to the dog to stop unwanted behavior, but be sure to catch him in the act or your correction will not be understood.
6. Never hit or kick your dog or strike him with a newspaper or other object. Such physical measures will only create fear and confusion in your dog and could provoke aggressive behavior down the road.
7. When praising or correcting, use your best doggie voice. Use a light and happy voice for praise, and a firm, sharp voice for warnings or corrections. A whiny "No, No" or "Drop that" will not sound convincing, nor will a deep, gruff voice make your puppy feel like he's been a good fellow. Likewise, use your own voice when talking to your dog—don't baby-talk.

Your dog also will respond accordingly to family arguments. If there's a shouting match, he will think that he did something wrong and head for cover. So never argue in front of the kids—or the dog!