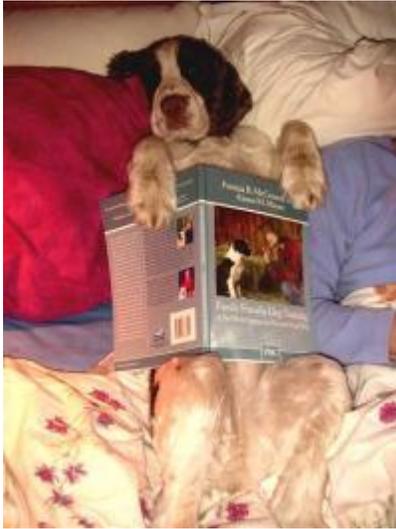


TOP TEN TRAINING TIPS



#1. BE POSITIVE!

Dogs learn much faster and are more reliable if they learn to feel good when they do what you ask. You'll have a much more well-behaved dog if you learn to use positive reinforcement rather than forcing your dog into a behavior. For more on positive reinforcement, buy our book [Family Friendly Dog Training](#).

#2. LEARN TO "SPEAK DOG"

Dogs don't come speaking English, and they don't read minds. Communicate less with your voice and more with your body (like dogs do), and your dog will understand you better. [Both Ends of the Leash](#) is a fantastic video that will help you develop better communication skills with your dog.

#3. BE A BENEVOLENT LEADER TO YOUR DOG

Your dog is dependent on you, and needs to know she can count on you to be responsible. That doesn't mean you should be a tough taskmaster, far from it. Think of the best teacher you ever had, and try to emulate that with your dog. For more on being a benevolent leader, buy our booklet [How to Be The Leader of the Pack](#).

#4. LEARN ABOUT LEARNING

Training animals isn't intuitive, and we're not taught how to do it in school. Don't assume you know how just because you love your dog! To better understand emotions and how dogs think, read [For the Love of a Dog](#). This book is a combination of science, stories and practical advice that can improve the relationship between dogs and people all over the world.

#5. LEARN TO "READ DOG"

Dogs have remarkably expressive faces, but we often fail to pay attention to what they're trying to tell us. Look for relaxed bodies and open mouths on happy dogs, and stiff bodies and closed mouths on dogs who are, at best, concerned about something. [Reading Between the Lines](#) video will help you "read" dogs so that you can predict and influence their behavior.

#6. TRAIN THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Avoid long training sessions every evening by scattering training exercises throughout the day. That way you'll always have time to train your dog, and your dog will learn to listen wherever and whenever you ask. [Family Friendly Dog Training](#) is based on a six-week training schedule that will help you help your dog become a well-behaved, happy member of the family.

#7. MASTER A FEW EXERCISES

You're much better off teaching your dog a few, simple exercises and practicing them in a variety of contexts, than teaching your dogs lots of signals that only work if he's not distracted. One of the most valuable signals you can teach your dog is the "watch" signal. This is described in detail in our booklet [Feisty Fido](#).

#8. BE CONSISTENT

Don't say "Ginger Come!" in the morning, and "C'm 'ere, Ginger" at night. Our dogs are trying to learn a foreign language, and we just confuse them if we keep changing the words! [The Other End of the Leash](#) will show you how dogs interpret our behavior, and explains how to interact with them in ways that bring out the best in our four-legged friends.

#9. TEACH GOOD BEHAVIOR

If your dog consistently does something you don't like, figure out what you DO want him to do, and teach him to do it, rather than correcting him for doing what's wrong. Even if you don't have a full pack of dogs, [Feeling Outnumbered](#) video is chock full of positive, enjoyable exercises that teach your dog to be patient and polite, rather than pushy and demanding.

#10. LAUGH A LOT!

Why not? Training should be just as fun for you as it should be for your dog. You'll both do better if you make it all into a game and have fun with it. For more about playing with you dog, buy [Play Together, Stay Together](#).