

TRIXIE Dog Training Discs

Manufacturer's Directions for Use:

No matter how many dog breeds there are, even in your dog, 85% of his behaviour is based on his ancestor - the wolf. This fact is often forgotten and many dog owners tend to attribute human feelings to their dogs.

Like the wolf, the dog is also still a pack animal and in his pack, a strict hierarchy rules. In order for the pack to continue to survive, the rank and hierarchy must be clearly defined. That means that the owner must take the role of the lead dog - the alpha wolf, and must not leave this role to his/her dog.

Here we have gathered several tips that will help you to establish the hierarchy between you and your dog.

1. Your dog should not have access to all rooms in your home. Keep doors to the off-limit rooms closed, and close off stairways with gates. Keep these constraints of movement up as long as necessary until your dog has gotten used to the rules.
2. Your dog should only be rewarded (ex. with treats, petting, playing, etc.) when he/she has actually earned it. Don't allow your dog to demand this from you. In this case, make your dog wait, then control the event.
3. Do not allow your dog up on the furniture. Assign your dog a sleeping place that you can take away or use yourself in order to emphasize the hierarchy between you and your dog.
4. Fill your dog's bowl with food while he is present. Don't allow him to eat immediately, but rather give him his food only after you have eaten. That way he learns that you get the best, and he gets the rest.
5. Only play fighting games that you can win, ex. rope pulling, etc. The game is over when you want it to be. Place the toy somewhere your dog cannot reach it when you are finished.
6. Go through narrow passage ways such as gates and doors first. Your dog should neither go first, nor place himself in the way.
7. Your dog must stand up and change his spot when you come near him in the house or apartment.

Your dog should wear a collar during the training phase so that you can more easily assert yourself in certain situations.

Using Training Discs for Dogs

The Training Discs make a sound unique from the usual noise your dog is confronted with in everyday situations. In contrast to key rings, tin cans, etc., Training Discs can be picked up, carried, and put away without making a sound. That means that the discs only make a sound when you want them to.

First, let your dog get used to the unusual sound of the Training Discs, but do not try to work on a specific behavior problem right away.

It will take a while before your dog recognizes that you only use the Training Discs when he/she does something that you don't like. The sound helps to make the dog aware of the owner, who encourages better behavior from the dog and also rewards him/her when he/she does something correctly.

Please note that for use with multiple dogs, the Training Discs should be used for each dog individually. We do not recommend the uses of Training Discs at dog parks, etc.

For introducing Training Discs, we recommend the following training program:

Give your dog treats while saying the word “take” or “yours.” Act like you are placing a treat on the ground without saying anything. While your dog is following your hand with his eyes, ring the Training Discs in your hand. Your dog will completely ignore this noise. Instead of the treat, throw the Training Discs on the ground. Now pick up the Training Discs and ignore your dog, who will look for the treat (that you didn't actually put on the floor).

Repeat this procedure several times, in which you also actually place the treat on the ground, and then throw the Training Discs down as soon as your dog comes near the treat. Always pick up the treat again before your dog can eat it. The goal is that by simply ringing the Training Discs, your dog ignores the treat on the ground.

Because you are the alpha wolf of the pack, all food belongs first to you. Your dog has no right to take the food. When he tries to, you must immediately react with the training discs. Once he has understood the principal, your dog will ignore food on the floor without your having to use the training discs.

The Training Discs can now be used to interrupt behavioral problems. Only concentrate on one problem at a time, and praise your dog often. That way the work is more fun for you and your dog.

Below, we'll describe how to train your dog with help from Training Discs.

1. Calling Back

You want your dog to come back to you when you call, even when he is distracted and thus isn't fully concentrated on you. In this phase, you can simultaneously get your dog used to the sound of the Training Discs.

- Allow your dog to go as far as he wants away from you on a long running lead.
- Throw the Training Discs cautiously near him (that way you can easily get his attention) and at the same time call him in a loud and strong voice, “here” or “come.”
- Generally your dog will first curiously look to the Training Discs, but you should immediately require that he comes back to you. If necessary, you can tug lightly on the lead. You should not literally pull your dog back to you, however.
- As soon as your dog has come back to you, praise him in a friendly and exuberant way, but not with a loud voice.

- Your dog should “voluntarily” stay with you as long as you want. Your dog is only allowed to enjoy the full freedom of the lead after you give the command “run,” or “go.” At first, you'll definitely need to help him by holding the lead short.
- Start walking forward again and inconspicuously pick up the Training Discs.
- Repeat the “calling back” routine 4 to 6 times with 10 minute breaks between each round.

2. Sit

You want your dog to sit on command and stay until you give another command.

- Get your dog into the sitting position.
- Clearly say “sit” (best reinforced with a hand signal such as raised pointer finger) and stand back away from your dog. Turn your back to your dog, but keep watching him/her.
- As soon as your dog starts to stand, throw the Training Discs down hard on the ground, but do not say anything when you throw the discs.
- Get your dog back into the first position and repeat the procedure.
- Take a little break at the end of the lead, during which your dog should stay sitting without standing up. Then go to him, praise him, and give him the command “run” or “go.” Your dog should sit as long as you want him/her to.

3. Lie, Place, or Down

You want your dog to lie down on command and stay until you give another command.

- As in section 2, get your dog into the sitting position and then get him into the lying position. Repeat the steps like with the command “sit,” but this time with your pet lying down and with the command “lay” or “down.”

4. Heeling

You want your dog to walk at your left leg, and he should walk there voluntarily because he feels safe there.

- Have your dog (with lead on) sit next to your left leg. Start walking and hold the lead short. At the same time say clearly, “heel.”
- In the moment that your dog starts walking before you have given the “heel” command, let the Training Discs fall behind the dog.
- Start again from the beginning by having the dog sit next to your left leg.
- Repeat the heeling procedure until your dog realizes that the Training Discs don't come, when he heels.
- After the heeling, you should release your dog's stress, by giving him the command to run ahead.