



The 5 Crucial Skills Your Dog Must Have, & Why

Many people get new puppies, take them to a few obedience lessons, and never use those skills again. Others adopt dogs from shelters, and soon find themselves in over their heads with a dog that has had little to no training. Soon their dogs develop bad habits in the home and they are at a loss for how the habit developed and what to do about it. The reality is that many behavioral problems can be addressed with the basic obedience skills. Below is a rundown of the basics that every dog should learn, and the benefits of each.

Loose-leash walking

Teaching your dog to behave on a leash is one of the first things you should strive to master, and absolutely necessary for you and your dog to enjoy life together. All of the best things life has to offer you and your dog are going to be found outside! Leashing your dog keeps them close, safe, and in most jurisdictions it is a legal requirement. Make sure they know how to walk with you instead of pulling you around and getting tangled on obstacles in your path.

Sit

When you teach a dog to sit, you are teaching composure. Sitting is incompatible with behaviors like jumping on people or pulling on the leash. Any time training gets to be overwhelming, you can always stop and ask for a sit.

Down

As a more relaxed and comfortable pose than sitting, down can be used for extended lengths of time. With your dog lying down, you can eat dinner in peace without the dog begging for food. Your dog can be brushed, have its nails trimmed, or have a leash put on without difficulty.

Stay

This is the command you will use if you need to move away from your dog. Stay can be used in a sit or down. Use this if you want to answer the door and keep your dog at a safe distance. Use it if you're making a meal and need your dog to stay put while you move around the kitchen. Use it when getting the dog in and out of your car, so you can fasten a child in or while loading and unloading other items.

Come

This is a critical command for dogs to learn, and yet for most owners it is the least reliable. Leashes fail, fences can be climbed or dug under, and doors get left open. Sometimes you will have to be able to call your dog back from making a big mistake. A reliable recall ensures your dog stops whatever it is doing to turn and run back toward you. Keep your dog

away from a dogfight, small children at a park, and out of the street by teaching this command.

This is not an exhaustive list of all the possible commands you will ever need, nor does it include the many fun games and tricks you can teach your dog. These are simply the most important skills for any dog-human team to master together, as a basis for a safe and harmonious relationship. Learn how to train your dog to do these things and it can make your life, and theirs, so much easier. So now that you know why you need to teach your dog these skills, how do you do it?

Get the App!

[*Dog Training Fundamentals*](#) is a mobile training guide which can teach you how to train all of the above commands on your own, without paying for an expensive class or hiring a trainer. It breaks down every step of training your dog into simple and easy-to-follow instructions, and includes video demonstrations you can use to hone your technique.

Why not a book or DVD?

While there are many excellent training guides available in other formats, they often include extra information you do not need and are difficult to follow along with in real time. [*Dog Training Fundamentals*](#) is designed for the busy dog owner, cutting straight to the how-to of training your dog. In addition, you already carry your smartphone with you wherever you go, so it is easy to access quickly when out with your dog and jump directly to the tutorial you need.

Here is the best part...

This app costs less than the price of a bag of training treats! At the time of this writing, a one-pound bag of *Crazy Dog Train-Me! Training Reward Treats* costs \$10.49 at PetCo. You can download this app once and use it for life.

Even if you are seeking in-person training, or have more advanced issues to work through with your dog, this guide can help you. Getting started with basic obedience makes behavioral modification easier, and is a requirement for more advanced training. If you are working with Connell's Dog Training in person, it can save you money with the included customer loyalty card (after three lessons at full price, you will get 50% off your fourth). Plus, this app is an interactive work in progress – you can expect to see loads more features added in the near future, based on feedback provided by you and other users!

Get these benefits and more by downloading [*Dog Training Fundamentals*](#) today!

