

Tips to Make Training Successful!

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- Catch your dog doing something right! Always be prepared to reinforce behaviors you like. The more you let your dog know which behaviors you like, the more likely he will be to repeat them!
- Enjoy your dog! Spend time with your dog outside of training sessions. Really get to know him. What are his likes and dislikes? What captures his attention? What does he have to teach you? Become his friend and partner.
- Dogs do what works! If a dog's actions get him something that he enjoys, he will continue to do those behaviors. If a dog's actions cause something he doesn't like, he will stop doing those behaviors.
- Teach your dog to pay attention to you. If he is paying attention to you, he can't be paying attention to other distracting things. It will be much easier to redirect your dog's behavior if he will stop and pay attention to you when asked.
- Reduce stress! Dogs and humans do not learn well when they are stressed. If you or your dog is stressed, stop training and try again later. Reducing stress in your dog's daily life will help him to be more receptive when it is time to learn new things.
- Plan ahead and set your dog up to be successful. Set up the environment so your dog will make good behavior choices. For example, do not leave the chicken on the table while you leave the room, unless you take the dog with you! Or, unless you want the dog to eat the chicken!
- Dogs react to our thoughts and emotions. Think positively! Instead of thinking about what you DON'T want your dog to do, create a lovely picture in your mind of what you DO want it to do. Then help to make it happen.
- What you use to reward your dog must be something that the dog thinks is special! It isn't enough for YOU to think it's special. Use whatever it is that your dog gets excited about, even if it's not your choice at the time. You will get better effort out of your dog!

Debbie Bauer is a certified Healing Touch for Animals® practitioner, a certified Tellington TTouch® practitioner, a published author, and a professional dog trainer. She has over 28 years of training and consulting experience working with dogs and their people. She specializes in working with dogs that display fearful, reactive and aggressive behaviors, in a positive manner. Debbie has trained dogs in a variety of fields including therapy and assistance dogs, print ad and media work, obedience, agility, and scent work. One of her passions is working with and educating about deaf, blind, and blind/deaf dogs.