



# PENGUIN VETERINARY CENTRE

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## 9 Puppy training tips.

***[Please Note: Toilet Training & Walking on the Lead are not addressed here. They can be easy, or may be complex issues, and will be covered for you at Puppy Pre-School]***



1. Use your pup's name **ONLY** to get his attention. Once he has looked your way, follow up with a command: a quick one like "Come" or "Here, Boy" rather than repeating his name.
2. Especially **do not use his name when you are cross!** He WILL remember that, and understandably ignore you next time you call, or may cringe away! say "No" gruffly & then give an easy to obey command, such as "Sit" so all is OK in his world again, and YOU are the boss!
3. Ensure everyone uses the same commands and body language with the pup. And **keep it simple:** give one word commands, just "Good Boy" for praising. **Keep it stress-free. Keep it fun.** From 6- 12 weeks, pups 'age' at about one human year per week: would you expect an 8-year old child to understand things so quickly? or to adapt to change so fast?
4. **"Sit"** is a very important command. Think of it as the pup saying "Please". If he wants to play, go for a walk, have a treat, first he must "Sit"
5. **You and your family must ALL be recognised by the pup as Top Dog.** Everyone should go through a door before he does; don't let him push you aside. Don't let him walk ahead of you. Keep him on the floor when you sit on the sofa. Feed him after you have eaten.
6. If you are doing something like a nail trim, fur trim, tooth check etc and he complains or wriggles, well, you may not manage to do what you intended, but don't let him know that !..... keep at it until he lets you do something positive. For instance, if you cannot trim a nail, at least close the trimmers shut near that nail. Otherwise: **he will have learned how to teach YOU a lesson!**
7. **? Problem chewing?** He does need safe chew toys. You can encourage him to chew them by smearing them with vegemite or cream cheese. When he chews other things, say NO, remove the thing, but also offer him the legal chew toy instead.
8. **? Problem Jumping up?** When he jumps up, freeze. Keep still, cross your arms, avert your eyes and ignore him. [Be boring!] When he has dropped to all fours again, or is sitting if he has learned to do that, then go down to his height, stroke his chest [NOT his head] and say "Good Boy" before leaving.
9. **Overexcitement ?** When you come home, IGNORE him if he rushes at you, jumps up, is excited. Wait until he has settled; tell him "Sit". THEN you can play!