

Book review

The Pet Gundog



Dog trainer Ross McCarthy says: "This is one of the most refreshing books on dog training that I have read for many years. Author Lez

Graham tackles the subjects of rewards and discipline and provides a balanced mode of dog training that the reader can easily emulate.

"This is a book about practical training with a comprehensive and clear description of the underlying behaviour within our pet dogs and how we can utilise those intrinsic drives to enhance obedience training.

It should be a prerequisite for dog owners to read – it's not just of use for those who own gundog breeds, but for all dog owners. Whether you wish to train a working gundog, a pet gundog or simply have greater understanding of dogs in general – this book is the place to start. So good do I believe this book to be, I recommended it to numerous clients before its publication!"

The Pet Gundog is priced at £12.99 (plus p&p) from www.thepetgundog.co.uk or tel. 0845 467 0027. To be in with a chance of winning a copy, fill in the form on page 7, putting 'The Pet Gundog giveaway/August' as the competition name. Five winners will be drawn at random after the closing date 31 August 2010.

5 to give away!

K9Q feedback

Consider fostering

I am writing in response to Sarah Waymer's question 'Keeping Mum happy' in K9 Queries (May 2010 issue). I lost my dog Malibu (as featured in letters in the same issue) shortly before my letter was published. I was devastated to lose her after 11 years and nursed her with a heart problem for 18 months. I would love to give a home to another rescue dog but don't feel ready to rehome a dog at this stage. I very much miss the companionship a dog gives and a suggestion I was offered was to foster a dog or mind a dog while the owner is away. Perhaps Sarah's mum could consider



Fostering a dog short-term can bring pleasure without long-term commitment.

this option, where she has the companionship of a dog without the commitment? I would not consider a young pup because of the work involved with training and exercise. Malibu came to me when she was two years old and I consider this a good age as she was out of the puppy stage but young enough to enjoy company and adapt to a new life.

Dolores Reseigh, Australia



Go get 'em with your new-found agility skills!

Six easy-to-follow agility steps from Burgess Pet Care:

Step 1: Wait

Teach your dog to wait and then slowly build up the distance you can leave him. Make sure you give your dog a 'release' command so he knows when it is OK to move: you can use "OK" or "Go". You want your dog to enjoy waiting, so make it enjoyable by rewarding the 'wait' with praise,

Agility know-how

a toy or a treat. Make the release fun too.

Step 2: Recall

Leave your dog in a 'wait', walk a short distance away and, with your back to him, release him to you and lure him into your left or right side using a toy or treat. This will get your dog learning to look for your hand signals.

Step 3: Run with me

This is an informal heelwork exercise. You want your dog to run next to you (on both sides) without crossing in front of your path or behind you. Start by putting your dog on a lead and use a toy or treat to keep his attention, build up to a jog, then a run, then to running with

your dog off lead. Practise both with him on your left and on your right.

Step 4: Left & right

Teach your dog to turn left and right. Start training at home and, with a toy or treat, lure your dog in a circle to his left, saying "Left", and reward. Repeat this several times, then do the same for the right command.

Over the next few weeks start to fade the lure. When out on a walk if you change direction tell your dog which way you are going to help his understanding of turning left and right. As your dog learns the game you can play this when out on a walk and use it when doing the 'Run with me' exercise.

Step 5: Send on/away

Hold your dog by the collar and throw a toy or treat in front of you both, and as you release him add a "Go on" command.

Step 6: Altogether now

Finally, when you feel ready, try putting it all together...

- Walk away with your back to your dog and release him to your right
- As your dog approaches your side start to run, keeping him on the same side
- Then ask your dog to 'go on'
- As he moves out in front of you, use a direction command to turn him left or right.

Log onto www.burgesspetcare.co.uk/pet-tube/dogs/59.html to see more on dog agility.

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