

Puppy Starter Training:

Below are the best YouTube videos on training that I have seen. The techniques used are exactly what I do. The YouTubes were done by Standing Stone Kennel in the Midwest. I think that you will find them interesting. The key is to work with your puppy on a consistent basis at the optimal times and with the right motivators. Having said that, all puppies are different. Some will take 2 weeks to go through the steps and some 3 weeks. Some are more enthusiastic, and some just pick it up quicker than others, but they will all get there. You can do it and the puppy can do it. Just be patient and consistent in the words you use in your training and the timing of your actions (clicking). The best schedule for puppy training is before their breakfast and dinner when food is a great motivator.

Puppy training requires you having a good treat and a clicker. The treats are the real motivator for a puppy and they need to be tasty. The person on the video uses the puppy's food. I do this too, but I find sometimes the puppy may slow down in the training to take the time to chew the food. Occasionally I use something else. Treats need to be small, soft, something they desire, and can be swallowed quickly. The treat should be soft and small (1/4 in. round). Pre-packaged treats are at PetSmart, Target and on Amazon. I have bought smoke flavored (great smell), beef, chicken, bacon, salmon, cheese, and peanut butter flavors. Some are more motivating than others depending on the dog. You just need to find whatever it takes to get a good reaction from your puppy if their regular food is not working. Some people cook a chicken breast and cut it up, or use a hotdog quarter sliced lengthwise and cut in little pieces. I have tried it all. If they are not motivated by wanting the treat, you will have a problem. Again, they also need to be hungry so train before meals.

You will need to work your way through the training process with patience. The YouTubes make it look easy. As the training progresses to a new next step, I always start out the session by doing the exercise they already know. When they are having a hard time doing something, it is fine to repeat prior exercises to reestablish their success in following your command again – they will eventually do the new task.

With a clicker it is all about timing of the click and their brain starting to make an association of the click sound to getting the treat. I use their name continually with a command to help them learn it. I also go ahead and use the verbal command early in the training process, even if they do not fully know the verbal command initially, you will see the association begin to develop – i.e., xxx HERE, xxx Sit, xxx PLACE, etc. You will be surprised how quickly they do start to follow them. I also use hand signal motions with the commands – pointing for place, raised palm for sit, and put my hand pointing down for here. Another key is to give lots of enthusiastic praise for doing things well as you give them a treat – i.e., good place, good sit, etc. Something that is not in the YouTubes that I like to also teach is the command to STAY in PLACE, which done with my palm facing them. While I like to teach them to HEEL on the leash, at this age the idea is to just walk with me on my left and not fight the leash. Initially you coax the puppy along treats and pulling them in your direction. They will shortly get the idea. Pleasing you will become very important to them. Spending non-training time with them really helps build the bond that will make the training easier.

Here are the training YouTubes:

Step 1 = Puppy Start —

[Labrador Retriever New Puppy - Do This First - YouTube](#)

Step 2 = Come or Here —

[Labrador Retriever Teach Your Puppy To Come When You Call - Gun Dog Training - YouTube](#)

Step 3 = Sit —

[Labrador Retriever Clicker Train Your Puppy To Sit - Gun Dog Training - YouTube](#)

Step 4 = Place or Kennel —

[Labrador Retriever Teach Your Dog to Stay on a Dog Bed - Gun Dog Training - YouTube](#)

Step 5 = Fetch —

[Labrador Retriever Teach Your Puppy To Fetch - Gun Dog Training - YouTube](#)

I am always here for questions. However, if you determine you don't have the time availability to do the training, housebreaking and crate training yourself, arrangements can be made for me to work with the puppy training for you.

Another point to be understood is that while Puppy Starter Training is a great foundation, at some point, your puppy will start to think more for itself. Enthusiasm and energy will take over, versus following your directions – “which do I want – that squirrel over there or the little treat for sitting down?” Therefore, at 6 months or older your puppy will need to get more formal obedience training. Give us a call and we can talk about scheduling the 3 or 4 week more complete program.