

This calendar is a tribute to all the puppies out there and to their custodians to help you get your pup off to a good start.

Most puppies are sponges - they soak up all the information you can feed them - as long as you keep it simple and keep it fun.

Puppy training is not a chore - it's a game. Maintain your sense of humor at all times. If pup doesn't feel like fetching don't panic, relax and try again the next day.

It only takes about 2 10-15 minute sessions a day to teach your pup. The key is consistency - when not in a 'formal' training session, always insist on compliance - Here means Here, Sit means Sit, etc.

Do not give a command you cannot enforce. If you say, "Here" and pup is running after a rabbit, who do you think he's going to obey - you or his instincts? Keep a check cord on pup so that you can reel him in if he doesn't listen. Treat him for being good.

Always keep treats handy so that you can reward good behavior.

Once the pup understands a command gradually decrease the treats on a random schedule until you can stop all together.

Only use the treats for obedience and put them away when you start retriever training. Pup may start spitting out the bumper or bird to make room for the treat. Don't worry about this now - it can be solved later - just concentrate on fetching and bringing it back to you.

**Always set the pup up for success -
build confidence rather than break spirit**

