

# DOG LIFE

## Misconceptions about dog training

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You're fed up with your dog for not listening to you, so you look for a trainer who can educate Fido to be the perfect dog. Well, there's more to it than just hiring a professional trainer to help you. Dog training is not hard as long as you follow instructions from the trainer and practice. But don't think that one or two classes with your trainer will make Fido a perfect dog. The trainer is not a magician.

You as an owner must realize that the effort required in the training must be taken seriously to achieve your goals. The trainer will program and teach you step by step how to execute the command at hand. It takes patience, persistence, consistency and repetition on a daily basis. Do not think that the two minutes you are putting in for training will be enough; it won't. The minimum time spent in training should be 20 minutes two or three times a day. If you take Fido for a walk, however long it may be, you must always practice the commands during those walking times.

Make sure you fully understand the command at hand, so you can clearly teach Fido. If you are not sure, ask

the trainer as many times as it takes to teach you and show you until you understand it. Once you understand how to give the command, then you can apply it.

How long it takes to teach a dog a particular command depends on the age of the dog, its gender and breed,



and how serious the owner is. The standard time for obedience training depends also on what the trainer's obedience program consists of. Here's an example:

At Executive Dog Training we have full A-to-Z training of all the obedience commands, which lasts anywhere from 8 to 10 weeks. If additional time is required, that is not a problem, and there will not be any additional charges. The obedience commands, at a quick glance, would be: heel, left turn, right turn (these are all sharp turns), sit, sit stay, down, down stay, basic hand signals from the side of Fido, and also from in front, come sit in front and the finish (heels and sits to your left). For more details you can go to our website at [www.executive-dogtraining.com](http://www.executive-dogtraining.com). In the left menu, click on VIP Obedience. Some owners will opt out of some of the commands, because they won't be needing them. That is a choice made by the owner.

Once you have finished your classes, you may think Fido is done and is perfect. Nope. You're under a misconception, because Fido is NOT done. Yes, you have completed all your classes, but you have advanced Fido

from habit to understanding but not to a conditioned level. This means you still need to use and practice everything you have learned on a daily basis. If you don't keep up the training and you procrastinate, you will fail. No one but you will be to blame, not Fido or your trainer.

People will put more time and effort into preparing for a party or an outing than into training Fido. Then they wonder why Fido isn't doing well.

On another note, just because the classes are over does not mean you should stop using your training equipment. If you don't use it, you will not have the control you wish for. Always use your training gear until your dog reaches maturity. By then, if you have been vigilant and serious with the upkeep of training, you will notice you no longer need the training equipment.

Have a woof woof of a month.

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