
S U N D A N C E R E T R I E V E R S

15 Day Guide For Success with your Companion Dog

Items you will need :

18- 20 inch fine/medium metal choke collar

Six foot Leash

Tennis balls, dog toys etc.

Kohler Method of Dog Training By William Kohler

A dog crate

You have just pulled into your driveway. Whether you picked up your dog from the airport or have made the long drive home, your new companion has arrived to his/hers new home.

By following this (humorous and at times very,very boring) guide, you and your partner will quickly be hitting the trails but, first, you need to learn how to work together...

Day1: Welcome Home!

This is your dog's first day home.

After your dog (let's call him Buck) has gone to the bathroom, put him in a crate in a quiet yet central area of the house. Tell him that he is a "good boy" and go unpack your bags.

This allows Buck to take in his surroundings in a safe,neutral way.

He can listen to the sounds of the new house , take in new sights and smells, all from the safe place of his crate.

While you are unpacking, lets go over some examples of " being a bad adult":

- * Leaving your new dog alone, uncrated while you go to work. Not only will your house be destroyed there will be a least one unpleasant mess for you to find.
- * Free feeding your labrador. Your new dog has always eaten his or her allotted amount , once a day. Leaving the bowl full all day long will make your dog pig out, get sick and possibly become overweight.
- * Allowing your three year old child to walk the dog down a busy street. There is no positive outcome for this, someone is going to get hurt.

Now that we have covered being a " Bad Adult" go and be a good one, you can do it!

When you are ready, open the crate and put the choke collar and leash on Buck , then invite him out.

With the leash on, take him out to the yard again to do his business. Once he has gone you can invite him back in the house (sitting before and after going in the door).

With the leash still on, allow Buck to explore the house for a little bit and then put him back in his crate.

When he is walking with you he should be at heel. When not walking he should be sitting or lying down.

Your tone with him should be calm and conversational.

(Please put down the tennis ball and dog park passes.... put them back in the closet.)

The First Week:

Your first week should be very much like your first day. Buck should be very comfortable and used to a routine by now.

(The bumpers, tennis balls, dog park pass should still be in the closet)

- * He knows which door to go to when he needs to go out.
- * He knows that in your home, he should be quiet and well behaved . He knows that he should be calm, because in the house you have reminded him that " here, heel and sit" still apply.
- * He looks for you to guide him because that is what you have done from the moment you brought him home.

Day Six

It is 9am and the phone is ringing.

Your friend Stacey is on the end, she is just as excited about doing exciting things with Buck as you are!

In fact she is so excited that she wants to bring her five dogs over for a play date, doesn't that sound like fun?

You look at Buck, he wags his tail and you think " well , why not?".

STOP! FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS AND ALL THAT IS AWESOME, PLEASE STOP!

Consider the next second a "defining" moment. Common sense prevails and you tell Stacey "Hey thats a great idea but, I just got the dog a few days ago and he is still settling in"

Stacey is disappointed , she sniffs a bit but you promise to go for coffee tomorrow afternoon.

You have spent a considerable amount of time and money on a dog that NEEDS TO GET TO KNOW AND TRUST YOU before you put him in an excitable situation where he may NEED to listen to you.

Congratulations you just passed your first " Excited Friend" hurdle.

End of Week 1

By now you and Buck are comfortable with the foundation of Here, Heel and Sit. In fact, hopefully, you are so bored with the words Here, Heel and Sit that you never want to read them again.

Sorry.... you'll read the words a few more times and please put the bumpers back in the closet)

Week 2

Buck is comfortable. You can see this in the wag of his tail when he greets you, the soft unworried look in his eyes.

When you get up in the morning, his tail is beating so hard and fast against the crate, the whole box wobbles.

He scampers outside to do her business and runs back to you when he is done.

He enjoys riding in the car and you even left him alone (windows cracked a bit) just long enough to grab a few groceries at the store yesterday.

He rest's quietly in his crate or at your feet (still on leash) while you watch BlackList on TV.

You have worked on the foundation of Here, Heel and Sit (sorry) and you are very confident that when you say " Here" he comes , " Heel" he heels and " Sit" she sits.

Congratulations!

In two short weeks, you have successfully brought your new dog home, acclimated him to his new environment and have had pleasant “conversations” using a language that his foundation of training was built on.

Because you took the necessary time to get to know your dog , there are no limits to what you can teach each other.

I would now refer you to the numerous books listed on your dog’s personal journal or on the FAQ page of the website.

You can take each book step by step and have fun learning how to work together on the more complicated drills.

As always please feel free to call anytime. My cell phone number is 814-790-2643.