

YEAR 1

Yearly Focus

Now that you've developed a relationship, bring your dog's training one step further with obedience and skills training.

TIPS & TRICKS

Keep crate training! It does not have to be overnight or for several hours but be sure that vet visits aren't the only time your dog sees their crate.

Switch up their toys so they do not get protective or possessive of any one toy.

Check his or her collar, harness, etc. What fit him as a puppy may not fit now. Your puppy is likely around 90% of their adult size now, so feel free to invest in a longer-term piece of puppy equipment.

TRAINING

Advanced classes – Now that puppy classes are behind you, you can enroll in more advanced behavioral classes. An honorary distinction for well behaved dog is to earn his or her AKC Canine Good Citizen Award. In class, your pup will learn all the good manners needed to get along well in human society, and at the end of the class, he will be tested to make sure he knows his stuff. If he passes the exam, he will get a certificate and the title of Canine Good Citizen.

Words – Average-intelligence dog breeds can learn around 150 words. Very smart dog breeds can learn up to 250 words! Do not underestimate your dog and use your words wisely. If you'd like to, try out some Doggie Buttons, such as FluentPet or VocalPups. These are the Staples Easy Button equivalent for dogs, when your dog presses the button to request a bathroom break, the word "outside" will be spoken aloud by the button.

Service – Dogs can learn service behaviors even if they are not qualified service dogs. Here are some skills common to service training that all dogs can benefit from: advanced impulse control, retrieving named items (leash, keys, phone), placing items in a bin, trash or recycling and opening or closing doors.

SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

Competitions- If you are interested in getting into any canine competitive activities, now is a great time! At one year old, your dog will have the necessary maturity and attention span to successfully participate. Check out local groups for agility or rally events. Rally is a cross between agility and obedience. Still other events, like flyball, dock diving and tracking, can be plenty of fun for both dogs and their owners.

Playdates – If your dog enjoys the company of other canines, consider setting up some doggie playdates. If you have friends with dogs who also like to play, get together and let the dogs frolic. If you don't know any other dogs for your 1-year-old to play with, find a social dog group or a doggie daycare facility near you and sign your doggie up. Encouraging him to spend time playing with other dogs helps with his ongoing socialization. It also enables him to burn off some energy. When he or she comes home after spending the day at doggie daycare, they will sleep like a baby.

HEALTH

Some dogs will feel tired and well exercised after running or walking. Other dogs, typically herding breeds, need more mental stimulation to feel satisfied. If your pup likes to run, they can build up to eventually joining you on a 2 – 5 mile run in the coming 12 months. At this age, your dog can likely join you on hikes, hiking on his or her own. Still monitor your dog for signs of fatigue and rest when needed!

Medium size dogs typically reach their final height around 15 months old. As your puppy reaches their approximate adult height, you can begin to switch them from a puppy diet to adult dog food.

Brush your dogs' teeth and groom their fur routinely. Between daily to twice a week works for most breeds.

Your puppy may be due for their annual rabies vaccine, consult with your vet about your puppy's schedule.

