Enrichment

It is important to provide a variety of enrichment opportunities to keep your pet's brain active, give them brain exercise and help satisfy their natural needs as a dog but also inherited breed specific requirements. If you haven't already - then research your dog's breed/s and find out what they have been bred for and unlock the activities they will love! The Kennel Club's breed A-Z pages and breed specific clubs are a good place to offer further information.

Enrichment can help dogs use their natural instincts, prevent boredom and teach skills. It can range from something as simple as sniffing out hidden treats in boxes or snuffle mats to pulling on a harness ahead of a runner or cyclist or even flyball and agility.

Enrichment will not only mean they learn new skills, but it will also help improve your relationship with one another and also boost their confidence.

Muzzle Training

At some point in your dog's life, it is very likely they will need to wear a muzzle. This can be for a variety of reasons and isn't exclusive to any breed types. For example: to stop scavenging on a walk, dogs with a high prey drive, visits to the vet when your pet is in pain, general safe handling at the vets or groomers or due to legislation requirements for certain types of banned breeds.

There is a common misconception that wearing a muzzle is cruel or it shows that the dog is aggressive but that is absolutely not true. Training your dog to wear a muzzle can be a fun training exercise just the same as any of the other new skills you teach them; like walking on the lead or learning a new trick. It's important to train them slowly and in a positive way so they don't become distracted or uncomfortable with the muzzle.

We have a large section on muzzle training on our website; https://millenniumvets.co.uk/advice/muzzle-training

Training Classes

Training with your dog is great fun, your dog will love it as much as you will. It is a great way to strengthen the bond between you and your dog. Getting booked up for puppy/dog training classes is a must, alongside all your training and hard work at home, whether you have a new puppy or adult dog.

This is especially important for a puppy to ensure they receive adequate training and socialisation. Having a well-behaved puppy that leads to a well-behaved dog is what everyone wants. Putting in the time in the first 6 months to a year will ensure this.
Do your research first and find out the best puppy training classes near to you.

Unfortunately, there is no national mandatory body that regulates dog training establishments, but there are organisations that accredit training schools for their positive training methods, through voluntary membership.

This is a useful benchmark and something to bear in mind when you do your research. Some of the organisations to help guide choosing a trainer are as follows;

- COAPE Association of Applied Pet Behaviourists and Trainers
- Kennel Club - Accredited Instructor KCAI
- Institute of Modern Dog Trainers – IMDT
- Association of Pet Dog Trainers (UK) – APDT
- Association of Pet Behaviour Councillors – APBC

Link below to trusted trainers in our area:
https://millenniumvets.co.uk/advice/dog-puppy-advice/training-classes-and-activities