

## 20 Uses for Dog Tricks



- 1. Tricks engage your dog's mind and provide mental exercise.
- 2. Tricks make the learning process for children (and adults!) more enjoyable.
- 3. Tricks can make breeds with a "bad reputation" look friendlier.
- 4. Tricks can help make shelter dogs more adoptable.
- 5. Tricks can be used to solve barking: A dog who barks at visitors could be taught to go get a toy and hold it in his mouth instead.
- 6. Tricks can be used to solving jumping on people: A dog who jumps to greet people could be taught to sit and wave instead.
- 7. Tricks are a great way to strengthen the dog-owner bond. People are relaxed when teaching tricks and it's great fun for dog and owner.
- 8. Tricks add variety to training.
- 9. Tricks allow you to "show off" what you've accomplished with your dog.
- 10. Tricks can be practiced indoors or out, regardless of the weather.
- 11. Tricks can be used to help endear your dog to someone not traditionally a dog lover.
- 12. Tricks increase your dog's repertoire of behaviors. The more your dog learns, the better your dog learns and the more mentally engaged he will be.
- 13. Tricks are more fun to teach for people "put off" by obedience: "Bang you're dead" is the same behavior to your dog as "down"—but you have fun with it!
- 14. Tricks provide a way to practice your dog's "manners."
- 15. Tricks are entertaining and they can make people think you and your dog are both geniuses!
- 16. Tricks can be useful. For example, teach your dog to get your slippers or bring in the newspaper on rainy days.
- 17. Tricks engage the entire family, particularly children.
- 18. Tricks make you laugh!
- 19. Tricks can be entertaining for people on therapy visits at places like hospitals.
- 20. Tricks can distract a reactive dog from something that scares him.