



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.

Your Local APDT Member

