



Dog Training Elite of Chattanooga

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Welcome to the Dog Training Elite (DTE) family! Below you will find an overview, reminders, and tips.

DTE's methods have developed from over 45 years of experience. We have a large network of trainers around the country and have trained thousands of dogs! Keep in mind, training will only succeed if you participate and comply with the training program. In order for our training program to work, we need you to be involved and practice as much as possible! All that we ask is that you spend about 20 minutes a day, doing what your DTE instructor has shown you.

As directed by your DTE instructor, we ask that you push the "Nick" or Momentary (this is the button that delivers only a 1/10th of a second stimulation) button with each command, whenever possible.

By doing this, we are being bossy. In order to be the boss, you have to be bossy! Nobody can convince your dog that you're the boss, except for you! Please continue to be bossy, even if your dog is doing what it should without stimulation!

We are using the e-collar on as low a setting as possible to work as an attention-getter, a neutral stimulus, to teach your dog that he/she has a job to do. It is not a punishment. In order to communicate that properly, you need to believe that it is not as well! If your dog is not listening, it is recommended to turn up the e-collar gradually, generally by increments of five (5). If we apply more pressure gradually when your dog is not being responsive, we can get the point across to him/her that the command should be done the first time, every time! Please remember to remain calm, patient, and work through this process with your dog. He/she will eventually appreciate you taking the leadership position in the pack!

Commands

Please do not skip ahead with commands. Wait for your Dog Training Elite (DTE) instructor to go over them with you. We have high standards for obedience and want to make sure your dog is performing to those standards!

Typical Commands (Some may not be included, depending on the package you signed up for):

- **Off** - Stop what the dog is doing right now (i.e.: jumping on people, chewing, stealing food, getting on the furniture, etc.). Think of it as "Knock it off!"
- **Quiet** - Stop any excessive noise. (i.e.: barking, whining, howling, etc.)
- **Come** - Come to the handler and stay with the handler until otherwise directed.
- **Sit** - Ensure the dog's rear end is all the way down, and the chest is off the ground.
 - **Sit at a distance** - Same as above, with increasing distance between handler and dog. Make sure your dog is tied off to something secure with something secure!
- **Heel** - Is an imaginary half circle by your left side. No crowding: if they do crowd, bump with your leg and use the command "**Off**". Make sure your dog is keeping up, not going ahead, and certainly not pulling.
 - Straight lines — back and forth along a straight line.
 - Boxes — 90 degree turns. Be sure to push through the dog if he/she is in your way.
- **Place** - All four paws on a dog bed, or other object (after some practice).
- **Down** - Lay all the way down. Dogs will often struggle because it is a very submissive command.
 - If ready, have your dog do "push-ups" (i.e. **Sit**, then **Down**; hold for a little while, then **Sit** again)
- **Break** - Is an associated term, or casual command, not a reinforced command (no button pushing). Your dog is free to do whatever it may like. Try to make this "command" sound fun!
- **Stay** - Not necessary! Please do not use it! The "stay" command is implied.

E-Collar Notes:

- Take off the electronic collar for at least 8 hours a day (usually at bedtime), and when the dog is unattended.
- Feel free to read the instruction manual included in your collar's box. It has detailed instructions on how the collar works.
- Tighten collar with both prongs touching the dog's skin, as marked by your DTE instructor.
- E-collar should be on your dog(s) and turned on whenever you are around it, and your transmitter nearby.
- Push the Nick or Momentary button with each command, even if your dog will do it without stimulation!

Terminology:

Baseline — The lowest setting on the electronic collar that your dog responds to. Keep in mind that dogs typically require different baselines depending on the situation/environment. At group classes, dogs typically require a higher baseline in order to keep their attention.

Area Specific — Dogs respond differently in different environments. Please practice in as many new environments as possible, for optimal results.

Handler Specific - Dogs respond differently to different people. The more people that practice with your dog, the better, especially if they are struggling listening to a particular person.

Effective Distance - The further away your dog is from you when you are issuing a command, the more difficult it is for the dog. As we move along with training, this won't be such a big deal, but it is generally a problem in the beginning. If your dog is struggling at a distance, move closer and closer until your dog follows the command.

Avenues of Escape — This is how your dog tries to get out of what you're asking him/her to do. They will try to run away, vocalize, try to bite the leash or pretend as if they can't hear you or see you. If your dog attempts one of these, please persist until they do what you asked them to do. Don't take no for an answer!

General Notes:

If your dog is sulking (feeling sorry for itself), this is generally because your dog is starting to understand it is not the leader of the pack anymore (and can't do whatever it wants anymore either). We ask that you continue to work your dog on a consistent basis. Treat your dog as nice as you always have, and your dog will return to its happy self when you are consistent with the training and it accepts your leadership. Feeling sorry for your dog will only prolong the sulking, so please don't do it. Incorporating play with training (e.g., in conjunction with the "break" command) can be a good way to help relieve some of the sulking. Treats after a training session can be helpful as well, to make training more positive.

Dog Owner(s) Responsibilities:

- Work with your dog for around 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week.
- Please make sure you are on our schedule! Please call/text and schedule your class once a week.
- You and your dog are receiving over 45 years of award-winning dog training experience, please do not improvise, or experiment.
- Coming to group/park sessions is strongly encouraged after your DTE instructor says your dog is ready (*depending on purchased package, additional costs may apply*). Practicing around a lot of distraction will help solidify what we've taught. Socialization is a wonderful thing!