

THE EXPERT

Private dog trainer and behaviour consultant, KATHY KOPELLIS McLEOD, gives five training tips for your dog

1. BRAIN NOT BRAWN

Be pro-active by helping your dog if they get it wrong, NOT reactive (punishing your dog for YOUR lack of training or understanding). Your dog is then free to learn and doesn't fear the consequences if they get something wrong.

2. BE A GOOD LEADER

A good leader instructs, reinforces appropriate behaviour and rarely (if at all) reprimands. They set their dog up for success, not failure. They apply ethical training principles and don't use bullying and scare tactics to 'get' their dog to do it, and they treat their dog with respect and kindness. A good leader doesn't blame the dog – they help them.

3. SET BOUNDARIES FOR YOUR DOG

Be consistent. Avoid changing the rules from one day to the next. How frustrating would it be to not know what is expected from you from one day to the next?

4. BE PATIENT

We need time to learn new things – some of us more than others. Avoid comparing your dog's abilities to someone else's dog.

5. HAVE FUN

Training should be fun for both you and your dog. This is your companion, your friend – have fun living happily with your dog. You enjoy a unique relationship between each other like no one else. Laugh with them, keep them

safe, cherish them and love them.

* Kathy is the author of *105 Great Ideas to Having a Well Behaved Dog*. She is based in Morley (08) 93455277

Kathy with one of her three Huskies.

