

Training for Blood Donation

Introduction

At Pet Blood Bank UK, we like our donors to be as relaxed as possible during the whole donation process. Some dogs may be slightly nervous on the first visit. Typically, some dogs are wary of the noise and feel of the clippers or may not like their legs and feet to be touched. They may also find being lifted and held a strange experience, particularly if they are young. By following these guidelines, it may help prepare your dog for the next session, hopefully resulting in a successful donation. The training should also help make some common veterinary procedures less stressful for your dog.

Carry out training daily, in short, frequent sessions, rather than once a week for example. Treats can be used in the initial stages, which can then be reduced as the training progresses. Carry out the particular training which you feel your dog needs most.

One of the most helpful things you can do is to visit your vets regularly with your dog. Give him/her treats in the waiting room and ask the receptionist or Vet Nurse to do the same. Your dog will soon start to look forward to these visits!

Your vet will be most impressed if your dog ever needs its nails clipping or feet bandaged, as this is a very useful position for these procedures!

Good luck with the training – if you need any further advice, please contact Pet Blood Bank UK (01509 232222).

Training Sheet 2: Familiarising Dogs to Clippers



Hold your dog as if being held for a jugular blood sample (see above).

If you have human hair clippers, these can be used to help with this process (without actually clipping any hair)! Otherwise something like an electric toothbrush may be used to simulate the sound and feel of the clippers. There are even free downloadable apps for your phone which simulate the sound and vibration of hair clippers to help train your dog.

Start by switching the clippers on whenever you feed your dog. Make sure the clippers are across the room, so that they are not too close to begin with. Your dog should not react or run away. If this is the case, move the clippers further away.

Your dog will soon associate the sound with the presence of good things (i.e. food and praise). If there is no negative reaction, you can switch the clippers on at other times, in other rooms, while rewarding him/her.

Gradually bring the clippers closer over a period of days or even weeks, until you can hold the clippers behind your back or put them on the floor while they are switched on, without your dog reacting negatively. Use treats for any calm behaviour.

Once your dog is happy with the clippers being held close, move onto holding the clippers on your dog's neck whilst switched off. Then, switch them on for a few seconds on the floor and gradually move them closer, until eventually you can hold them on your dog's neck whilst they are switched on. Make sure the guard remains on the clipper blades during training.

Do not rush the training. Stay relaxed and try and make a point of ending on a good note!

Good luck with the training – if you need any further advice, please contact Pet Blood Bank UK (01509 232222).