

## Training Tip Tuesday: Control the Crazy!

If you struggle with a crazy dog; one that lacks impulse control and acts like a lunatic on walks, you can start controlling the crazy right at home. Working together to reach an understanding and set some limits in the comfort of your living room will have profound effects on the rest of your day!

Start by teaching your dog a basic sit. Remember to keep it fun and encouraging! Then start using sit to mean “please”. By asking for a few seconds of sit before doing anything you are helping him learn impulse control and that – even when he’s super excited – he can still listen to you!

Once your dog has a sit down pat; go ahead and get him in his crate. Leave him for a few minutes, and when you return, ask him to sit. If he usually bounces all over, it might take him a minute to figure it out. Be patient! Don’t keep repeating the cue – just wait. The moment he sits, reward him!

Now ask him to sit while you undo the latches on the door. If he pushes against the door, just use your hand (or foot) to keep it closed. Ask for the sit again. When he sits start opening the door. If he gets up – close the door. You are not trying to slam it in his face! The idea is when he sits – the door opens. When he gets up, the door closes. If you can open the door a few inches, and he stays seated – reach in and give him a treat.

Work your way up to being able to open the door and stand there for a few seconds, then release your dog and have him sit at your feet. Remember – this is about impulse control. The crate mat should not be a launch pad! He should sit politely while you open the door, then sit politely on the other side.

Praise him up if he sits. If he jumps, just turn away and help him understand that the only way he gets anything is to plant his butt on the ground!

This same protocol will work at any doorway. Ask for the sit – start opening the door. If he gets up, close the door. You should be able to step through, then invite your dog to join you!

Your dog still gets to come out and play and cuddle; but you’re setting boundaries which will help you rein in the crazy!

PS – The sweet little pup that helped me with today’s video is up for adoption! Little Miss Ava is a beagle x lab, and is about 8 months old. She’ll be hanging out with me for the next few days learning some basics. If you’d like more information on her – just give me a shout! Or contact HAPPE Dog Rescue.

<https://youtu.be/fuCL8Cdnbzc>