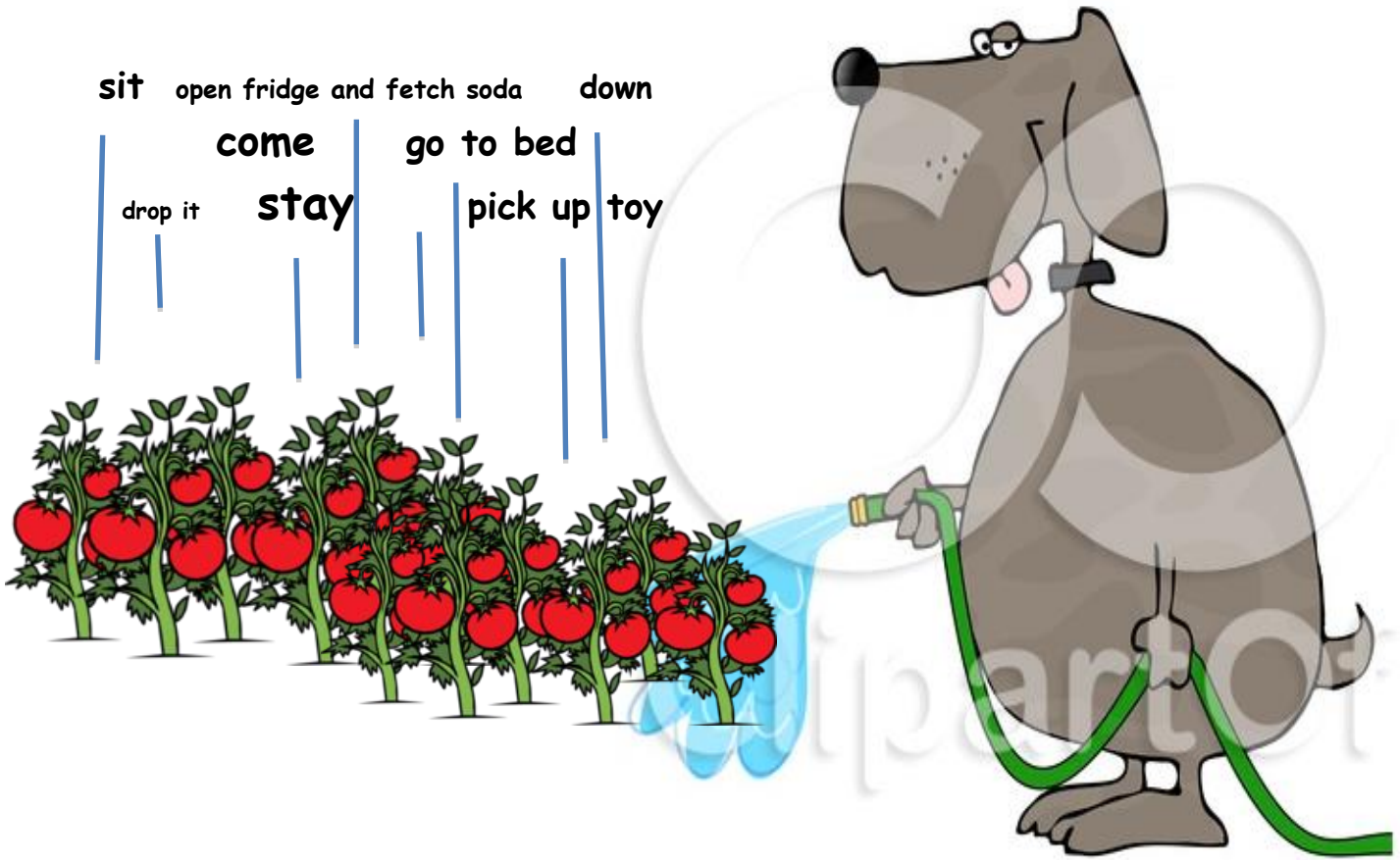


How to grow your dog's behaviors

Six Easy Steps



By

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INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, our understanding of how and why our dog's do what they do and how their brain works has progressed in leaps and bounds. As we, and our dogs, learn, behaviors grow !

Basically, as a dog learns a new behavior like sit or down or come, that behavior grows a lot like a tomato plant in your garden!

So here is all that's needed to grow the happiest, healthiest tomato plant (or dog behavior habit) ever:



Get things ready and prepare



Plant the seed



Encourage growth



Trim, prune and weed as necessary



Be Patient



Enjoy the fruit

Get things Ready

1. Prepare the environment and create a safe place with room to grow.

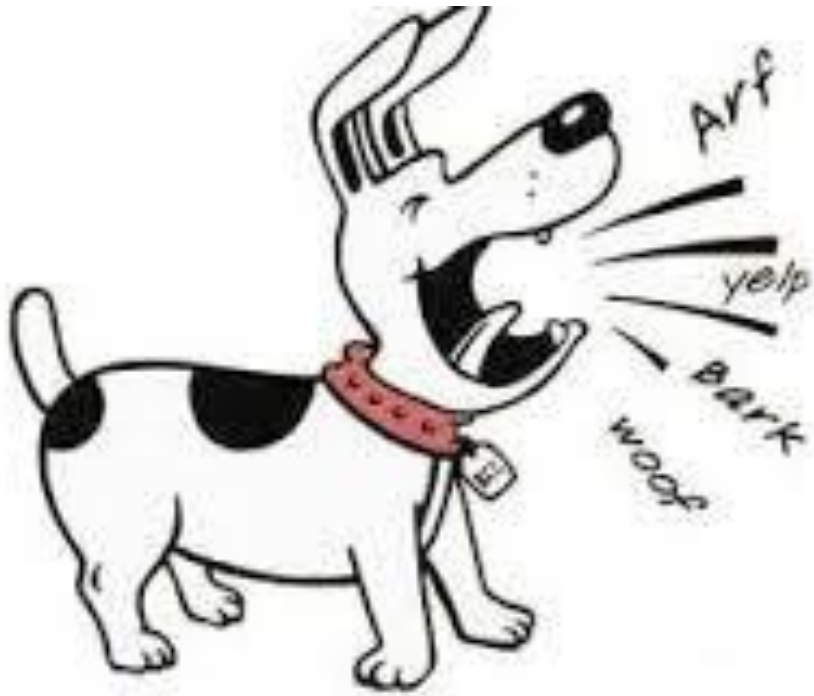


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- See your vet
- Use baby gates, exercise pens and kennels to keep your dog safe.
- Use proper leashes, tethers and collars with ID tags
- Pick up objects like slippers, children's toys, electrical cords, pencils, and shoes.

2. What to Feed?

Encourage and nurture growth, but don't overdo it:



- Giving lots of affection, play, and really tasty treats are super nutrients that help a new behavior grow.
- **Yelling at a tomato plant to make it grow faster won't help.** Yelling at your dog won't help either!

Tidbit: So have fun and do everything with encouragement, a smile on your face and a song in your heart!

Never threaten, scold, punish or shame

3. Planting the seed:



Reward your dog as soon as he or she happens to do something you want, without being asked.

For example, if your dog happens to lie down on his bed, you immediately throw a treat. You've planted a behavior seed!

Behaviors to watch for and reward: sit, down, looking at you, picking up a toy, going to bed, etc.

4. Trim, prune and weed if necessary:



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Weed out unwanted behaviors by:

Ignoring Don't "feed the weeds" of unwanted behaviors like jumping, stealing, chewing, etc. by allowing them to happen or by giving them attention. For example, if your dog jumps, turn away.

5. Be patient



Behaviors need time to grow and ripen. Don't go too far, too fast.

Don't ask dogs to do something they haven't learned yet or they aren't ready to do.

TIDBIT: Dogs thrive on routines, that is, being able to anticipate when things are going to happen. **Schedule regular times of day** for cultivating and nourishing the behaviors you want. Set a daily routine for feeding, elimination, playing, rest and sleep, and so on.

6. Enjoy the fruit!



Run, jump, play & chill out.

TIDBIT:

"Whichever behavior receives the most nourishment (attention, play, treats, affection), that's the behavior that will grow the fastest and strongest!"