

Pets with Dr. Jyl

[KOVR 13 / PETS W/ DR. JYL / PETS TOPIC](#)

Dr. Jyl can be seen each Wednesday on the KOVR 13 News at Noon.

OBEDIENCE TRAINING (2/20/02)

This week Dr. Jyl stopped by with Clio to discuss Obedience Training for dogs. Dog obedience serves many purposes. It solves many behavior problems and makes our furry companions so much easier to live with. Without proper training, dogs pull their owners along on walks, bark excessively, are destructive around the house, and because of their bad behavior, are often neglected.

The "HEEL" command teaches the dog and owner how to walk together without the dog pulling, and also has many other positive side effects. Once the dog grasps the heel command the owner enjoys the presence of the dog more. Since walks are no longer an ordeal, they are longer and more frequent. This has the added benefit of calming the dog down. Most dogs do not get enough exercise and this shows with barking, digging, and chewing. With added exercise many behavior problems that sent people to dog classes decrease or disappear.

Obedience courses also train owners how to teach their dogs and how their dogs think. Owners need to understand how their dog thinks: it is not a person with fur, it is a DOG! Teaching owners to train a dog is much harder than actually training the dog. Many owners want to abandon food or other motivational tools a few weeks into training. They don't realize the importance of keeping their dog's interest in training work, and food usually supplies that interest.



A great obedience school in the Sacramento area is [4Paws University](#).

Other commands such as "SIT", "DOWN", "STAY" and "COME" teach the dog how to pay attention and how to calm down. A dog on a sit or down stay can't be jumping on quests.

Of all positive things that training does, the best of all is that it makes your dog a wonderful companion. It is so nice to know that your dog will behave no matter where you go, that your neighbors will like your pet, and you have the enjoyment of a lifelong companion that doesn't pull your arms from the sockets if you see a cat.



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