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Shih Tzu – Houstraining Your Shih Tzu The Right Way

By Connie Limon

House training your Shih Tzu properly is one of the most important aspects of Shih Tzu ownership.

More dogs are surrendered to animal shelters for elimination problems than for any other reason, so proper house training can literally be a lifesaver.

The most popular ways to house break Shih Tzu, and the ones that are the most effective, are those that use the Shih Tzu's own instincts to provide this important lesson. Shih Tzu are instinctively very clean animals, and they try very hard to avoid soiling the areas where they sleep and where they eat. The modern methods of house training Shih Tzu, including crate training, den training and other variations, take advantage of this aspect of dog behavior to create a well behaved, house trained Shih Tzu in less time than many other methods.

Another aspect of the Shih Tzu's nature that can be used to your advantage is the fact that the dog pays close attention to the kind of surface on which it makes its toilet. That means that a Shih Tzu that has become accustomed to using grass or dirt as a toilet will be reluctant to eliminate on other surfaces, such as gravel, asphalt or carpet for that matter. This is a great aspect of canine behavior that many owners are unaware of.

The first part of house training any Shih Tzu is setting up the training area, or the Shih Tzu's den. The den is the centerpiece of the house training program, and it should be a small area, like a small bathroom, or part of a larger room. The Shih Tzu should be confined to this den any time it cannot be directly supervised.

It is also important for the owner to spend as much time as possible in the established den with the Shih Tzu. The owner and family members should spend time in the den, playing and interacting with the Shih Tzu. It is important for the Shih Tzu to feel as comfortable as possible in his special area. The Shih Tzu should be given a special bed in the training area. This bed can be anything from a store bought bed to a beach towel to something as simple as a large cardboard box. The important thing is that the Shih Tzu feel comfortable and secure in this area.

At first the Shih Tzu may do its business in the bed area of its den, but after awhile, when the Shih Tzu has come to recognize this as his sleeping area, he should be reluctant to eliminate there.

The other part of this house training process is to establish the toilet area. It is very important that the Shih Tzu have ready access to the toilet area every time he needs to do his business. It is also very important for the owner to go with the Shih Tzu every time he goes to the toilet area. This is important for two reasons. First, it will ensure that the Shih Tzu uses the established toilet area, and only the toilet area. Second, it will allow the owner to provide praise and encouragement to the Shih Tzu for using the toilet area. Establishing a set feeding schedule for the Shih Tzu is also very important to properly house train the Shih Tzu. A set feeding schedule will mean a set elimination schedule. Once you are familiar with the Shih Tzu's toilet schedule, you will be better able to anticipate his toilet needs and take him to the toilet area whenever the need arises.

It is important to not confine the Shih Tzu for long periods of time without access to his toilet area. If the Shih Tzu is left alone too long, he may have no choice but to soil his den area, and this can set

house training back for weeks or even months. It is important to take the Shih Tzu to the toilet area consistently, and to provide lots of praise every time the Shih Tzu eliminates there.

Connie Limon is a Shih Tzu breeder. She publishes a FREE weekly newsletter. A professional newsletter with a focus upon health and wellness for you and your pets. Discounts are offered to subscribers. Sign up at:

<http://www.stainglassshihtzus.com>

Shih Tzu – Is A Training Collar Right For Your Shih Tzu

By Connie Limon

There are many excellent training devices that can be used when training your Shih Tzu. The most basic piece of equipment that every Shih Tzu owner should own is a quality training collar. There are many different types of training collars, and these devices go by a variety of different names, including choke collar, choke chain, correction collar, slip collar and of course training collar. Training collars are favorite tools among both amateur and professional dog trainers.

When used properly, a training collar is a valuable, effective tool. However, like any tool it must be used properly in order to be effective. Despite its simple appearance and design, a training collar is a piece of precision equipment, and it must be treated with respect.

An improperly used training collar will do no good, and it can harm your training program by causing the Shih Tzu to become confused and frightened. There are several important things to consider when choosing and fitting a training collar.

The first consideration when choosing a training collar is how the collar fits the Shih Tzu. It is vital that

the training collar be fitted properly to the Shih Tzu. Only a properly fitted training collar will be effective for the Shih Tzu.

The training collar must also be put on the Shih Tzu the right way. Unlike a normal buckle collar, there is a definite right way and wrong way to put on a training collar, and putting it on the wrong way can make the collar ineffective or even dangerous.

In addition to being fitted and sized properly, the training collar must be used properly as well. The training collar is designed to provide a reminder, not a punishment. It is very important to never use steady pressure with a training collar. A training collar works by providing a sharp pressure, followed by an immediate release of pressure.

The weight of the chain and the size of the links on the training collar are very important when choosing a training collar. The weight of the chain should be appropriate for the size and weight of the Shih Tzu. For instance, you would not use a heavy chain on a 10 pound Shih Tzu, just as you would not use a very light chain on a 100 pound dog.

When using a training collar, it is very important to place the collar on the Shih Tzu properly. The collar must be placed on the Shih Tzu properly in order to be effective.

It is relatively easy to determine the length of training collar your Shih Tzu needs. The appropriate size of the collar is the distance around the animal's neck, plus 2–3 inches. Since training collars are usually made in even sizes, it may be necessary to round up to find the right size. When measuring, be sure to not make the tape measure too tight. The training collar will need to fit snugly, but not too tight. It is important that the pressure on the training collar be instantly relieved when the leash is slackened.

If the training collar is too tight, the pressure will not be relieved when you loosen the leash. If the collar is too loose, on the other hand, it could accidentally slip off the Shih Tzu when he lowers his head.

When putting the training collar on the Shih Tzu, it is important that the end of the chain that attaches to the leash is on the top of the Shih Tzu's neck. This is important in order for the collar to function as intended. It is important that the training collar loosen properly when the leash is slackened, and that it tighten instantly to provide the sharp correction when needed.

If the connecting piece of the training collar is placed anywhere except on the top of the Shih Tzu's head, the training collar will not loosen properly when the leash is slackened. This constant pressure on the training collar will be counterproductive, since the Shih Tzu will not understand what is being asked of it or why the pressure is not being relieved when it does as it is asked.

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