



FIVE TOP TIPS FOR TURNING YOUR MENACE INTO A MATE

- 1 Find out what your dog loves and use it as a reward during your training.** Some dogs love food and will do anything to get a treat but other dogs much prefer a pat, chase a ball or play tug on a toy. Finding out what your dog loves makes training easier.
- 2 Always set your dog up for success when training make sure before you start a session that you have everything you need, e.g. lead, treats, equipment.** Think about where you are training your dog, are there distractions that make it harder for the dog to focus. Start to train a brand new behaviour somewhere you both know like the backyard. If you have more than one dog, train them separately to limit the distraction.
- 3 Teach your dog a trick because training your dog should be fun.** Teaching your dog to sit and come back is important but may not be as much fun as shake hands. A trick is a great way for you and your dog to interact with visitors as well. Start by teaching a trick so that you both learn that training is fun.
- 4 Consistency is critical when training your dog.** If your dog isn't doing what you have asked is it possible that the dog is getting mixed messages. Have one member of the household train the dog initially and then show the rest what they have done and what the relevant cues are (sit, down etc.)
- 5 Have a look at your dog's environment from their perspective.** Get down to their level and have a look around the areas where they are mainly kept in the household, inside and out. Are there lots of different things to see and do? Can the dog choose to be in different places throughout the day? Is there bedding and water available in all of these places? Is there anything that you can add to make the environment better for the dog like something to climb on, a digging spot, some water to play in. Four blank fences aren't much fun even in a big backyard so be creative.

