



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Puppy Raising Department Ruff Notes – December 2018

Getting the Most Out of the Instructional Videos

The Puppy Raising instructional videos on YouTube have been a popular and useful addition to our learning materials. The primary source of knowledge should always be the documents in the Puppy Raising manual as they go into much more detail than the videos possibly can. To take full advantage of the videos they should be part of an overall raiser education that also includes:

- Study of accompanying documents
- Puppy club training meetings
- One-on-one instruction from leaders
- Mentoring by leaders and experienced raisers
- Raiser workshops with GDB staff

Raisers have individual learning styles: some are more visual and learn from watching videos and looking at photos, some do better reading and making written notes and others are kinesthetic learners – they learn best with hands-on experiences. By providing opportunities for all types of learners we can teach our raisers the handling/training/management techniques that bring out the best in our puppies.

It is recommended that, whenever possible, the relevant video is viewed at a club meeting before working on the game or exercise with puppies at the meeting. Raisers should be encouraged to watch the video at home before the meeting, as well as reviewing the relevant document, and bring any questions to the meeting.

Viewing the video at the meeting not only ensures that everyone sees the video, but also allows pausing the video to capture key moments and to provide further commentary by the leader.

Should it not be feasible to watch the video at a meeting we suggest making a little quiz or simple list of questions, and/or review key points of the document together with the raisers at the meeting.

The videos are purposefully kept short and it is impossible to demonstrate every scenario that may occur with a puppy. However, the written material is very thorough and should answer most questions. These materials are the foundation for introducing the games and exercises to the raisers but for most dog handlers, the majority of their learning will come from actually doing the exercises under the supervision of a skilled handler; be it the leader or an experienced raiser.

The Puppy Raising videos on YouTube have been re-ordered and now include a brief written description of the video, a generic timeline for puppies' progress through the stages of a given behavior and include links to the relevant documents.

Look for some new videos and upgrading of older videos this spring. Happy viewing!