

Training Guide

Where Do I Start?

Pay attention to your pet's current communication skills – whether they make a gesture, bark, whine, etc. this is their body language and how they try to currently communicate with you. Complete the following sentences:

I can tell my pet needs to go potty when _____.

I can tell my pet is hungry when _____.

I can tell my pet needs more water when _____.

I can tell my pet wants to go outside or for a walk when _____.

I can tell my pet wants to play when _____.

I can tell my pet wants affection when _____.

If it is hard to tell between these needs or if you do not have an answer yet, start teaching those words to your pet along with the action so their communication needs can be met. Use the same word each time you do a certain action. Use the above answers to help you know when to say the words to your pet and which words to use.

Examples:

Ask your dog if they need to go “Potty” then take them outside and when they use the restroom say “Go Potty” so they will associate the words with the action. Praise them and reward them. If your pet does a certain gesture when they need to “Potty”, when they do that action, make sure you use the word aloud “Potty” then take them to do their business. This type of training will help you get started with associating the word with the action.

Ask your dog if they want a “Nummy” then give them a treat. It will take them no time to know the word “Nummy” means a treat. Or when it is time to feed your pet, say the word “Eat” and give them their food. When you fill up their water bowl say “Water” when you sit the water bowl in the floor, or anytime you see them taking a drink, say “Water”.

Ask your dog if they want to “Play” and get a toy and play with them while saying “Play”.

Next steps - associate the button word with the action.

Your pet will learn to use the DaVoice Pet Communication System buttons by watching you use them with the associated word and action. When you demonstrate these pet buttons to talk, it is called “modeling”. The pet will start exploring the buttons on their own and will observe what is happening. Pairing words with your dog's gestures and different activities will help them learn.

Once your pet associates the word “Potty” with the actual action of going to the restroom, you can then use the word “Potty” in one of your buttons. When your dog tells you that they need to go “Potty” with their gesture, bark, whine, body language, etc. immediately take them to the button and start modeling like this: Yourself say “Potty” out loud. Then press the “Potty” button yourself and make sure they see you doing this action. Then take them outside to do their business. Once you start modeling the words to your pet, the easier it will be for your pet to learn how to say words by pressing buttons.

The more modeling words you can do in your daily routine, the easier it will be. Try to remember to do this modeling every time you take your pet out to “Potty” and before you know it, they will be pressing the button to tell you themselves.

Learning time varies between pets, just like humans. Every pet learns at a different rate. Older dogs are much slower to train versus younger dogs or puppies. With steady training, many pets begin using their words within weeks. **Training Videos can be found on our YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/DaVoiceDogButtons>**

Your own communication skills play a large part in your pet's learning. Follow these tips for success:

- Be patient, slow down. This is a process. Reward your pet and praise them always when they make progress.
- Simplify your communication to specific words to your pet.
- Try to not have distractions during training time, such as company, or kids playing nearby. The pet needs to be in a comfortable environment and listening.
- Setup the DaVoice Pet Communication System in an area that is easily accessible to your pet and not moved around.
- Keep each button in the same placement so your pet knows exactly where it is. Your pet memorizes exactly where each button sits and associates it with each word as well as colors.
- Give your pet time to explore, do not say anything for a least 15 seconds when your dog is checking out the buttons or is using their gestures, body language, etc., give them time to process what is happening.
- You can direct your pet's attention to the buttons by standing near a button, pointing at a button, or tapping a button. Respond to all forms of your pet's communications and respect your pet's voice.