

PET QUERY

Q. I have a 18-month-old Tibetan Mastiff. It's been 8 months since my 9-year-old Pomeranian died. The two dogs loved each other. Now my Mastiff feels very sad and lonely, and has become inactive. We are thinking of getting a German Shepherd pup. Is it a good decision?

—Harish Uniyal



Tibetan Mastiff

While dogs are social creatures and most love to play with other dogs, your dog will still need human company and his daily walks with you to forget her sadness. You'll also need to spend one-on-one time with your current dog, and when you bring in a new puppy, make sure you spend time to see both your dogs bond. And train them both together. A canine companion does help another cope with separation anxiety and loss. Also, an energetic pup may pull the Mastiff out of his depression by being playful around him.

— Dr Umesh Kallahalli



Are you a proud pet parent? Have a cute cat story to share? Maybe your guinea pig is giving you trouble? Whatever is your creature companion, we are here to listen to you. Send your photos, queries and stories to timeslife@timesgroup.com

Pedigree

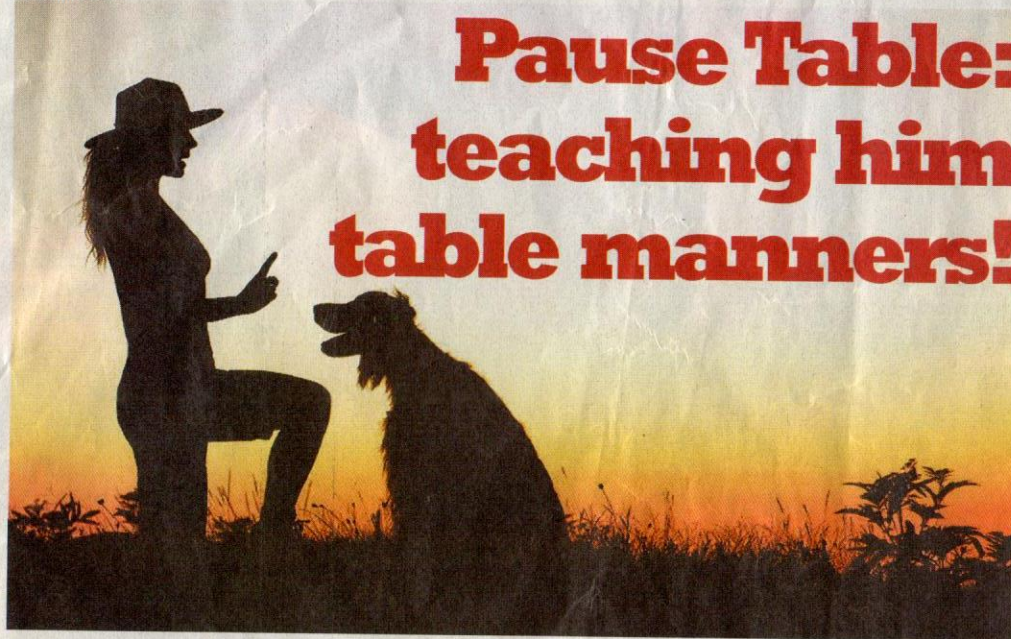
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TIMES

PETS & US

PIC: THINKSTOCK



Pause Table: teaching him table manners!

Pooja Sathe

WHAT'S A PAUSE TABLE?

A pause table is a table where your pooch has to stay in 'Sit' or 'Down' position until released. The table is in square shape (36" X 36") made of durable material which can be adjusted to different heights (8", 12", 20", 26"), depending on the size of your pet. Base of the table should be strong and stable so that it won't shake while the dog is climbing up or getting down.

WHAT'S THE NEED OF A PAUSE TABLE?

As most of the equipment in agility require the dog to run and perform, the pet tends to get hyper and may go out of control

due to excitement. A pause table can be taught to calm them down during training.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR POOCH FOR PAUSE TABLE?

- Train your pooch to 'Stay' and 'Sit' or 'Down' positions without the table initially.
- Slowly introduce distractions to perfect the 'stay'.
- Always remember to go slow and increase the 'stay' duration with few minutes.
- Once your dog has fully understood 'stay,' introduce the table.
- Initially, ask the dog to step up on the table and wait there for a few minutes. The table should be kept at its minimum height.
- Use treats or toys to encourage



him to go up on the table. Remember you must praise the dog while he is on the table, not when he comes down.

- Take as many turns as required to make your dog comfortable with this equipment. Do not hurry, otherwise your dog may not understand the purpose of this equipment.

- Once the dog is comfortably doing 'stay' on the table, start increasing the distance between the table and you. This also teaches the dog to remain in his position while the handler is going away. This is called Distance Training.

- You can also combine it with other equipment such as jump, tunnel etc. In this way, the dog learns to perform different equipment without going out of control.

- You can do various combinations such as Jump- Table- Jump, Tunnel- Table - Jump etc. It's also helpful to train a command specific to each equipment. You can use the word 'Table' and also use a release command such as 'OK' or 'Over' to finish the stay on the table. This helps to avoid any confusion in the dog's mind as to when to 'stay' and when it's over.

A training table during agility training may sound boring to some people but it is actually a very helpful equipment. Obedience training comes in handy and teaches our pets some table manners...

—Pooja Sathe is a qualified professional who was trained at Northern Centre for Canine Behaviour and Training, UK

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