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**Introduction**
This book accompanies the Bristol Dog School puppy training class, where we only use reward-based methods to teach your dog. We have smaller class numbers that are calmer and are better for learning and easier for us to get to each puppy and give a little more attention.

Reward based training is all about rewarding or paying your dog for a job well done often called Positive Reinforcement (+R) it rewards correct behaviour so that unwanted behaviours are not rewarded and are then forgotten this avoids using punishment or aversive training methods.

Rewards are generally food but can be toys or anything that your dog finds rewarding, for some dogs this may be hunting.

The reason we use reward based training is because science has proven that an action learned in a nice way that is reinforced with something the dog finds rewarding is leaned and retained for longer, alternatively an action punished may never stop as the punishment may still be rewarding to the dog if all it wants is attention.

During the course you will learn how to get your puppy to sit, stand, lay down and settle, stay, leave items and release items, walk on a loose leash and recall, we also allow pups to try enrichment toys during classes which helps their mental and social development.

The main training technique used is called luring, where the puppy is lured into position and marked using a verbal cue and rewarded. There are other reward based methods that can be used and some are covered in this book, depending on how your dog learns we may chose these other methods in classes.

If you wish to learn more about any of the subjects I have mentioned here please check out the blog on the website:

 www.bristoldogschool.co.uk/blog

**Laws**

**The Animal Welfare Act 2006 (amended 2015)**

On the 6th of April 2016, it became a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 (amended 2015) section 12. Is clear that all pups must also be microchipped by the time they are 8 weeks old and all adult dogs should be microchipped as soon as possible.

 There are no exemptions to this law, unless for specific health reasons, in which case your Veterinary surgeon will have to fill out a form from the secretary of state.

Your Vet will scan your dog when it attends a regular health check, if it is found to not have a microchip then they may report your dog to a local enforcement officer or Dog Warden, although they are not bound to do this.

If your dog is found to not have a microchip then you have 21 day's to have microchipped implanted or you will incur a £500 fine, you are also liable for a £500 fine if you do not keep your microchip details up to date, on a national database.

Please do not worry the Microchip is a little bigger than a grain of rice, it is implanted using a needle and is very quickly done, some dogs react to this some don't feel a thing, but it is a very quick procedure and once done the microchip will not be noticeable.

**Control of dogs order 1992**

There is a legal requirement under the Control of dogs order 1992 for you to have a collar or harness tag on your dog when it is out in public, the tag must have your surname, house name and or number, road name and post code on it. It is also useful to have a contact phone number on the tag, as this will make it easier for you to get your dog back quickly. The only exemption to this law is for working dogs where collars can be a hindrance to them.

**The dangerous dogs Act 1991.**

Section 1 pertains to the owner ship of banned or exempted breeds such as the Pitbull.

Section 3 pertains to the control of all dogs while they are in public or in private residences making it an offence for a dog to be out of control. This means dogs should always be on lead while walking on highways (public roads) but also they should either have a reliable recall or be kept on a lead be in short or long when in open public spaces where they are exercising, they should also be under good control in private residences to ensure they do not hurt a human, and should a person feel threatened by your dog they may also report you to the police.

**Local bylaws**

Bristol city council have local bylaws that can see an owner be fined up to £500 if their dog is seen to foul in a public place, park of highway and they do not pick it up.

They also have a list of public open spaces where dogs are not allowed to be off lead including on highways again an owner may be fined up to £500 if you are in breach of these bylaws.

**Training treats**

Training treats or rewards should be small so as not to fill up your puppy too quickly, remember a puppy with a full tummy wants to lay down and go to sleep so smaller treats means you can have more repetitions during training before puppy becomes full or becomes tired.

Training treats can be your dogs normal food, be that kibble or pieces of raw meat or even pieces of fruit or vegetable. But remember food that your dog eats on a regular basis may be less rewarding for it, so for rewarding complicated behaviours like recall or even the most simple of behaviours when there are lots of distractions like other pups or people in a training class we may need to up our treat level. Smelly cheese or hotdog can be ideal for this also liver pate in tubes from local pets stores can be invaluable when teaching your puppy to loose leash walk.

Liver cake is a high value rewardthat you can make and freeze ready for when you need it the most, you will also find lots of great recipes on the internet for other healthy training treats that your puppy may enjoy

**Treat preference test**

**Variety is the spice of life!**

A varied diet is not only good for your puppy but it can be useful when we are trying to teach our puppy new things particularly if those things are difficult and if we’re in a place that’s really distracting and of course we all work harder for things that we really like and want.

**What’s worth £5 and what’s worth £1000 to your puppy?**

The choice your puppy makes is going to be what reinforces it the most, and this is important if we want our puppy to pay attention to us in really distracting environments, like puppy classes or when out on walks. But how do we know what our puppy likes?

**Finding out our pups reward preferences**

First we need a selection of food rewards below is a list of examples

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Carrot | Apple |
| Cheese | Bacon |
| Blueberries | Hot dog |
| Kibble | Cocktail sausage |
|  |  |

Choose two of these foods and take two pieces of those two food we’ll call then food 1 and food 2.

You will then ask your puppy to sit 3 times

The first time you will reward with food 1

The Second time you will reward with food 2.

The third time you will have food 1 in your left hand and food 2 in your right hand and you will bring them down in front of your puppy to sniff so it’s knows it has a choice then bring your hands apart and open them allowing the puppy to choose which food to take first.

This demonstrates what the puppy’s preference is and what it will in turn find the most reinforcing. It also introduces new smells to your puppy and improves the puppy’s diet by adding to it.

On the next page you will find a table where you can make a note of the different foods you try and the ones your puppy prefers.

**Example**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Food** | **Preference** |
| **1** | apple | x |
| **2** | carrot |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Food** | **Preference** |
| **1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |
| **1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |
| **1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |
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| **1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |
| **1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |

**Liver cake**

 1 lb (450g) liver (lamb, pig, chicken)

1 lb (450g) rice flour

3 eggs

2 cloves of garlic (optional)

One teaspoon of oil

Dash of milk

Liquidise liver with eggs, milk, oil and garlic in blender. Add to flour and mix.

Put in an oven proof dish and cook for about 25 mins on 180c

or
Put into a microwave dish and cook on full power for about six-ten minutes.

The cake should bounce back when pressed lightly, when cooked.

Cut the cake into slices and freeze. Take out of freezer when required.

**House training**

We all want out pups to be going outside for toilets each and every time it needs to go, but of course this is not as easy as it sounds

Many puppy owners will be using puppy pads or newspaper, which is fine to start with but these need to be phased out quickly or they only teach the puppy that it can toilet inside the house, these can be moved towards the back door so that puppy heads there looking for the matt and this alerts you the owner to their intent allowing you to encourage them outside to toilet, where you can reward them calmly.

Remember the big wide world is big and exciting so once outside puppy may forget what it’s out there for and become distracted, allow them time to sniff about they may remember their need or you may end up going back inside where you will need to pay close attention to them to be able to get them back outside when they remember what they initially wanted to go outside for.

 Puppies bladder and bowel control gradually increase as they get older, this does mean that accidents in the house can happen, these accidents should be quietly cleaned up without fuss. There are some good pet safe cleaning products on the market, or you can dilute biological washing powder with warm water this can then be used to wash the area as it breaks down the enzymes in the urine and removes the smell, so the puppy is less likely to go back to the same location to toilet. You should never rub your puppy’s nose in it to teach it a lesson a puppy will not understand this.

There are specific times you should remember to take your puppy outside for toilets, when it wakes up, during and after play and after meals, then you are less likely to get accidents.

Setting an alarm for every hour on the hour to take puppy outside can also be helpful. Some owners also choose to set an alarm to get up in the night to let their puppy out.

 When your puppy goes outside to toilet praise it calmly once it has finished, not during. You can even use a cue word such as “be quick” or “go toilets” that your puppy will start to learn means go to the toilet.

Toilet training can take weeks or months and of course illness can cause setbacks but please remember to patient with your puppy and be as structured as possible with toilet times.

**Basic skills**

**Sit**
The most basic of all things you will teach your puppy and also one of the behaviours we ask of our dogs a lot.

To achieve the sit we place a food reward on the puppy’s nose say the word sit and move it back over the puppy’s head to that it’s bottom sit as it’s head raises, as soon as the bottom is sitting we mark with the work yes or a click and deliver the food reward. Some pups may choose to shuffle backwards to follow the food reward rather than sit, to stop this from happening position the puppy in front of a wall or door so that they cannot move backwards, or you can mark and reward them when they choose to sit themselves, this does involve a lot of watching your puppy to see what behaviours they exhibit during the day and having very good make and reward timing.

**Stand**This is a useful behaviour to teach your puppy, should you need to examine them all over or groom them.

To achieve a stand have the puppy sat or in a down position in front of you, place a food reward on the puppy’s nose stay the "Stand" cue and gradually move your hand backwards and to your side until the puppy is fully standing up, at this point your mark and reward the behaviour**.**

**Down**Learning to lay down is the start of learning to laydown and settle which is and important thing for your puppy to learn if you want them to be accepted while out and about taking them to the homes of friends and family as well as to your local pub or café.

Some pups lay down front paws first and others lay down hind paws first, the first time you do this exercise you may well not know which your puppy choses so you can try one method and move to the next depending on which your puppy chooses.

For a hind down you will need to lure the puppy into a sit first and using the same food reward lure the pups nose toward the floor between it’s front paws you may also need to move the food reward away a toward you a little so that the puppy lays down more comfortably, say the cue “Down” and lure the puppy into the down mark and reward the puppy with the food lure.

For pups that lay down front first you can start from a standing position. Again say "down" place the food lure on the pups nose and bring down towards the floor between the puppy’s paws and also move it closer to the dogs body you many need to do this in front of a wall to stop the puppy walking backwards, when in position mark and reward.

Similarly to the sit position you can also watch your puppy for behaviours is offers in it’s own time and mark and reward them as and when they happen, but as already mentioned your observations and timing in marking and rewarding need to be very good for this and often not even the most experience of trainers has perfected this skill

**Teething and play biting**

**Teething**Puppies generally start teething around 16 weeks old, but this can vary depending on the size and breed of your dog. Just like for human children puppy teething can be quite uncomfortable for them and they will want to chew to ease the discomfort they’re feeling.

We can help them by giving them plenty of things to chew on, carrots are a great natural chew that they can enjoy as a food treat, they can also be frozen to make them harder to chew for larger dogs.

Cotton rag toys or knotted tea towels that have been soaked in water and frozen are also great because the ice cold helps to numb the gums, also get Nylabone chews and rubber chew toys that will help stop your puppy to chew its own toys rather than seek to relieve it’s sore gums on your furniture or other belongings.

Older pups also go through a second teething stage as the growth plates in their bones start to fuse this generally happens around 9-12 months.

Teething or chewing can be a sign of pain in a dog of any age and can also be a sign of stress

 **Play biting**

Play biting is something that pups do when playing with their littermates it teaches them about pain, but they often carry this behaviour on when they come to their new home with humans.

This behaviour should not be encouraged, the last thing you want is your puppy or even adult dog putting it’s teeth on another person or a child even if it doesn’t bite, this is very dangerous ground to be on, the longer you let this behaviour carry on the harder it is to stop it.

When a pup play bites you need to teach it to stop, with younger puppies you can use a high pitched yelp or no and then give puppy a toy to play with, this can work up to around 8 weeks old but after this time with older pups the high pitch yelp can serve to excite and encourage them, in this instance a lower pitch firm no is better, this resembles the mothers warning to behave more and older pups tend to respond to them more readily. Or Make no sound at all and give the pup a chew or enrichment device to play with.

Always be consistent, don’t let any family member or visitor encourage your puppy to play bite.

Sometimes a puppy just won’t listen to the yelp or lower sounding no or the replacement of a toy, this could be because the puppy is over excited or over tired, this is when you need to give puppy some space to get some rest, this means you popping your puppy out of the way in a puppy pen or crate or behind a baby gate away from you or the object of biting, you give them some space to calm down with a nice chew treat or a stuffed Kong toy so that they can settle and fall asleep.

 What we want a puppy to learn is that calm behaviour gets them attention and fun play, we must remember to interact with puppy when it is calm rather than just when playing with them.

**Loose leash walking**

Being able to walk your dog to heal or on a loose leash is probably one of the most desired things for a dog owner. No one wants to be dragged to park by their dog, but it can be a long process for some owners and dogs to learn, but the sooner the learning starts and the puppy is not rewarded by any pulling on lead the easier and faster it can become.

The first thing to do is decide which side you intend to walk your puppy on either the left or right. This is so that you teach the puppy where you want it to be and it doesn’t cross in front of you or behind you where it could trip you up.

Get a handful of treats or a tube of liver paste in a tube and encourage the puppy to sit next to you on the side you have decided you want it to learn to walk. Hold the food reward in the hand on the same side as your puppy and have the leash draped in front of you and held in the opposite hand. The leash should always be loose and should look like the letter “J” in shape as it drapes.

Now we know how to hold the leash and position our puppy so we can progress to movement. Place the food reward on the pups nose and encourage it forward as you step off with the leg nearest puppy. Remember body language is important to dogs so moving this leg first is a cue to your puppy that you are about to start walking.

 At first you will need to offer a reward for every step you take while the puppy is beside you, this teaches the puppy where you want it to be. If your puppy becomes distracted you can encourage it back beside you using the food or wait for it to come back once it is ready.

The next step is to build on how many steps can be taken between food rewards. This should be built up slowly a step at a time. Again start with puppy beside you and encourage them to step off with you and then every other step if they stay with you offer them a food reward the steps between food rewards can gradually be increased. If you find that at a certain number of steps the puppy starts to become too easily distracted then decrease the number of steps between food rewards and practice at this level for a longer period of time before increasing the steps gradually again.

You can of course use a heal or close cue for your dog this can be useful if you intend to teach your puppy to walk beside you off lead and you want to give it a cue for doing this, but if this is not something you plan to do you can instead just use the lead being attached as the cue for your puppy to understand that it is to walk nicely beside you.

**Alone Training**

This is one of the most important things you will ever teach your puppy, at some point we will all have to leave our dogs at home, because we need to go shopping or to the doctor’s, to a wedding or funeral or we may even need to go into hospital for a time and someone else has to come in and feed and walk our dogs for us.

As responsible dog owners we need to help our dogs learn how to settle and be calm in their own surroundings at home.

 The first thing to remember is that we do not allow our puppies to bark or cry in a crate or room they are very social animals and have probably come from a place where they were with litter mates and their dam being alone is scary at first so what we want to do it let them know that we are there for them and that they can trust us.

You may choose to give you puppy a safe place such as a crate or a puppy pen, this is not only to keep your belongings safe but to keep your puppy safe, or you may opt for a specific room that you have puppy proofed with a bed in it, what every you choose this place should in a quiet place in the house this may be the kitchen or living room, ensure that the bed or crate is in a draft free place away from direct sunlight, you can get a crate cover crates with blankets to make the dog feel more secure. This room or crate must be a place of nice things feed your puppy in this area, give it treats and toy’s here never send your puppy to this place be it a crate or room as a punishment.

Once you have lovely comfortable place for you puppy that you are making positive associations with by using treats or enrichment toys such as stuffed Kongs you can start to leave the room your puppy is in and move to another room where you can still hear your puppy, you may also invest in an indoor CCTV camera so that you can watch your puppy. At first your puppy may not like being left at all so you may not even get out of the door, this is understandable and fine your puppy’s confidence needs to build slowly over time so you will be working slowly on steps away and creating distance from puppy, this may only be making a cup of tea in the kitchen.

Once you have this calm behaviour in the room or crate start to leave out of the front door this may only be to put some rubbish in your bin but puppy will see you calmly leave and calmly come back while it is happy playing with a toy to just chilling out in it’s safe place.

I recommend walking out of the door randomly numerous time during the day so that puppy gets used to leaving and it doesn’t become an issue. Once you have a puppy that doesn’t react to you walking through the front door you can gradually build up the time outside the front door, this may only be a few seconds at first slowly building to minutes. As you increase your alone time you may choose to take a cup of tea outside with a book to read so that you are close and able to hear or even watch your puppy on your CCTV so that if you notice any kind of distressed behaviour you can go back in side. Seeing distressing behaviour would be a cue to you that you are pushing your puppy too far and you need to take a step back in your along time and not leave the puppy for quite so long.

Again add in new things over time like going for a quick walk around the block or turning the engine of your car on and maybe even leaving your driveway if you have one to going to the shop, so that your puppy gets used to you doing these things and being left alone at home.

 If you or your puppy are struggling with this you may need to call on a trainer to help you as some pups just cannot seem to manage when left and often need more structured training and possible help with medication from a vet.

**Recall**

This is a common problem for many owners; dog trainers often hear “I’d like to let him off the lead but he doesn’t come back when called” or “he just doesn’t listen when I call him, he runs off to see other people or dogs and I can’t get him back what should I do?”

Another common complaint is “at the end of our walk he won’t come back!” This problem can be solved in most dogs with time and practice.

Most people assume that a puppy knows to come to its owner when they hear their name called but the name should only be a cue to look at the owner not a recall cue “come” or “hear” would be the cue to come back and should be taught in the home and reinforced positively so that the dog will then learn its name and that come means you want it to come to you, you should do this at every meal time and you can do it when playing in the garden.

Once you have paired the cue “come”, “hear” or whistle you can try a more structured training scenario that you can eventually take out on to a walk, but initially we start at home where the distractions are low.

Start off by having some treats or a handful of the dog's food, which has been removed from its daily food ration, in your pocket. The dog shouldn’t know about this. When you and your puppy are in separate rooms, call it using the cue you have chosen, make calling the puppy sound fun so higher pitched and inviting to your puppy.

If you wish you can use a whistle as your recall cue. When your dog runs to you give it a treat and lots of fuss and praise.

Some people find teaching a recall harder to do because the dog doesn’t leave their side in the home, so I would ask someone to hold the dog in one room while the owner goes to another room to call the puppy. If the other person is another family member who will also be walking the puppy, then a game of call the puppy back and forth could be played and the dog would then find it fun to run between its owners.

Your puppy may well have learned to ignore your chosen recall cue so you may have to choose a new one for example “Here” or “Close” or use a whistle.  As with the vocal recall I would use the whistle to call the puppy at home for meals and randomly just so it gets used to the whistle and really starts to understand what it means this does mean not calling the dog by the name all the time.

Once you are sure the puppy understands the recall cue take it to the local park at a quiet time, or to a secure field. You may well be still unsure of the puppy coming back, in which case use a long line which is just like a long lead can be used to help guide the puppy back where it will be praised and treated. The long line is there to help build owner confidence and to help them trust that the dog is learning to come back. Don’t let the dog off the long line until you are sure that the recall is trained well, don’t expect perfection.

Playing games with your puppy while on a walk such as tuggy, retrieving, hide and seek or sniffing tracking game where you interact with your puppy will mean its more likely to want to be with you making recall easier, when there are distractions like other puppies or older dogs or people around.

**Exercise**Getting out and about with your new puppy is an exciting thought for any new owner, and while you may want to go out and share long walks through beautiful landscapes and beaches with your pup, it isn’t such a good idea while they are young and still growing.

Over exercising your puppy can have a detrimental effect on the growth of the bones. There is a simple rule that many puppy owners follow that is designed to allow the puppy to go for walks with its owner and slowly build up time as the puppy grows so as not to put too much pressure on growing bones. This is called the **“5 minute rule”** The rule is …. 5 minutes walk per month of life plus 5 minutes, so a 12-week-old puppy should be having 20 minutes walk twice a day. This rule is for repetitive walking on lead and going up and down stairs.

Around 12-18 month of age the exercise you offer can be unrestricted. But what we must also remember that off lead walks on uneven surfaces like grass in parks can also help to build good muscle mass, which helps to support good bone growth, so you can let your puppy have longer time off lead on softer ground such as grass or at the beach.

High impact games such as playing fetch with a ball or agility or flyball should not be considered until dogs are more physically mature. Chasing after a ball can become an obsessive behaviour and certainly in young dogs the twisting, turning and jumping of these high impact sports can put extra pressure on joints that are still forming. Running up and down stairs and jumping on and off of sofas should be restricted as much as possible. If your puppy is allowed upstairs then consider a baby gate across the bottom to stop your pup running up and down whenever it likes.

Hobbies like Flyball and agility should not be considered until your pup is 12-18 months old, most clubs that run these activities will advise you on their requirements.

Sniffing, searching retrieve games can be better for a younger puppy to play they get exercise and enrichment for mental stimulation.

**Examining your puppy**

This is about making handling your puppy in any situation a nice experience for your puppy. It may need to be handled by another person a vet or vet nurse or a groomer or dog walker or pet sitter and if the puppy is used to this it is more pleasurable for them and hopefully a stress free an experience.

Your puppy being used to full body check overs make it easier to do this simple daily health check, an owner may notice a lump or sticky buds or even a tick on a puppy when they are running their hands all over them, this will also allow you to feel for any matts in fur if your puppy has longer fur or it means you are able to avoid matting by employing a daily grooming routine.

This is also the time you look inside ears to make sure they are clean a little wax is okay but lots could mean there is an infection or allergy. Eyes should also be clear and bright with no discharge, of course some dogs do have tear staining, this is acceptable.

Teeth should be clean older dogs do often have some discolouration but plaque buildup is not good and would need to be removed by a vet, but you can start to clean your pups teeth when younger which means you are less likely to have a dental issue while cleaning teeth you can also ensure the teeth are not broken, and gums have no sores or bleeding.

Feet and claws, pads should be dry but not cracked and red or sore, and claws should be short and not split, many dogs do wear their claws down while walking, but some do not and need to have their claws cut regularly to ensure they can walk properly and without discomfort.

Anything you notice that is not normal for your dog should be reported to your Veterinarian.

Licky matts or stuffed enrichment toys that can be stuck to a door are great for keeping a dogs attention while you check them over and this also means they are being reinforced for allowing you to do this, like wise when a vet or groomer handles your puppy give it plenty of rewards so that it sees the attention as rewarding and positive.

Some dogs are more fearful and may react badly to being touched, In which case a period of desensitization and behaviour modification training with a trainer or behaviourist, who can advise more specifically on voluntary behaviour modification is required.

**Using your puppy’s brain**

There are plenty of things to you do you use your puppy’s brain, training and teaching it basic commands are just one aspect of this.

You can teach our pup to play games like find it, have a toy that your puppy loves and you only use for that special find it game, hide it somewhere in our house or garden and send you dog off to find it using it’s nose, or play the Cup came, using some plant pots, hide a treat under one and get your dog to use it’s nose to find the treat. A simple cardboard box with newspaper can be great way to engage you pups brain or a snuffle matt that you can hide treat in.

Nina Ottoson has some great puzzle toys, which increase in complexity, as dogs get better at figuring them out.

You can also teach your dog tricks like spin or paw, the American dog trainer Kyra Sundance has written a lovely book called 101 dog tricks, which is full of fabulous ideas you can try.

Alternatively you may want to try specific training like Agility, Hoopers, Rally Canicross or if you have a gun dog some gundog training, but please remember you may find that you have to wait for your puppy to have stopped growing to undertake some activities. Teaching your puppy to swim, giving them a sand pit to dig in or find treats in or a paddling pool to splash about in or even giving them a ball pit to play in.

 Facebook groups can also be a good place to find new enrichment ideas to try out with you puppy.

**Bristol dog walks**

**Velvet bottom**

Formerly a Roman lead mine, this was abandoned in the Victorian age and since then has been turned into a nature reserve, there is a lovely stone path running through it but there are sometimes sheep grazing.

http://www.somersetwildlife.org/cheddar
Satnav postcode is BS40 7XR

**Greyfields wood, High Littleton**

There is a large turning on the left which you turn down and go along rather bumpy gravel track there is room for around 4 or 5 cars to park. This is a lovely cool woodland walk and the woodland is full of Bluebells in May/June, there is also a very picturesque waterfall leading into a lovely stream perfect for keeping dog hydrated and cool in warmer weather.

Satnav postcode is BS39 6YE

**Felton Common**

Parking is by St Katherine’s church, Please be respectful of the church and park on the right opposite the church and not on the concrete drive in front of it on during services.

 Satnav postcode is BS40 9US

**Berrow beach**

Parking is on the beach all year round, it's free in the winter but there is a charge in the summer please check for up to date charges

<http://www.burnham-on-sea.com/beach-safety-tips.shtml>

Satnav postcode is TA8 2QX

**Brean Beach**

Parking in on the beach or in a car park there is a charge for the day please check for up to date charge

Satnav postcode is TA8 2RS

**Sandy Bay**

 This beach is 2 miles north of Weston Super Mare, it is dog friendly all year round with a free car park

 Satnav postcode is BS22 9UR

**Ashton Court**

A manor house first built in the 1400’s it is set in an 850 acre estate, which also has two deer parks, a golf course and working model railway, it has a number of ponds ideal for water loving dogs, the manor house is used for functions, but it does have a lovely café with indoor and outdoor seating areas and a public toilet.

Please be aware that the estate is used for various events over the course of the year, which means that car parks may be full or closed and also may restrict your use of the whole estate, please check the website for information on these event’s

 [www.bristol.gov.uk/web/ashton-court-mansion](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/ashton-court-mansion)
There are 3 car parks situated on Kennel lodge road, Rownham Hill and Clarken coombe, there is a small daily charge for parking.

 Satnav postcode is BS41 9JN

**Blaise Castle**

 is an 18th century manor house set in 650 acres of forest and parkland it has a stream running through it with waterfalls and ponds and a grade 2 listed castle in the grounds [www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/blaise-castle-house-museum/](http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/blaise-castle-house-museum/)

Parking is in a large free car park

Satnav postcode is BS10 7QT

**Troopers Hill Nature reserve**

Troopers Hill is situated in St George, east Bristol, between the A431 Air Balloon Road and Crews Hole Road. These roads are linked by Troopers Hill Road, from which there are four pedestrian entrances on to the site. You can also cross Troopers Hill Field from Summerhill Terrace and Malvern Road (best for wheelchair access) to reach the hill

Satnav postcode is BS5 8XX

**Leigh Woods**

Broad leaf woodland running alongside Avon gorge, with pathway running through it.

 [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leigh-woods](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leigh-woods)
Parking is free

Satnav postcode is BS8 3QB

**Tyntesfield estate**

Oh this place is so beautiful, it is very much worth a visit.

Dogs are not allowed into the formal grounds or buildings please check their website. However, there are dog walks around the grounds specified by Tyntesfield.

There is a parking charge.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield/dog-owners/>

Wraxall, Bristol, BS48 1NX

**Snuff Mills**

 A lovely woodland walk along a stream with a number of places deep enough for dogs to swim, be aware that only the strongest of dog swimmers should enter the water in certain places as there are a number of waterfall and weirs, that are very fast flowing. There is a lovely café with outdoor seating and a public toilet in the car park.

Parking is free

 Satnav postcode is BS16 2HH