



(NAPSA)—New dog owners often labor under the mistaken belief that their pup will automatically fit into their families. This is not necessarily the case, however. While your dog is your friend, he must be trained to obey you in emergent situations and in order to prevent embarrassing encounters with other people and other animals.

Billie Wells, founder of “Sit and Stay” Obedience School in California, says that the five basic commands for training your dog should always be preceded by the dog’s name and are often more effective if a correct response is rewarded with a treat:

**Sit**—Hold a treat at the dog’s nose level; then, slowly back it up over the dog’s head while giving the command, “Spike, sit” until the dog’s hindquarters touch the ground.

**Heel**—With the dog in the “sit” position, say, “Spike, heel.” Holding the treat just over the dog’s nose and keeping him on a tight leash, start walking (left foot first). The dog’s shoulder should be in line with your left knee.

**Come**—Holding a treat at nose level, say, “Spike, come” (from a six-foot distance), or walk backwards with the dog on a leash.

**Down**—From a “sit” position, hold a treat out and under the dog’s head. Slowly drop it in front of the dog until he goes down.

**Stay**—Once in the “sit” position, say “Spike, stay” and slowly stand up. If the dog stands up, physically lay him down by placing your left hand on the dog’s



**Pet owners looking for a “treat” should check out *Best In Show* available in May on VHS and DVD.**

shoulder blades while scooping up both front feet and laying them down with your right hand. Then, not going too far and maintaining eye contact—walk away.

Owners who are looking for a reward of their own may want to take a break from these training exercises to watch the movie *Best In Show*. One of the best-reviewed films of 2000, *Best In Show* has been called a wildly hilarious look at dog show participants and the pooches who love them. *Best In Show* will be available from Warner Home Video on VHS and DVD in May 2001.