



## Keeping Your Dog Comfortable When Training at Devon Dogs

Setting you and your dog up for success...that is one of our core principles when training! We want both you and your dog to be as comfortable as possible when you train with us. We've put together some top tips so that you get the very best out of your training session.

1. **Breaks** – whether you are training with us for a class, workshop or 121s, our dogs do the best when given breaks in between training. This allows your dog a chance to rest and consolidate the learning that took place during the training. Your trainer can use this time to answer any questions you may have, demo the next exercise or have you practice with one of our dogs.
2. **Chew/Kongs** – pack something for your dog to chew on in between sessions to help them settle.
3. **Vehicles** – all dogs make their journey to us in a vehicle. Our preference, therefore, is to have dogs rest in between sessions in the vehicle they travelled in. Here are a few strategies to help make your vehicle a great place for your dog to hang out:
  - a. **Parking** – park your car so that there is minimal activity to disturb your dog. If your dog travels in the boot of your car, back into the parking space so that your dog isn't disturbed by activity in the car park. Pick your space carefully and select a spot that is quiet for a dog that will be disturb by other dogs being moved in and out of vehicles.
  - b. **Crate** – our preference is for dogs to travel in car crates as this keeps them super safe for a journey. Crates also allow you to cover the crate and block visibility of the carpark where dogs will be moving to and from training sessions. On warmer days, you can also safely open windows to allow the lovely Devon breeze cool your dog.
  - c. **Vehicle Covers** – where it isn't possible to use a car crate, having suitable blankets to cover your vehicle can help your dog settle. In summer months, we are huge fans of using Be Cool Solutions car covers, these reflective sheets allow air to pass through and reflect the warming rays of the sun. These are available in 3 sizes on [Amazon](#). They keep the dogs nice and cool... much cooler than outside the vehicle! A reflective sunshade across the windscreen can also help keep temperatures in the vehicle cooler; even a white towel across the windscreen can help!
  - d. **Vent locks** - these are very useful tools for dogs who travel in crates. The vent lock allow the boot of the vehicle to be cracked open allowing airflow through the vehicle, these come in a variety of lengths.
  - e. **Fans** – there are a number of options for fans that are either battery operated or plug into the AV adaptor in your vehicle.
4. **Portable Crate** – for dogs that really settle and rest in their crates, we welcome these in our training area and crate covers are super useful to help your dog relax and wind down during their break.
5. **Coats** – in summer months there are several cooling coats on the market that can help your dog should the days be warmer (we love the warm summer weather!). In winter, sweaters and coats are great for helping your dog stay toasty and warm before, during and after your training session.
6. **Boundaries** – the use of a boundary during training can be really useful and we use these for all of our training session. We have a few dogs that can truly relax and snooze on their boundary and these dogs are boundary geniuses! If you have a boundary genius, during breaks your dog is welcome to remain on their boundary, if your dog will struggle with activity: dogs, people, machinery and general activity taking place around them, we recommend one of the solutions above during breaks.

All our training is designed so that you get the most out of your time with us, we can help you with any struggle. During your training, let us know if you think of something you need help with!