Here are some tips for training your Vizsla…

Starting with things you should avoid

Here are 3 common mistakes that most Vizsla owners make, without knowing that they are sending wrong signals to their pets:  
  
  
MISTAKE #1  
  
Calling your dog and then, when he comes to you, "punishing" him or doing something he doesn't like.  
  
For eg: The dog is having tons of fun in the dog park -- you call and he comes to you -- and you  
reward his behavior by putting him on a leash and taking him home.  
Do you think your dog will come to you the next time?  
  
MISTAKE #2  
  
Not giving attention to your dog's emotions.  
  
For eg: After around 15 minutes of training, you notice that your dog is yawning too much or  
simply refuses to look at you. You continue training him but the dog does not respond.  
  
The result: You get frustrated and irritated – and remember, that affects your dog too.

Remember: puppy can’t contrite for a long time. Many short lessons are much more beneficial than one long one.   
  
MISTAKE #3  
  
Not Following Through Your Dog Training Lessons  
  
For eg: You spend 1 hour on a Sunday training you dog to sit when you say SIT. But, during  
the week you became too busy and you could not devote much time. So, when you start again the next Sunday, the dog has most likely forgotten the initial lesson.  
  
You need to follow the training routine regularly till you dog has learnt the lesson thoroughly.  
Vizslas love to learn and will learn by regular, consistent repetition.  
  
There are several other such common pitfalls that should be avoided. And once you take the right steps,  
the training process will be far more enjoyable and effective.  
  
Training Vizslas is not at all difficult,  
ONLY if  
  
\* you know what to expect  
\* know what the exact steps are  
\* know what common mistakes to avoid

Here's what it's NOT about:  
  
1. Yelling at your dog  
2. Hitting or Kicking your Vizsla  
3. Punishing your puppy in any way  
  
Here's what it IS about:  
  
1. Playing with your dog and having fun!  
2. Making your Vizsla actually WANT   to obey you!  
3. Using the natural instincts ALL Viszlas  have, to quickly and easily get your dog trained and acting like an angel.

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Right now, almost 100% of your dog behavior (both good and bad) is a result of getting your  
attention... or trying to get your attention.  
  
In fact, almost all "problem" behavior with Vizslas can be traced back to one thing:  
  
RECEIVING ATTENTION AT THE WRONG TIME  
  
I'll give you an example:  
  
First, let's agree that your dog craves your attention.  
  
OK.  
  
Have you ever had the dog jump all over you?  
  
You most likely looked down and said something like "Down, ...Down!".  
  
And then maybe you took your loving dog’s paws off you, placed the dog on the ground, and petted him.  
  
Well, here's what's going on in your puppy's head right now ...even if you're saying "No!"... and scolding him. The dog thinks:  
  
"WOW!  EVERY TIME I jump up on him (her), I get attention!  This is great! ...I THINK I'LL JUMP ON HIM MORE OFTEN!" So, if you do this every time the dog jumps on you, do you know what he ends up  
thinking? "Hey - THIS WORKS EVERY TIME!"  
  
...And the cycle continues.

And this is why most people never have well behaved Vizslas. It's because they accidentally reward problem behavior by giving their puppies attention at the wrong time. Fortunately, this is \*really easy\* to fix. There are quite a few ways you can stop jumping behavior - and I will tell you the easiest one.  
When your dog starts to jump on you, turn to one side and look elsewhere. Don't speak a word -  
either positive or negative. Once he goes back to the ground and stands on his  
four feet, look at him and say 'Good'. So, you are ignoring his attempt to draw your attention.   
And slowly, increase the time between his going back to the ground and you’re looking at him and saying 'Good'.  
  
And there are certain things you should NEVER do when your dog jumps - like step backwards, sit down on your knees etc. You will be encouraging his bad behavior if you do that.

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STOP YOUR DOG FROM BITING  
  
If your Vizsla has the habit of biting you or other members of your family, you can use some of the following techniques to stop it from doing so:  
  
One thing to keep in mind when you are teaching your Vizsla not to bite is: DO NOT use toys  
and activities that encourage biting.  
  
Let me explain with an example: Playing tug-of-war. Although this may be a popular  
playtime activity for you and your dog, did you know that this encourages Your dog to bite, Tthus leading to unwanted behavior problems?  
  
Well, I am not saying that you should never play tug-of-war with your dog. Once he is trained  
and fully understands the "Off" command, you may tug-of-war with him. Until then, it is best to put  
the rope away.  
  
Another common mistake made by inexperienced Vizsla owners that encourages biting is rough housing.  
  
How many of us have either seen, or participated in, activities such as growling at our puppies and letting  
them grab our hands in their mouths during play? Then, when our Vizsla bites too hard, we  
scold him and tell him "no bite". We are completely confusing our Vizsla by doing this if it  
has not yet been trained to understand hard bites from soft bites.  
  
If your puppy has a great propensity to bite when playing, it is a good idea to keep your hands away from its face when playing or petting. This will discourage the biting by removing the item it is trying to bite. Never reward mouthing, snapping or grabbing types of behavior.  
  
An example would be playing with your dog even after it has grabbed a toy from your hand. In this  
instance, you should stop playing and ignore him. Continuing to play will enable it to think the grabbing  
behavior was acceptable and it will continue to do so in the future. This could result in it later grabbing  
food or other items, unintentionally injuring someone or another animal.  
  
Once your Vizsla has established that mouthing or biting is not the appropriate response in  
most instances, it is important that you make it understand when it IS an appropriate response. For  
instance, Retrieving is a situation where it is appropriate for your Vizsla to mouth or bite.  
  
Another approach to stop the unwanted biting behavior is to simply stop interacting with your Vizsla  
and ignore it for a period of time.

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I have listed down the steps to teach the command "COME".  
  
Teaching the dog to come is one of the most important commands he will ever learn. It is also a command that will take a lot of time to successfully learn.  
Begin by waiting until the puppy is already approaching you, then when two to three feet away, say  
"Name, COME". When he gets to you, praise him. You should repeat this exercise as often as you can for several months. As the puppy begins to associate "COME” with a good thing, you can gradually increase the distance. If your dog does not come when called, then it has not yet made the  association of the word to the action. Give him time, he will eventually understand. The key to success with this command is for the puppy to always associate the command "COME" with a good thing.  
  
A common mistake made by novice handlers is they use a firm tone with the command causing their Vizsla to associate fear with the command. If your dog fears you, its instinct will be to run away instead of coming near.  
  
NEVER chase the dog when using the command “COME". He will feel, "WOW! The master is giving me attention and chasing me. This is FUN. Whatever he says, I am not going to him and he will keep running behind me."  
  
Once you believe your dog understands the command, begin to reinforce it. Put a lead on dog’s collar and allow him to run around with the lead dragging behind. Gently pick up the lead, without your Vizsla  
noticing and say "Name, COME". If the dog  does not come, then gently pull the lead forcing him to come. Repeat this test often.