

Leadership Exercises For Families & Dogs

Practice these leadership exercises as the situations occur throughout the day. They will help turn your pet into a confident, friendly dog that is eager to please all members of the family – adults and children alike.

DO	DON'T
Have your dog sit and wait while you go through outside doors first.	Let your dog run through the doorway ahead of you.
Have your dog wait for her meal until after people have had their dinner.	Let your dog eat before you or at the same time.
Teach your dog to accept being touched while he eats.	Avoid disturbing your dog when he is eating.
Gently move your dog out of the way if she is lying in your path.	Step around your dog or choose another route so she isn't disturbed.
Have your dog obey a request like sit before receiving attention.	Pet your dog whenever he comes to demand attention from you.
If your dog stares at you, stare back until he looks away.	Break eye contact first if your dog stares at you.
Pet your dog with long, slow strokes starting at the top of head and continuing to the shoulders.	Pet your dog with quick, short strokes across the head or face that get her excited.
Play games like fetch, with you in control of the toys at the end.	Play games like tug of war, where your dog is likely to win.
Teach your dog that hands are not appropriate chew toys.	Encourage your dog to bite your hands by playing games with his mouth.
Practice touching and handling your dog's feet, mouth and ears.	Avoid touching your dog's feet, mouth and ears.
Speak in a soft, high-pitched, praising voice so your dog is eager to pay attention.	Speak in loud, low tones – a firm, threatening voice so your dog knows you mean business.

Note: These exercises are recommended for use with dogs that are not aggressive toward people. If your dog growls, bares his teeth, snaps, attempts to bite, or shows any other potentially aggressive reaction in response to these situations, then don't do the exercise. A dog that feels threatened or challenged may bite and can cause serious injury.



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