

HOW TO HELP YOUR PUPPY REGARD YOU AS A LEADER

A LEADER MUST GET THE FOLLOWER'S ATTENTION

Establish communication channels and a bond between you and your puppy. Encourage eye contact several times a day.

A LEADER IS DEPENDABLE-

Food is a primary reinforcer. Your puppy has to eat anyway; use it to your best advantage. If your puppy depends on you for food (existence), the puppy will be less independent.

LEADERS EAT FIRST

Make it a point to feed the puppy after you have eaten.

EARNING PRAISE & TREATS

Stop all food treats and petting during this rehabilitation period except what is earned by obeying a command. A few seconds of heeling practice can coincide with a food treat. This is only a temporary measure until your puppy's behavior improves.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

Don't allow your puppy to charge in and out of territory (door of home, vehicle, fence gate, etc.) before you.

LEADERS CONTROL TERRITORY

Your puppy should yield territory to the leader. If your puppy is lying down in a hallway and you want to pass, gently help your puppy to move, don't step over or around.

LEADERS MEAN WHAT THEY SAY

When giving your puppy a command, don't beg or scream. No matter how simple the command, give it only once and make sure to help your puppy comply.

LEADERS ARE WINNERS

Play games on your terms. You possess the ball, initiate the game, end the game, put the ball out of puppy's reach.

LIFE WITH YOUR PUPPY IS NOT A DEMOCRACY

Be a kind and gentle dictator. Think of it as a partnership, with you making the important decisions. To explain this to your puppy for now, you get the bed. The puppy may sleep in your bedroom at night, but until behavior problems are resolved, not on your bed. Sleeping together in the bed makes you seem like a litter mate, or an equal, in the eyes of your puppy.

MUZZLE CONTROL IS A NATURALLY DOMINANT GESTURE

Put your hand over the top of your puppy's muzzle and gently hold it there for a few seconds. This can be a regular part of your petting and attention.

A FOLLOWER ALLOWS GENTLE HANDLING

Have regular grooming sessions with your puppy.

TRAIN, DON'T COMPLAIN

Frequently owners concentrate on stopping inappropriate behavior, but forget to teach their puppy an acceptable behavior for the situation.

LEADERS ARE FUN, FAIR, KIND & CONSISTENT

Be firm, not harsh in working with your puppy. Don't work with your puppy if you lose your patience. Include your puppy in activities you both enjoy but remain "in charge".