

## **Dog Training Principles**

1. Be consistent; if a behavior is unacceptable, it should NEVER be permitted.
2. Always follow a correction by demonstrating the preferred behavior and praise him for doing the right thing.
3. If your dog challenges you, you must win. Escalate your correction until you get the desired response. This doesn't mean being violent; the use of loud noises can be very effective. Try an air horn. You'll get his attention and respect and he'll know that you are NOT playing! The unwritten rule of the pack is that there must be a firm, established leader at all times. If you don't take up the position (by his definition, not yours), he will.
4. Never give a command that cannot be enforced. For example, don't call your dog off leash until he is 100% reliable on a long leash.
5. Never call your dog to punish him. If necessary, go get him. If he gets a food reward and plentiful praise every time he comes to you, you'll have a very reliable recall before long.
6. Gently handle your dog's feet, ears and tail and open his mouth daily. Make sure there is no place on your pet that is forbidden to be touched.
7. Never play the tug of war game with your dog. This reinforces the sense of their power in their jaws. Play fetch instead and insist that they drop the ball for you.
8. Make sure that you can take a food bowl, bone or toy away from your dog without him threatening to bite you. If necessary, feed his meal to him by hand and make him work for it. If he's very aggressive and possessive over toys or chew treats, don't give them to him until you've established your position as alpha.
9. Socialize your dog with people as much as possible. Have friends give treats and make him perform tricks to earn them. Don't socialize your puppy with other dogs until he is four months of age and has had all of his vaccinations. An exception to this would be healthy, adult dogs that you know personally that are up to date on vaccines.
10. Give a command once and then make sure he does it the first time. Otherwise, you will teach your dog to ignore you and undermine your authority.
11. Vary the routine. Don't just repeat the same sequences of exercises again and again.
12. Don't just train your dog in your yard or house. Make use of public parks, parking lots and school yards.
13. Don't avoid distractions; utilize them! You want your dog to be obedient under all circumstances.
14. Make training fun for your dog as well as yourself and always end on a positive note.