



Puppy Training

Leadership Exercises

Practice these leadership exercises to help your puppy become a confident, friendly dog that is eager to please all family members.

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- Don't let your puppy run through the doorway to go out ahead of you. Instead, have your puppy sit and wait while you go out the door first.
 - Serve your puppy dinner after you and your family have already eaten.
 - Pet your puppy occasionally while it is eating, so that it accepts being touched while it eats.
 - If your puppy is in your path, gently move it out of the way instead of stepping around it or choosing another route.
 - Require your puppy to obey a request like "sit" before you give it attention.
 - If your puppy stares at you, don't be the one to break eye contact first. Stare back at your puppy until it looks away.
 - Pet your puppy with long, slow strokes that start at the top of the head and move down to the shoulders. Don't use quick, short strokes across the head and face that could cause your puppy to get excited.
 - Play games like fetch, where you are in control of the toy at the end of the game. Avoid tug of war and other games where your puppy is likely to win.
 - Teach your puppy that hands are not appropriate chew toys, and never encourage your puppy to bite your hands by playing games with the puppy's mouth.
 - Touch and handle your puppy's feet, mouth and ears.
 - Practice the controlled down exercise and let your puppy up when it relaxes. Don't put your puppy on its back and let it escape or give up if the puppy starts to struggle.