

Leadership Exercises for People & Dogs

Do's

- Play games like fetch, hide and seek
- Discourage play-biting of hands
- Speak in a soft, high-pitched, praising voice
- Practice body handling

Don'ts

- Play aggressive games like wrestling, tug-or-war
- Encourage hand biting by playing with the dog's mouth
- Speak in a low-pitched, stern voice
- Avoid touching feet, ears, etc...

Techniques to Manage Puppy Biting

- Avoid aggressive play
- Redirect the puppy to appropriate toys
- Practice the high yip
- Keep your hands curled
- Use a gentle leader collar
- Supervise play between kids and puppies
- Use a time-out

Guidelines for Selecting a trainer

- Look for positive training methods
- Sit in on a class before enrolling
- Don't do what a trainer asks if you're not comfortable with it
- Tell the trainer to stop if they're doing something to your dog that you don't like
- Avoid trainers who guarantee results
- Avoid trainers who allow only choke chains or pinch collars

General Training Tips

- Have all family members work with the pet
- Use a soft, praising voice
- Use lots of praise, food and attention as rewards
- Work in short sessions (a few minutes at a time) repeated throughout the day

Introducing a dog to Children

- Start as early as possible
- Teach the dog sit, stay, down, etc...
- Supervise both the dog and the child
- Reward the dog as the child approaches quietly from the side
- If there are any signs of aggression - growling, snarling, or snapping - seek professional help

Adding a new dog to a Household

- A puppy or young dog may be more easily accepted than another adult
- Most dogs will establish a rank order
- Neuter males are less likely to be aggressive than intact males or female
- Do the introduction slowly, on neutral ground
- Reward both dogs for being calm with praise and treats

Adding a new cat to the Household

- An older kitten may be more easily accepted than another adult
- Some cats are territorial and will reject any new addition
- Intact males may be more aggressive than neutered males or females
- Keep the cats in separate areas and introduce them slowly
- Don't allow them to just "sort it out among themselves"