

Ground rules for your dog

1. Do not let your dog jump up! Even at you! Turn your back every time and they do and they will soon get the idea. When your dog tries to jump up on others use the lead to help in preventing this.
2. A dog's basic routine should consist of: Walk - exercise – feed – rest. This will help with any dog to get them into a consistent natural routine.
3. Make sure your dog is fed on a hypo allergenic diet with no artificial colorants, preservatives or e numbers. Always check the ingredients as diet can seriously affect your dog's behaviour.
4. Whenever you command your dog to do something always make sure it is reinforced first time. You need to make your voice matter and mean something. If you keep on repeating yourself your dog will eventually just de-sensitise itself to your voice. Always make sure your commands are calm. No shouting. Remember you should always be calm yet assertive and not aggressive!
5. No feeding from the table or from scrounging situations.
6. No tug of war or toys left around the house. Dogs see toys as prey objects. Therefore it makes no sense to become competitive with prey. This is what tug of war is.
7. Obviously if you can control your dog, tug of war can be acceptable in training situations, but not in a home environment.
8. Also by leaving toys around the house you are making your dog complacent. Just think if you were allowed to do something all the time, that would normally be a privilege, it wouldn't be special any more. That is what the toy should be to your dog, a privilege!

9. Don't be inconsistent. Keep your rules constant. Make sure everyone in the house has the same attitude towards the dog.
10. Don't shout. Don't blow hot and cold – don't bribe your dog one minute then shout the next. Always keep calm.
11. Any problem ranging from pulling on the lead to barking at certain sounds should be addressed in a controlled environment with minimum distraction using the lead.
12. Gradual exposure to the problem with you in control and not over using your voice is the key.
13. Recall off the lead in the garden needs to be taught ASAP. This should be the stepping stone to letting them off the lead. (practise a whistle recall)

Basic control around the house is very important

Examples of exercises would be:

- Make sure you go through doorways first by enforcing the 'sit'.
- Make sure your dog waits for their dinner in a sit.
- 'On your bed' should be taught. Use the lead if needed.
- 'On your own' time should be enforced in the kitchen and/or garden for at least half an hour (combined) when you are in the house. (this means your dog is on his own but knows that you are in a different part of the house. Your dog needs to become used to this discipline)
- Desensitise your dog to sounds. Buy a sound CD (recommended website – the company of animals). Put it in on a low volume and gradually higher it as your dog gains in confidence. Just simply have a

play with them whilst the CD is on. The CD will contain sound variations ranging from cars to fireworks.

REMEMBER – EXPOSURE IS THE KEY TO SOCIALISATION.

A SOCIABLE DOG IS NOT JUST A DOG THAT WILL PLAY.

IT IS A DOG THAT WILL WALK PAST OTHER DOGS AND PEOPLE IN A CONTROLLED MANNER.

OBEDIENCE CLASSES ARE ESSENTIAL TO ANY DOGS DEVELOPMENT