



Puppy Dominance Prevention



The Basics:

-Your puppy must obey an easy command (like “sit”) before receiving anything he wants:

Sit before being fed, sit to get a treat, sit to be petted, sit before getting the leash taken on or off. Other situations: sit for grooming and before entering or exiting the house. Sit before being invited onto furniture.

-An exercised dog is better behaved.

Feeding Tips:

-Have your puppy sit and stay before he can eat out of his food bowl.

-Block eating till you give a release command like “okay”.

-Interrupt feeding with a sit/stay command, give a treat, and then sit/stay when bowl returned.

Walking Tips:

-Sit/stay for the leash to be put on, practice puppy waiting at the door while you go through first, don't allow puppy to walk through till calm, then walk at a heel.

-Whoever is in front (dog or person) is the leader so avoid retractable leashes.

Handling Body Parts:

-Place a slip-lead or light metal chain and leash on your puppy. Handle you puppy's feet, ears, tail, and mouth. -If he nips at your hands, give a quick jerk with the leash. Practice this with nippy pups twice daily until nipping stops.

-Slowly work up to increased tolerance of body part handling and give praise and treats for allowing handling without nipping.

Attention:

-Getting attention on demand is a subtle form of dominance behavior.

-If your puppy nudges you for attention, make him/her sit and stay before petting.