

SIMPLE, EASY WAYS TO BECOME THE LEADER WITH YOUR DOG

1. Dog must sit patiently while the humans (including children) go in or out the door first.
2. Dog must sit patiently while food is placed on floor. No advancing to food until released (given permission to do so).
3. Interrupt what the dog is doing and redirect (Example: dog is eating, tell dog to sit and take bowl away: dog is chewing on bone, reach down and take bone away).
Caution: If dog is used to being in charge, you could get bit. Good idea to do some of the other things first before attempting this.
4. Humans eat before dogs.
5. Do not walk around dog. If dog is lying in the middle of the hallway and you need to pass, make the dog move.
6. You determine when the dog gets attention. Playtime and attention are important but they are never to be demanded.
7. Dog needs own space. Kennels, mats, etc. are good places. They give the dog a place of its own.
8. Dogs must be invited on furniture.
9. If you give a command and you know the dog is purposely ignoring you, stop giving the command. Do not give a command or make rules that you are not willing to enforce.
10. Be consistent in all matters pertaining to the dog.
11. Be calm and assertive when dealing with your dog. ALWAYS Use a firm tone of voice. Using a high pitched or cutesy voice often amps up a dog and it may spiral out of control. Asking in tones the dog interprets as a question tells the dog you do not know the answer so the dog should lead. ALWAYS use a firm tone of voice.
12. Make sure dog gets plenty of exercise. A tired dog is a good dog! Excess energy can be burned off making it easier for the dog to focus its attention.
13. **BE AN EXAMPLE FOR YOUR DOG! LIVE YOUR LIFE IN A MANNER THAT DEFINES THE CODE OF CONDUCT!**

- KC Owens

