

Developing Routine & Structure With Your New Dog

The *whole family* should use the same positive training methods for your new pet. Your new dog will be looking up to you for clear guidelines and gentle leadership to shape his good behavior. Be consistent and patient.

Here are some tips:

- Provide clear rules and guidelines. There is never a need to physically reprimand your pet. Time outs, ending the game, and removing rewards are suitable punishment for a dog that is learning where the boundaries are. Make sure the boundary line doesn't keep moving or your dog will become very confused. Please take a training class.
- Go slowly. Introduce new surroundings and routines gradually.
- Feed on a regular schedule and teach your dog to sit and stay while giving him his dinner. Don't disturb him while eating.
- Sleeping: Don't let your new dog sleep on your bed (he can do this at a later date as long as he will get off cheerfully on your cue). Other great sleeping options are having a doggy bed placed next to your bed or a crate.
- Catch your dog doing something right (lying on his bed, chewing his OWN toys, sitting for attention, etc.) and reward with affection, attention and treats when he is polite or does what you ask.
- Initially give your dog a confined amount of space in the home - not free run of the entire house. Restrict access until you establish some training and get to know your pet better.
- A tired dog is a good dog! Your dog will not exercise himself, so leaving him in your yard all day just won't work. Dogs need to use their brains as well as their muscles, so if you don't have time to regularly play with and walk your dog, you may want to reconsider if you actually have time to have a dog.
- As with people, dogs develop new behaviors and change with age. You should be prepared to continue your dog's training and guidance throughout his life. Teach and train with patience and rewards. The results will be amazing!

