

Helpful Tips for a Happy Relationship with Your New Puppy/Dog From Sue, Rambo and Zippy

1. Your dog is Not human, therefore does not understand human language (verbal or body). Help them understand what we want from them in order for communication to be successful.
2. Know your Audience. What I say,... may not be what you hear.
3. Dogs gravitate towards positive rewards and avoid unpleasant situations.
4. Never set them up to fail.
5. The first few days should be quiet. This is the adjustment period but training (boundaries) begins as soon as they walk in the door. Communicate.
6. Bring dog/puppy in the house in a crate if possible. Leave in crate (closed) to let them get used to sounds/smells/your movements for a short while.
7. Only give access to a secure part of the house after you have taken them out to potty.
8. Do not give them access to the entire house until you know they are trustworthy (potty trained/no chewing). Easier to give access once they have earned it, rather than to give access and then take it away.
9. Keep leash on while in the house to act as an extension of the dog. You may need to tug on leash for correction, or to find a puppy that is hiding.
10. Since we can't be with our puppies 24/7....Dogs need to get used to being alone. Leave the house for a short time with your puppy crated to get them used to being alone, and knowing you will return.
11. Don't go immediately to crate when you walk in the door... Only let them out once they are calm. Immediately take them out to potty.
12. Be consistent. Everyone in the household should be consistent with proper training so as not to confuse the dog.

13. Be a firm and kind leader they can respect and trust.
14. Most dogs do not want to be the leader, but will take this position if they feel you are not a leader whom they respect or trust.
15. Puppy barking is cute as a Puppy, and annoying as an adult dog. Nip it in the bud to prevent a yappy adult dog. Your neighbors, visiting friends and people with whom you are speaking on the phone, will thank you.
16. Puppy socialization: When you take your puppy out, remember to bring treats. Give the treats to people who want to pet your puppy so the puppy relates new people as a positive.
17. Do not let puppy/dog “mouth” you. No part of our body (hand, wrist, fingers, clothing) should be in their mouth... ever. They should respect you, and if they do this to a baby, child, it may scare or hurt them.
18. Desensitize your puppy/dog to toddlers/children antics, buy gently pulling their ears, tails, touch their paws, give them hugs, etc. This is what a child may do and they need to learn that it is not a threatening act.
19. Ensure your dog is looking at you when you are giving him a command.
20. Recall: Very important. Puppies reach teenage years at 6-7 months. They'll be more distracted with new smells and you're not the “most important” anymore... Ensure you have **high value treats**, (for recall only). I use chicken breast (boiled and cut to size of pinky fingernail). Use these treats only for recall. If not food motivated, use favorite toy and play when they come to you, but only when doing recall exercise.
21. Dogs can be trained to pee/poo on command and in a certain spot. Always leash dog when taking dog outside to potty. Lead (carry if puppy), to the spot you want them to soil. Give command and praise/treat when done. (My command is “Get Busy”. When done, bring them immediately back into the house. They will learn that when you take them out to the backyard on a leash, it's to pee/poo.
22. Food: Garbage in... lots of garbage out. Look at ingredients.
23. To prevent Door Dashing: Claim the doorway. Dog should be leashed at the door. Dog should sit before the door is opened. Shut the door in their face if they stand up and stick their nose in the door crack. Humans go first. Give a “Release

Command” Mine is “At Ease”, then lead dog out with leash. The same rules apply in the car as far as letting dog out of car.

24. Do not allow your dog/puppy on the furniture unless you invite them up. They should sit first, then invite them with your release command.
25. For dogs who tend to get their toes under your feet... Take smaller, shuffling type steps and don't stop if your dog is getting in your way. Gently nudge your dog out of the way. They'll learn to make room for you when they see you coming.
26. Don't let them take anything off the coffee table or furniture.
27. Sometimes in training you have to “think outside the box”. What works for one dog, may not work for another.
28. When out in public, always be aware of possible danger to your dog. Look for loose dogs, bicycles, squirrels, moving cars, etc.
29. Small Dog Syndrome: This is not a disease but a personality trait unknowingly caused by dog owners.

If you allow your dog to be “pack leader” over humans, your dog can become overprotective, untrustworthy with children, strangers and other dogs. They may become stubborn, yappy, and sometimes aggressive. These are not necessarily “dog traits” but human induced behaviors where the dog believes he/she is the “top dog” in the home. As soon as the humans take that control away, the behavior goes away as well. You must claim the alpha role over the puppy/dog.
30. Learn your dog's body language, and then learn other dog's body language to keep them safe.
31. Test your body language with your dog. Go a whole day without verbal communication with your dog. Use only hand signals, eye contact and your body to communicate and see how well you speak “dog”.
32. **It's all about the nose!** A lot of a dog's life is lead through their nose. When giving them treats, it's the smell that counts more than the amount. Let them enjoy the odors of life when you're out walking them. We read our email.. they read their “peemail”.

33. Raise a dog that even a non-dog owner would love to have over. You'll have them volunteering to watch your dog when you're out of town and you can't take your Pup with you. Don't let your dog jump on your furniture unless invited up. Don't let your dog jump up on you or people, unless asked to... Dogs don't know whether you or your friends are wearing your nice clothes or your grubbies.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

1. The Culture Clash, Jean Donaldson
2. The Other End of the Leash, Patricia McConnell
3. Don't Shoot the Dog, Karen Pryor