

NOTHING IN LIFE IS FREE!

Leadership Program

Learn To Earn

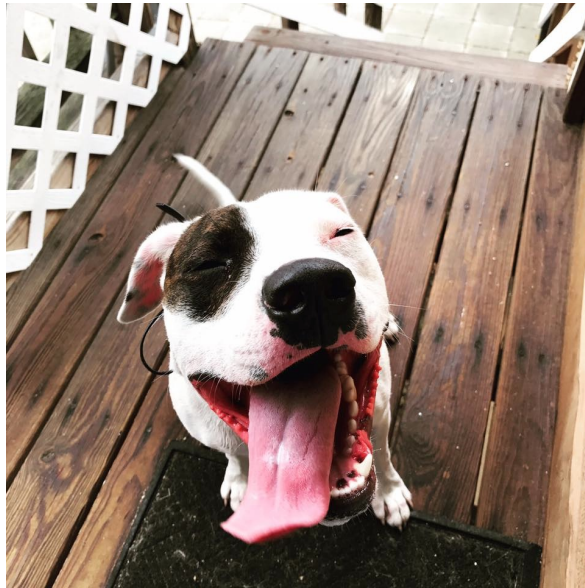
He must do something for you to earn anything of value. If he wants to be petted, he must sit first. If he's already sitting, ask him to lay down, then pet. Have him sit, down, paw (whatever command he knows) before meals, treats, leashing him up, walks, tossing a ball, and anything he finds valuable.

Furniture

Yes or No? If there are no leadership issues and he will get down when asked, no problem! He can come up when invited. For pushy dogs, no couch/ bed privileges until leadership is better established and then only when invited.

Control The Space

If your dog zigzags on a walk, or crowds you as you sit, that's not very polite! Leaders control space. For zigzagers, keep your feet firmly planted and shuffle through. Your dog will mind your space. If you are sitting, fold your arms and gently move him away using your upper arm or forearm. Do not speak or look at him as you do so. At doorways, use your legs to step in front and block his path.



The Leader Controls The Resources

Just as parents control allowance, curfew and use of the car, you should control all the “good stuff” when it comes to your dog. Start with food and play. Food is an incredibly valuable resource. As such, it should come from you, not from that round thing that is always magically full. Feed twice daily, rather than leaving food down. If your dog does not eat after 15 minutes, pick up the food and put it away. Your dog will quickly adapt to the new routine. No dog will starve himself. For dogs with severe leadership issues, hand-feed meals for two weeks. Have your dog sit, give paw or down for each handful of food.

Control toys and games. Leave your dog with a few toys, but reserve the really special ones for when you are present. Bring them out periodically and play with your dog. You will become the source of all fun! If you play tug, be sure your dog knows the command “Out” and will consistently “Out” on command. When you have finished, put the toy away out of the dog’s reach.