

Tips For Training Your New Puppy

Suggested Alpha Roles



Some things you can do to get your Siberian Husky to see you as the Alpha.

1. Go through doors and passageways before your dog.
2. Eat First – then feed your dog.
3. If your dog is blocking your path, make him move out of your way – do not go around or step over him. Sub-ordinate animals move for the alpha.
4. Call your dog to you for petting and attention. Don't go to him. Use call name only when good. When bad just say "Bad Dog Bad Puppy." Motivation and Reward. We all need a good reason to do things well. Praise Praise and LOVE.
5. When coming home, if your dog does not come to greet you, ignore him. If you go running to your dog then, you are treating him as the ALPHA. But if your dog is overly excited when you come home the best thing to do is ignore him until he calms down. When he does you can give him affection.
6. When you play with your dog, be sure that you end up with possession of the toy, and then put it up.
7. Don't allow your dog to sleep on the bed with you. At best you are making him equal with you. (Of course, we all let up on this one after our alphaness is firmly established, but the dog should still sleep at your feet.)
8. Practice trust/dominance exercises. Gently put your dog down on his side or back and touch his ears, paws, etc. and give him a massage to make it all pleasant for him. Offer treats if he doesn't want his paws touched while you are touching his paws. (This helps later when you have to trip the toe nails.)

9. Be your dog's leader. Prove to him that he can trust you in all situations, and that you will provide for his every need. Be consistent in enforcing all rules of the house. Establish regular routines that he can depend on.
10. Practice "doggy" discipline, that is when your dog engages in undesirable behavior, discipline him in a way that he understands. Give him a jerk on this collar and a grunt or another firm sound from your gut. You must catch him in the act for the discipline to be effective, however, or he won't understand for what he is being corrected. With Siberians it is best to make direct EYE contact. Siberians like wolves talk with their eyes. Talk to your Siberian.
11. Practice taking objects from him, toys, food, etc. Start by trading the object for a yummy treat. Then give back the object. Get him use to your hands around his food bowl. Work to removing his food bowl while eating, then replacing the bowl for him to resume eating. Don't worry if he follows the bowl when you take it away. You can eventually work up to actually slipping your hand in to remove food while he is eating. Do this same thing when you are taking treats, chewies and toys away. **Never let him take the object and hide from you to play or chew it.** If your Siberian ever gives you a growl, quickly put him on his side with your fingers at the sides of his neck. Not too hard, but assertively. Keep him there until he submits and calms down. Be careful not to hurt the puppy.
12. Chewing – Puppies cannot help chewing; they teethe just like all babies. This can be most annoying and become a habit that is hard to break. When puppy is small and starts to nip and bite at you say ouch like he hurt you and take his open mouth, hold it gently shut with your hand, like an alligator mouth, and say NO in a firm regular voice. Every time puppy does this. From the beginning puppy will know, **OPEN MOUTH BITING AND CHEWING IS NO.** It also helps to get baby teething rings and old socks, etc. put them in the freezer, when frozen give them to puppy to chew to sooth the gums.
13. Most important when beginning training -- Teach the puppy his NAME: Use the CALL name FIRST.
EX: Sunny COME! – Sunny SIT! = Treat Never use the command first and the call name after the command.
EX: Come here Sunny. – Sit Sunny.
We all pay attention when we hear our name called but not necessarily when people are just talking. So put emphases on the Call name. Now you have the beginning foundation for your training and the walls that will hold your training together.
14. Do not expect too much from your puppy. Remember we all learn at our own pace and in a step-by-step lesson. Just like teaching your child or a friend. Slow and patience.

Always end on a positive note. If you are getting frustrated, do something the puppy is good at and end the session. Let the puppy release some of its stress from the training sessions with a short playtime.

There are many more things that you can do, but these are good starting points for becoming your dog's friend. Remember that security and trust are important to a dog, and good training provides security and trust.

Remember another Key Point to Success is love and commitment.

