



Do's and Don'ts

Bulldogs are a dominant breed, but the average bulldog's easy-going character prevents it from becoming an issue. But, to prevent potential problems here are a few suggestions to keep your alpha position in the household from being taken over by your bully!



Appropriate (Non aggressive) games

Fetch, follow the leader, find the treat, hide and seek, and even training are all pleasurable activities that allow you to reinforce your role as leader. Avoid tug of war, chase, wrestling. These encourage growling, biting, and winning, all of which are dominant characteristics. You also run the risk of getting accidentally bitten.

Make him wait

The dog should be fed after the family eats. Dominant members eat first. This goes for many other activities as well, family members should initiate activities, play sessions, even going out the door. The dog should follow the family members.

Take Charge

The dog should defer to you, the owner, in all situations and you should be "The giver of all things good". In essence, the dog is required to follow an owner command, such as "sit" to obtain anything that the dog wants. This could be access to the outdoors to eliminate, food, petting, a ball the list is endless. The goal is for the dog to "earn" everything they desire by deferring to the owner. Deference is accomplished when the dog follows the command to sit or down. If the dog performs the command prior to being asked, it must do something else. This is critical. Unless the owner gives a command and then the dog complies, the dog is still controlling the situation and deference has not occurred.

Handle Everything!

Frequent handling of the puppy and its food, possessions, and collar and moving it from resting places can help reinforce that the owner is in charge and all of these belongings are actually the owners'.

Teach manners

Your dog should learn to greet you, any visitor to your home, or acquaintances you may meet during walks by assuming a calm and controlled sit and stay position. To a dog, your tolerance of pawing, jumping up, and sitting on or above the same physical plane as you indicates your surrender to a subordinate role. If your dog is showing signs of dominance behaviour toward you, reinforce submissive positions whenever possible throughout the day.

Reward the good!

Any time the dog is exhibiting good/desired behaviour, even as simple as walking up to you and laying quietly at your feet, reward that behaviour with "good dog", a petting, or a treat.

Give belly rubs!

Laying on the back is a position of submissiveness, you can make submission enjoyable with lots of tummy scratching and attention when pup is on his back.

