

Teaching Your Child Proper Manners around the Family Dog

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Have your children make a chart with the family rules concerning the dog and post it on your refrigerator. If they are too young to write the chart, write it for them and include pictures that they can color which will help them remember each item.

Family Rules for Buddy

Please Do:

1. Make sure Buddy always has fresh water available. Feed Buddy only at his regular mealtimes and only if your parents give you permission to feed him.
2. Find out what Buddy really loves to do. It may be playing ball, or just sitting beside you while you are doing your homework. Just like people, each dog has favorite ways of expressing affection with friends.
3. When Buddy wants attention, ask him to sit before you pet him so he will not jump up. Rub him gently when he is sitting or standing quietly. Dogs like gentle rubs in the direction their hair grows. Many dogs do not like thumps or pats on the head--pat yourself briskly on the top of your head and you will see why!
4. Leave Buddy alone when he is eating, chewing on something or sleeping. You don't always wish to share your favorite things, do you? If a dog grabs one of your toys or something which belongs to you, ask an adult to get it back for you.
5. Have your parents work with you to get Buddy to sit, lie down and respond to other commands. If Buddy will lie down and stay when you ask him to do so, he is showing respect for you as his trainer and friend. Do not practice training exercises except when an adult is there to help you.



Please Don't

1. Don't squeeze Buddy or any other dog around the neck. When someone hugs you and you are not feeling like a hug, you have hands that you can use to push them away. Dogs do not have hands, so the only way they can push us away is with their teeth. Hugging dogs can make them bite if it frightens them, so it is best to show them we love them in other ways, like belly rubs or talking sweet to them.
2. Don't play rough and don't play chase games. You can play fetch with Buddy once your parents have taught him how to give up the ball, but no tug or wrestling, especially when you are playing alone. It is best to play games with dogs only with a grown-up, because dogs sometimes make up their own rules.
3. Don't ever use Buddy as a pillow, and never pull on any part of his head, ears, tail or body. Treat him very gently, he is very special!
4. Don't eat treats around Buddy unless your parents are there and they have taught him not to bother your food. Some dogs may reach out to take a bite of your sandwich and end up accidentally nipping your fingers.
5. Don't take Buddy on a walk unless an adult is going with you. If you meet an unfriendly dog, you or Buddy could get hurt. Walks are always best if a grown-up friend is along to help keep Buddy from pulling on the leash. You may need a special collar, like a Gentle Leader™ to keep him from pulling you.

