

10. Never stroke, or disturb a dog when it is asleep.

Remember that dogs can be scared by sudden disturbances. Scared dogs may BITE YOU! Call the dog over to you first so that you do not surprise it. If a dog is ever unfortunate enough to be injured, be very careful how you approach and handle it. A dog that is frightened and in pain may also BITE YOU!

11. Never let your dog sleep on your bed or furniture unless you invite it to do so.

You should start with instructing your dog to sit first. Ideally, give your dog its own bed in a peaceful spot away from children and the bustle of family life.

12. Always dedicate some time each day to training and exercising your dog.

Feeding and housing your dog is not enough. It needs to spend quality time with you. Dogs, like children, have energy to burn off and one way to stop your dog getting into mischief is to keep its mind occupied and give it enough exercise.



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Golden Rules for Dog Owners



1. Never buy a dog on a whim.

Take enough time to choose a breed that fits in with your lifestyle. Owning a dog is a long-term commitment, and can be a distressing experience if you choose an unsuitable dog. Research breeds by visiting shows or dog clubs and asking plenty of questions. Visit www.dogscats.asn.au and take the 'Selectapet' test to find out which dog would best suit your lifestyle.

2. Always socialise your dog with other dogs and people.

Take your dog to puppy school or dog obedience school. It is very important for dogs, and particularly for puppies, to be socialised with other dogs and people. *Remember - If your dog has completed an accredited training program, you will receive a discount on your dog registration fee!*

3. Always supervise children with dogs. Their behaviour can be unpredictable, especially when left alone.

Children should be calm and respectful to animals. Teach your child to interact appropriately with dogs and not to play-fight or play tug-of-war games with them. Put your dog out of the way when children are playing loud games and running around. Dogs can sometimes get overexcited or frightened if there is a lot of noise or if other children are visiting.



4. Always teach your dog how to behave with visitors.

Teach your dog to sit before you allow visitors to stroke it. Allowing it to jump up may frighten or annoy some people, and children may feel very intimidated by the behaviour.

5. Always ask permission before you stroke a dog you do not know.

Not all dogs like to be patted and cuddled! Ask the owner of the dog, and if OK, allow the dog to sniff the back of your hand first. If it is happy to be patted it will sniff your hand and move towards you. You can then stroke it under the chin, not on top of the head (*some dogs may interpret this as threatening behaviour*). If the dog backs away and does not sniff your hand it is telling you it does not want to be patted.

6. Always be consistent and constructive in your training and reward the desired behaviour.

Do not lose your temper with any dog. It will become confused and it will not be easy for it to learn what you want to teach it.

7. Never let your dog demand attention by jumping, barking and pawing.

Ignore any undesirable attention-seeking behaviour but reward all good behaviour. Call your dog to you and ask it to sit or perform another task before giving it your attention. If the dog scratches the door to come in, do not open it immediately. When the dog stops scratching, ask the dog to sit, open the door and then allow it inside.

8. Never feed your dog from the dinner table.

Feeding your dog from the dinner table encourages it to beg for food, which is simply bad manners! Ask your dog to sit and stay on its bed while the family eats. When you feed your dog its meal, ask it to sit first. Good manners for dogs!

9. Always let a dog eat its meal in peace.

Do not go near any dog when it is eating its meal or chewing a bone, especially if you do not know the dog. If you approach it, the dog may BITE YOU!

