

Pet Tip of the Week

Puppy Love and Discipline: by Darr Houssen

All puppy owners should have the desire to raise the best puppy they can. This process only happens when your puppy respects you. "Respect" does not mean that the pup trembles or hides when you enter a room. That's fear. Respect is a deep admiration for who you are and what you stand for, in your puppy's eyes. He eagerly looks into your eyes, awaiting your next command. He's ready to work or play, comfort or console and be a teammate with you.

This respect is a direct result of love and discipline handling, early in your relationship with the puppy. They must go hand in hand. Too much discipline with not enough love will create a fearful, shy dog. But a dog lavished with too much unearned love and admiration, will create a self centered, selfish holy terror, concerned with his own agenda and rules.

Discipline is not hitting or screaming at the pup for wrong behaviors. It's communicating in a method as close to MOTHER NATURE'S as possible so that his error is made obvious. Immediately bouncing back with love and forgiveness is the reward for the behavior change.

This is what your pup instinctively understands and hungers for. You must have your puppy's respect. Without it you are fooling yourself and misjudging your puppy's intelligence by a long shot.



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