

PREPARING YOUR FOSTER DOG FOR ADOPTION

The goal is to teach the foster dogs all the good manners they will need to be highly adoptable, and well behaved new family members. A dog that has inappropriate indoor manners may end up getting to spend little time indoors; a dog that is hassle to walk on lead may end up not getting the necessary exercise, and some behavior may be a deal breaker that leads to the dog being returned to us.

Training Good Behavior: Nothing in life is free; This practice is very simple; most behavior issues and bad manners stem from lack of leadership and as Cesar teaches, the need for rules, boundaries and limitations are crucial. I know it may sound a bit harsh but as you read through this section keep in mind your human kids and those that are taught manners and respect vs a spoiled child, are well behaved kids loved any less, are they less happy? Not at all and the same goes for pets!

Nothing is free is practicing passive dominance; it's how dogs communicate with us and other animals in the pack. Dogs display active and passive dominant behaviors. **Active dominant** displays are protection of food, objects and spaces with growling, snarling and biting their humans. Removal from food and spaces (couch, place on human and beds) may cause a growl, snap or bite. **Passive dominant** displays are leaning against the human, blocking doorways or pathways, sitting on feet, sitting on human, laying on human, standing over human, paw or head over a human body part or placement above human's head on bed or couch.

Practicing passive dominance is a way of communicating in a **safe** and **non-threatening** way our leadership role with our dogs. It's not so much a training technique as a way of life, and as someone that has implemented these practices in my home a few years ago with my five dogs I can tell you that it has solved so many issues and the family and the dogs are much happier.

Practicing passive dominance: You have to become the source of everything the dog GETS and DOES. You must teach the dog that everything comes from you - food, water, play, affection, walks, etc. Nothing is OWED to him, he must EARN everything. This is achieved by asking for a SIT or other command before everything! Consistency is a must with every interaction. Ask for a SIT before: feeding, treats, going outside, coming inside, placing a leash on dog, going for a walk, wiping feet, affection, bathing dog, giving a toy or starting a play session. This is a form of passive dominance. The dog has to calm themselves and perform a short action before they gain anything. See I told you it was simple, maybe you are thinking too simple to be effective?, well give it a try and I think you'll be pleasantly surprised how helpful it is with teaching the dogs to be well behaved and respectful.