



"The POOP"

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The down & dirty scoop for the friends of PetLover Central

Who's REALLY your best friend?

If your best friend is growling at you, or anyone...don't allow this "fixable" problem to bloom to aggression. Aggression usually takes 6 to 9 months to develop. You may see it earlier or later, but its most common at about 9 months, or the time of sexual maturity.

Overconfidence is usually at the root of aggression. Mostly from lack of obedience. A naturally submissive creature (the dog) has to work up to aggression. He ignores your commands. You ask him to "sit" and he looks at you and walks away. You tell him "off" the sofa, and he ignores your demand and makes it difficult for you to remove him. Then, a stare, and a light growl. Even at play time, a growl is not acceptable. If your dog is growling, trouble comes next.

Remember, not every dog gives a warning growl before a bite so you need to be aware of the other signs of possible future aggression. Here's one good tip, the very first time you are afraid of your dog, get professional help from a reputable trainer or animal behaviorist. It won't work to "hope" it

goes away. It doesn't take long for a gentle bite to build confidence in a dog and send someone to the hospital next.

There's fear aggression and downright damage causing serious aggression. Lack of structure and a proper pack order is typically at the root of it all. Most people just don't know how to begin to set the "proper order" in the home.

You must be the leader of your pack! Here are just a few simple tips to help you get started until that trainer comes over:

- Get your dog's attention. Make eye contact and have him practice just looking at you during basic obedience like "sit and stay" practice.
- DO NOT free feed. Your dog needs to know that his sustenance depends on you. He depends on you for survival. Feed him/her twice a day and leave the food out for 15 minutes, no more. Any leftovers...sorry, he's done for tonight!
- Make sure you show him that you are the leader! Leaders eat first. Simple as

that. After he's watched you eat your meal, go ahead and take care of him.

- Make him work for every treat he gets. Even if it's just a simple "sit," make him earn every treat, every time.
- Make sure YOU walk through doorways first. Leaders go first. Put him in a sit--stay and release him once you're through.



"Bo"
for adoption

- Displace your pooch. When you're on the sofa and he's at your feet, in your way, make HIM move to pass through. Don't step over him as to "not disturb" him. Show leadership.

- Play, relax, fetch, do it all on YOUR terms! YOU make the rules, not him. When he brings you a ball, ignore him. You play ball on your terms and you quit on your terms. Always show him who the leader is by ending the game when he's at the height of his excitement. Not when *he's* finished.

Just spending 15 minutes each day, practicing a little obedience along with the steps above, you'll have a dog that respects the leader and is comfortable and confident, NOT being in charge!

These tips above were shared with me by Eddie Panzano of Leader of the Pack Canine Services of Boca Raton.

Jamie Wolf



Make your pooch's reservations now for 4th of July! We're filling up & don't want you to miss out.



"Rosie"

This cute 2 yr-old English bulldog is originally from New Hampshire but now is a true Floridian! Her favorite toy is a bully stick and we enjoy having her play with us at PLC!

"Hot" Dogs of PetLover Central



"Studley"

Look at that mug! Studley is a 3 yr-old English Bulldog who also loves bully sticks. Maybe it's a favorite of the breed. His favorite sport is "ehem..we can't really say but it rhymes with bumping!"

Our "Hot" Dogs of the month will enjoy a FREE day of daycare!

PetLover Central's



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Roxanne "Ruffs"

Dear Roxanne,
I recently found a new home at 3 months old and my new parents are concerned about the mischief and trouble I can get into at home. How do I ease their stress about this? I promise, I'm TRYING to be good?!

Sincerely,
Buster the boxer

Dear Buster,
I would advise your parents to keep you safe and out of trouble by getting you your very own crate! They need to learn that being a den animal by nature, you'll actually be really happy in this private



**Roxanne speaking
the truth**

space of your own. You can stay in the crate whenever they are out of the house, or they can't supervise you. This will not only keep your mischievous behavior under control, but you'll be safe from harm when they can't protect you.

Dear Roxanne,
I am really nervous when my humans leave me at home alone. I cry and yell and pace around the house. I know. I know. They always come back, but I always wonder, "maybe they won't return this time." Can you help us?

Bella the lab

Dear Bella,
Why don't you ask your humans to leave a radio on while they're gone?

And most importantly, tell them to NOT make a BIG production about leaving! Lots of people spend 10 minutes saying good-bye's and loving and kissing on their dogs prior to walking out the door. THAT makes that time even more stressful for us dogs! I had this problem in the past (I've had them all, trust me) and learned that if my people ignore me for the 5 minutes before walking out the door, I'm not so focused or concerned about "when they'll come home."

Roxanne has many accomplishments under her "collar." She was born on the streets, mothered 7 children, and is now a respected animal advocate. She graduated from Rufts University and has a degree in archaeology (digging). Please send your comments or questions to her at info@petlovercentral.com. And stop by to meet Roxanne, our resident expert in "person!" PetLover Central, Mondays-Fridays.