

# Welcome to the Family



Congratulations on your new addition to the family. The first twelve weeks are the most important in the transition into your family, creating the bond that will provide you a happy and healthy home.

1. The leash is your best bonding and training tool. I keep a leash on the new dog for at least a week until they learn the rules of the house as well as learns to feel more comfortable in their new surroundings. I tether the dog to me for the first couple of days if not in the crate. If you have other animals in the home already, it is best to wait 24 – 48 hours to start introductions.
2. Your hands are used for affection not correction. Use the leash as needed to guide the animal and show them the path you wish for them to take and follow your lead.
3. You can never go too slow, but you can go too fast.
4. Give the new addition some time to settle with the immediate family until they are introduced to family and friends.
5. A slow and supervised interaction with children is recommended.
6. If you need help, reach out.

Basic rules to help with the transition into your family.

- 1) Feeding Routine:
  - a. Prepare K-9 food and prior to feeding them eat or drink something in front of K-9. It can be a full meal or a simple bite or sip of a drink.
  - b. Set the bowl down if K-9 moves forward pick the bowl up. Continue this up and down motion until you can set the bowl on the floor and state, “OK” signaling it is acceptable for the K-9 to eat. Pick the bowl up within 15 minutes whether K-9 is finished eating or not.
- 2) Threshold Respect: Leaders always exit and enter the den first. Your K-9s should not have free access to the outside via pet door or open door. When allowing the K-9 to enter the den (from outside or kennel) open the door if they try to enter, close the door. Continue opening and closing the door until you can leave the door open and state “OK”. When allowing the K-9 to exit the den, open the door and step out first. If the K-9 tries to follow close the door. Open and close the door until the K-9 waits for you to state “OK” before exiting.
- 3) Five-Minute Rule: Ignore pawing, nudging, whining, especially first thing in the morning or when you walk in the door especially after more than 20 minutes. Leaders never acknowledge members of the pack until they are calm for five-minutes.
- 4) Housebreaking: Until you are confident that the K-9 is housebroken they must be either in the kennel or attached to your belt loop via lead. If the K-9 attempts to squat interrupt the activity by stating, “Outside” pull the K-9 outside and when finished give positive praise (e.g., Good!).
- 5) Chewing: If the K-9 is chewing on something inappropriate substitute the item with their one chew item and the instant their teeth hit the chew item give them positive praise (e.g., Good!). Never say “No” when caught. We do not want the K-9 to associate negative action / reaction when approaching us or trading an inappropriate item for appropriate item.

# PROGRAM GUIDELINES

(Benevolent Leadership)

Now that you've begun your personalized Mind Your Manners K9 Academy training program, we'd like to ensure that each session is as effective and beneficial as possible. During each session we'll cover the basics and demonstrate the activities you'll need to practice between sessions. It is important to note that initially we must establish that you are the benevolent leader. This is critical to the success of the training program and will ultimately lead to a happy, well mannered, and confident K9 companion. While your dog is in training there are a few basics to keep in mind:



<u>Do(s)</u>	<u>Don't(s)</u>
Ignore pawing, nudging, whining, especially first thing in the morning or when you walk in the door (5- minute rule).	Don't acknowledge your dog by eye contact, verbal expression, or physical contact when they are demanding. Any attention will confirm their behavior.
Always go through doorways, gates, and hallways first. Leaders are responsible for everyone's safety and well-being.	Never let your dog go first through doorways, gates, or hallways. Your dog needs to follow your lead in all situations.
In order to establish their confidence in your providing for them, we need to have organized feeding times. Your dog must learn to wait until you've said, "OK". Place the bowl down when they hesitate and looking to you to proceed.	Never leave food down for longer than 15 minutes at feeding time. Never interrupt your K-9 while eating. After meal time put away food bowls. This is not a competition, and should never be perceived as competition to them.
If your dog perceives a threat by barking, get up acknowledge the threat and tell them good job. Leaders dispatch the threat.	Never yell at your dog for barking at strangers, noises, etc. They are doing their job by alarming you. If they are not stopping, use a slip lead and walk them away.
Do kennel your dog for the night, or place in another suitable location. They should not roam at night.	If you are having behavior issues, do not let you dog sleep on your bed, it sends them the signal they are equals.
Always make your dog move out of your way. This is a sign of respect for Leaders. Leaders dispel all possible threats.	Never let your dog restrict your access to an area. Your house your rules. If guarding, no furniture access.
If your dog approaches you for attention, they should be sitting or lying down for attention.	Your dog should receive attention for approaching you respectfully, always reward your dog if you call them to you.
Always take your dogs' "kills" (stolen articles or food) away from him. Do NOT confront. Be calm and trade if needed.	Never let your dogs keep their "kills" (stolen articles or food). 1 chew toy allowed if there is resource guarding.
Always use training time (15 minute intervals) as a positive bonding time. Can be command or mental game time.	Always end on a win. If training session becomes stressful, end with a simple command such as sit.
Always call your dogs' name for affection.	Never call your dogs' name in anger.
Always call your dog to you to give affection.	Never walk over to your dog to give affection.
Call their name once and run in the opposite direction if your dog "takes off".	Never chase your dog yelling, "come!", if so they are leading the hunt and it is game on!
Always reward your dog for completing an exercise well. End on a positive note!	Never let the dog dictate when work is done. End on a win.
Give commands once, enforce any command you give.	Never repeat commands over and over without intended results. Never give a command you can't enforce.