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The Path to Good Dog Behavior

1. Never hit your dog or use any other type of physical punishment. Your dog will learn to fear you or become aggressive towards you.
2. Have your dog see you as the “Bestower of All Things Wonderful”. Frequently reward good behavior. Your dog wants to please you.
3. The hierarchy in your home should be as follows: Humans before dogs. Period. It is in your power to determine whether your dog’s behavior is acceptable or not.
4. Have your dog sit and get a treat before they get a chance to jump up on you.
5. When you leave the house or come home, be calm and quiet. This will decrease your dog’s anxiety and/or jumping behaviors.
6. Give your dog a simple name with only one or two syllables. A dog is going to catch on to “Toby” quicker than “Alouicious”. If you have two or more dogs, make sure each name is distinctively different. For example, “Toby” and “Spot” is better than “Spot” and “Sport”.
7. Only use enforceable rules, and be consistent. “No getting on the couch” is fine, but can you really enforce that while you are at work?
8. Give your dog plenty of exercise. The reason your dog barks excessively could result from pent-up energy.
9. Expect your guests and family members to treat your dog appropriately. If you see someone treating your dog unfairly, put a stop to it immediately.
10. Immediately reward behavior. If you wait, your dog will not connect the behavior with the reward/correction.
11. Get your dog spayed or neutered. This will decrease their need to roam and decrease other unpleasant behaviors.
12. To a dog, houses are just luxurious prisons. Get a doggie door if possible. This lets your dog get more exercise.

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13. Give your dog toys that provide a challenge. For example, fill a Kong toy with peanut butter and put it in the freezer. You now have a doggie popsicle.
14. Learn your dog's behavior cues. How does he let you know he is happy? Upset? Anxious?
15. If your dog has an undesirable behavior, rule out a physical cause. For example, constant paw licking could be the result of allergies or a wound.
16. If your dog is uncharacteristically frightened or aggressive towards a particular person, it may not be your dog that is the problem. Trust your dog's intuition.
17. If you don't want your dog to beg, never feed it at the table.
18. Take an obedience class. Before you sign up, however, get recommendations from your vet and other dog owners. Observe a class before you bring your pet.
19. Remember that your dog is completely dependent on you and thinks you are the most wonderful person in the world.

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