



Leadership Exercises for People and Dogs

St. Michael Veterinary Clinic

Practice these leadership exercises as the situations occur throughout the day. They will help turn your dog into a confident, friendly pet that is eager to please all members of the family, adults, and children alike.

Do:

Have your pet sit and wait while you go through outside doors first.

Have your dog sit before receiving their meal.

Teach your dog to accept being touched while they eat, throw treats in dish randomly.

Gently move your dog out of the way if they're lying in your path.

Have your dog obey a request like sit before receiving attention.

Play games like fetch, with you in control of the toys at the end.

Teach your dog that hands are not appropriate chew toys.

Practice touching and handling your dog's feet, mouth, and ears.

Don't:

Let your dog run through the doorway ahead of you.

Let your dog eat as soon as the bowl hits the floor/is jumping up on you, etc...

Avoid disturbing your dog when they are eating.

Step around your dog or choose another route so the dog isn't disturbed.

Pet your dog whenever they come to demand attention from you.

Play games like tug or war, where your dog is likely to win.

Encourage your dog to bite your hands by playing games with their mouth.

Avoid touching your dog's feet, mouth, and ears.