

3. A nudge to your hand is not a dog's way of showing affection, it is his way of demanding your attention. He is making you do something. If you pet him, you have given in to his demands. Instead you should ignore the dog or ask him to "sit", then reward him for obeying with a pat on the head.
4. Make sure you can take anything from your dog's mouth. Food, toys, garbage, sticks, shoes, all belong to you, not to your dog. Teach your dog a "release" command. Start by offering him items that he has only a mild interest in. Ask him to "Drop It!", as you offer a delicious food treat. Repeat this exercise a few more times until you are confident that your dog will drop the item immediately upon command. Now try the exercise with an item that the dog has a greater interest and so on. Praise your dog lavishly if he responds without growling or snapping.
5. Do not play "Tug-of-War" with ANY dog, especially a controlling dog. This is NOT a game. It teaches your dog how to use his mouth against you and how to win battles. Instead teach him to retrieve things...his toys, your slippers, your spouse! This exercise offers you and your dog an

opportunity to have fun without an argument.

6. Do not allow a **Bossy dog** to sleep on your bed. He should have his own bed. The pack leader gets the best bed, and doesn't share. Never grab any dog by the collar. Many dogs will bite in these situations. Use his leash to guide him off your bed. It is important to let your dog sleep in your room. Dogs are social creatures and crave companionship.

Life with an arrogant dog can be challenging. It can also be rewarding. They do require more guidance than your average dog and just as much love and companionship. Don't forget to take those long, lazy strolls and to have a fun game of fetch along the way. After all, he is one of your best friends.

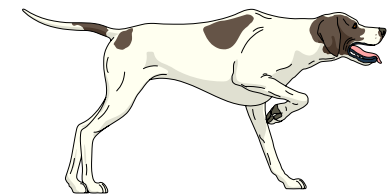
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Living With The Bossy Dog



**Bossy Dogs
Are Born That Way**
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**They Do Not Tolerate
Children Or The Elderly**
 *
**They Can Be Trained To
Adapt To Your
Expectations**
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**Do's & Don'ts Of Living
With
A Bossy Dog**

Bossy dogs are born that way. As newborn pups, they jostled for position to guarantee they grew up bigger and stronger than their litter mates. They pushed everybody else around. They didn't always recognize and respect authority. Once these dogs have joined their human families, they already have a great deal of experience in the art of manipulation and intimidation.

Bossy dogs

1. Can be territorial, possessive, demanding and uncooperative.
2. May have house soiling and/or destructive tendencies, though many house-train almost by themselves.
3. Resent being disciplined or being asked to obey commands. They may have little respect for younger or weaker family members causing them to be less than ideal in a family of children or elderly people.
4. Sometimes show aggression toward strangers and other dogs. Although they may also growl and bark at family members, this is mostly used as a threat. They will bite only when provoked.

It is important to stress that physical abuse or heavy-handed training techniques **DO NOT WORK** with **ANY** dog and are unnecessary, cruel and potentially

dangerous. They are especially useless with difficult dogs. These techniques will only encourage this dog's stubborn behavior. Demanding dogs require an owner who is able to earn the dog's respect and obedience through positive training. Due to their intelligence they can excel in obedience training with an owner who is committed, consistent and fair.

Having a bossy dog means working every day to keep harmony in your household. It does not mean however, that this effort should be a struggle. There are simple, easy exercises that you can (and should) incorporate into your daily interactions with your dog. They are specifically designed to help you to maintain your role of the fair and firm LEADER.

You must have reasonable expectations for your dog and yourself. Do not ask your dog to do something he has not been trained to do and do not ask your dog to do something you cannot immediately enforce. It is your responsibility to make sure your dog is a well mannered beast.

The following suggestions will help you and your dog enjoy a healthy relationship.

1. When you walk out the door with your dog make sure he is always on a leash. Ask him to

“sit” before he leaves and enters the home. It doesn't matter who goes out first, just that he obeyed a command from you. Remember you are leading him, not the other way around.

2. Have your dog walk calmly at your side to his food bowl for each meal. Use his leash for control if needed. Have your dog “sit” before feeding him. Make him wait several seconds before you give him the OK to eat. Diving into his food bowl and growling is not acceptable. If your dog does this, the next feeding should be dosed out in small portions. If he behaves after eating the first small amount give him more. If he growls or shows any aggression at all, the meal ends. This is not only a safe method, it teaches the dog to work for his food by acting politely. This is a perfect opportunity to use your obedience training in the home. It is also a good test of both you and your dog's skills. Obedience training should be applied to everyday living.

