



The Three Golden Gifts

The Three Golden Gifts: -Guide, Manage, Educate

Good guidance provides first and foremost that your dog is safe within his environment ... It assures that his activities will promote harmony between him and all the members of his household. You, like all dog owners, want your dog to "enjoy" life, but you also need him to fit into your lifestyle

Good guidance begins with the understanding that all dogs regardless of their age need to be guided into human society and into their household.

A Dog does not automatically know he should be a follower and should look to someone for directions No dog ever wakes up in the morning and declares "Somebody limit me! Please!" He wakes up and pursues that which will give him pleasure and satisfy his needs, not yours. **He must be taught how to be attentive to you and other people and how to respond appropriately to cues.**

A Dog only understands what is safe or what is dangerous for him. An animal is incapable of trusting another animal with his own safety once he is old enough to fend for himself. Therefore, Pup will always act in defense of his own safety and will never wait around to see if the one he "trusts" will come to his rescue. **Although through our foundation games your dog will learn to defer to your cues under many circumstances, when his safety is at stake, nature dictates that he must and will take action in order to protect himself.**

Words like "boss" and "alpha" are inaccurate. People understand the meaning of these words. A dog never will They are abstract concepts taught to us as children through the powers of abstract verbal conversations, something dogs are incapable of carrying on either internally or externally. People grow up to have bosses, presidents, majors, kings or queens. Dogs do not. They have no bosses. Their lives are dedicated to satisfying themselves. So if you attempt to be Pup's boss or his alpha instead of his guide you will likely create relationship and training problems and never prevent or cure them.

The most appropriate word to describe this necessary relationship between you and your dog is "guide" because it causes you to be conscious-that your Dog really is a traveler in the foreign land of human expectations and requirements. No traveler in any foreign land ever automatically understands the language, customs, or social requirements of the inhabitants. A traveler would need to be taught about these things by a kind, understanding and benevolent guide. Guidance is a huge responsibility but it is so worthwhile. It promotes marvelous relationships and prevents a multitude of problems. It is a wonderful gift that you can give your Dog.



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HOW TO BE A GOOD GUIDE

- ❖ Understand that dogs are animals - dogs do "doggie things"
- ❖ Keep the dog's environment safe and understand, dogs are learning all the time
- ❖ Make learning easy for the dog by making the right things easy and the wrong things difficult
- ❖ Be committed and consistent with your training and supervision
- ❖ Be pro-active and have a plan - good guidance requires specific actions
- ❖ Dogs need guidance into the unknown
- ❖ Guidance must be done so it is accepted voluntarily
- ❖ Guides must be guiding at all times and teach what to do, not what not to do

HOW TO BE A GOOD MANAGER

- ❖ Create a dog friendly environment in your home
- ❖ Learn about management devices and techniques (both the merits and limitations of each), being consistent and use when necessary
- ❖ Prevent the rehearsal of undesirable behaviors
- ❖ Learn the special issues of managing a multiple dog household

HOW TO BE A GOOD TEACHER

- ❖ Always be on the dogs program
- ❖ Always be aware of both your own and your dog's emotional state
- ❖ Learn about dogs and dog behavior
- ❖ Understand that each dog is unique
- ❖ Learn what motivates your dog
- ❖ Learn about your dog's sensitivities
- ❖ Teach your dog what "to do"
- ❖ Teach the dog how to respond to your cues rather than how not to respond to outside stimuli
- ❖ Focus on giving feedback to your dog, not just commands
- ❖ Facilitate access to your dog's life rewards (i.e., your dog needs to get what they want through you - in order for your dog to get their food dish, they need to make eye contact with you OR in order for your dog to walk out the door, they need to make Eye contact for you first