



**GRAND AVENUE**  
VETERINARY CLINIC

# LEADERSHIP EXERCISES FOR PUPPIES

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

Do	Don't
Have your puppy sit and wait while you go through doors first.	Let your puppy run through the doorway ahead of you.
Have your puppy wait for their meal until after people have had their dinner.	Let your puppy eat before you or at the same time.
Teach your puppy to accept being touched while they eat.	Avoid disturbing your puppy while it is eating.
Gently move your puppy out of the way if they are lying in your path.	Step around your puppy or choose another route so the puppy is not disturbed.
Have your puppy obey a request like sit before receiving attention.	Pet your puppy whenever they come to demand attention from you.
If your puppy stares at you, stare back until it turns its head or looks away.	Break eye contact if your puppy stares at you.
Pet your puppy with long, slow strokes starting at the top of the head and continuing to the shoulders.	Pet your dog with short, quick strokes across the head or face that get the puppy excited.
Play games like fetch, with you in control of the toys at the end.	Play games like tug-of-war, where your puppy is likely to win.
Teach your puppy that hands are not appropriate chew toys.	Encourage your puppy to bite your hands by playing games with its mouth.
Practice touching and handling your puppy's feet, mouth, and ears.	Avoid touching your puppy's feet, mouth, and ears.
Speak in a soft, high-pitched praising voice so your puppy is eager to pay attention.	Speak in a loud, low tone– a firm threatening voice suggesting to your puppy that you “mean business.”