

TEN TIPS FOR A WELL BEHAVED LHASA APSO

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1. Start training your Lhasa puppy right away. While older dogs can be taught many new tricks, what's learned earliest is often learned easiest. "Un-learning" bad habits takes time; an ounce of prevention is certainly worth a pound of cure!
2. Train your Lhasa gently and humanely. Teach him using positive, motivational methods. Keep obedience sessions short and upbeat so that the training process is enjoyable for both you and your puppy. Lhasas respond well to food rewards and "play training" using non-adversarial games.
3. Be a firm, patient and consistent leader for your Lhasa. In return, he will treat you like royalty. Never "ask" a Lhasa if he wants to go outside to go potty, "tell" him that it is time to go potty. Life should be a democracy for your Lhasa. You (and other family members) should eat dinner first, go through doorways ahead of your puppy, and never allow the dog to sleep in bed at night.
4. Crate training is useful to keep a Lhasa puppy safe when you can't watch him. It is also an essential tool for house training. Give your puppy treats and toys for going willingly into his crate. Never let him out when he is barking.
5. Some Lhasas become over stimulated and upset by too much stroking and petting. Others may perceive your petting as a sign of your subservience to him. By all means, pet your puppy, especially as a reward for good behavior, but keep it brief. If you want to initiate petting, call your Lhasa to you, don't go to him.
6. You can't teach a puppy if you don't have his attention. Encourage the puppy to pay attention to you by rewarding eye contact with treats. Show the puppy a treat in your hand and then hold it off to the side. Give the puppy the treat as soon as he looks away from the food towards you. A brief glance is good enough to start but gradually you should expect the puppy to focus for longer periods of time.
7. Lhasas have sensitive hearing and your tone of voice is very important. High-pitched baby talk can actually trigger prey drive in a Lhasa. Always speak to your dog in a warm, conversational tone. When giving your Lhasa a command, avoid using a loud voice. Don't beg or scream; be calm and authoritative. Repeating commands over and over teaches your Lhasa to tune you out. Also, avoid giving your Lhasa a command that you know you can't enforce, as he will start assuming that all your commands are optional.
8. Alpha rolls and physical punishment don't work well with Lhasas. Many inappropriate attention-getting behaviors (jumping up, nipping) can be suppressed by using "time-out." For instance, if your Lhasa persists on nipping at you to get your attention, pick him up (don't say anything or look at the puppy while you carry him) and put him in a small

room where he has no food, no toys, and no stimulation. A bathroom or utility room closed off by a baby gate usually works well. Leave the dog in the time out space for five to ten minutes (depending on the severity of the infraction). After you let your Lhasa out, continue to ignore him for at least another five to ten minutes.

9. Many Lhasa owners complain that their dogs are stubborn. This is particularly true with house training problems. Before blaming your puppy, think about whether: (a) the dog really knows what is expected, (b) the dog knows how to comply, and (c) he is not behaving properly due to stress or confusion.
10. Good behavior begins at home. Are you a human gymnasium while sitting on the couch watching TV? Does your Lhasa beg at the table? Jump up on visitors? Ignore your commands? If your dog doesn't listen to you at home where distractions are minimal, he certainly won't respond to you properly in strange places where he may be stressed, frightened, or totally distracted by new sights and smells.