

## Winning Puppy's Trust

Puppy will be showered with affection and attention because he/she is so cute and cuddly and in many ways helpless. Puppy has just entered a strange world, knows next to nothing except eating and eliminating, and just lost the companionship of the whole litter. Worst of all, Momma is no longer there to reassure it. Affection is a wonderful thing for Puppy, but it must be tempered with respect. If you give into Puppy's every whim, he/she will never learn self control and discipline. Puppy might love you, but he/she won't respect you. If Puppy does not respect you, there will be no reason to do anything for you. Your relationship will be like two 5 year olds bossing each other around. Just as a child needs a caring parent, Puppy needs a leader and a clear social hierarchy. If you do not take up the role of leader, Puppy will and you will end up with an unruly, disobedient, out of control dog. Most of these dogs end up living a life of isolation in the back yard because no one can deal with it. WHAT A LIFE! Or they end up at the shelter because either the owner can't live with the dog anymore. DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU AND PUPPY!

Other people have an equally erroneous misconception of this issue. Instead of showering the dog with love and affection, they think that to earn the dog's respect they must bully, dominate and terrorize the dog into being submissive. This is not respect. Respect is not something that is forced. It is won. A dog will not respect someone it does not trust. Don't think of becoming the Alpha dog. Puppy does not see you as a dog and doesn't need you to let it know you have first breeding rights. Nor does Puppy need to have you make the same mistakes with it that your Dad might have done with you. My eyes used to glaze over just like a puppy when my Dad started his old "In my day..." routine. The only reason a tough love parent stops striking their children is because they grow up big enough to strike back. Who has fond memories of Dad and his strap? Treat Puppy as if all it wants to do is play and share love with you because it *trusts* and *respects* you, because that **IS** all Puppy wants to do.