

barking or pawing to get out. Then the poor dog gets punished for wanting to be up front with you which you had trained him to do.

Establish your dominance and leadership role right from the time you enter your home. You and other family members pass through all the doorways and halls first and only allow the dog to follow afterwards. Do not give him complete run of the whole house. Set the boundaries of 2 or 3 rooms that he may investigate at first. Periodically put him in the area you have designated for sleeping and leave him there by himself with perhaps a chew toy, bone, or stuffed kong, while you busy yourself somewhere else in the house. Begin with just a few minutes, then gradually increase the time. This will help get him used to time spent alone. Be sure to pick up off the floor and put out of reach the thing what you had left for him to chew on. Save it for the next time he is again alone.

Many people make the mistake of getting their dog on a weekend and spending unlimited time and attention with him, allowing him to follow them around everywhere. Then on Monday, when the kids

are off to school and the parents go off to work, the dog is left all alone. This can set off many problems associated with separation anxiety, i.e. barking, whining, destruction, self mutilation.

It is best to plan your dog's mealtime to follow your own, even if it means you just sitting down and having a snack in front of him. This is especially true for a dominant dog. The leader of the pack always eats first and gets the best pickings. Do not give him any. Then prepare his meal in his own bowl.

Control your dog's toys; that is, keep them out of reach. Consider them YOUR toys that you "allow" him to play with when YOU initiate the action. Make him earn your attention of play, petting, and treats by obeying a command, such as sit or come, first.

Probably the hardest thing for an owner to do is to be consistent. A dog is a great opportunist. But great confusion will arise if you allow him to perform a "misdeed" and then get upset at him later for doing the same or a

similar thing: i.e., don't allow the dog to come jump on you in play when you are in jeans and then expect him to know the difference when you're all dressed up and ready to go out; feed him scraps from the table and then punish him for begging; give him an old shoe and then punish for chewing on a new one, as he cannot distinguish the difference.

Praise

Give him plenty of exercise, especially if he is young and exuberant or one of the working breeds. This means more than a mere walk around the block once or twice a day. He needs to run. You can jog, ride a bike, throw a ball, frisbee or other toy. A tired dog is a happy dog.

If you adhere to doing these things, you are on your way to building a better understanding and relationship with your dog. Your dog will look to you as his leader and will love you more for it.

Dog Training



アークスタッフ 平田朱美

私とアークの出会い、以前にアークで働いていたスタッフに、オリバーさんが犬や猫の世話をしてくれる人を探しているの、一度行ってみないかと誘われたからでした。私も動物が好きなので、アークのような動物保護施設で、仕事が出来たらと思っていました。この頃のアークは、

今のように有名ではなく、動物の数も今のように多くありませんでした。スタッフも、私を含めて3人だけでした。それから数年後に起

こった、あの阪神大震災や、不況による倒産、リストラなどによって捨てられた多くの動物たちが、アークに入ってきました。仕事もハードで、大変な日々が続いていますが、食事の時や、散歩に行く時の動物たちの嬉しそうな仕種は、私の疲れた心を和ませてくれます。ここに入る子たちは、食餌はもちろん、健康も管理されて、不自由なく暮らしていますが、やはりこの子たちの幸せは、皆さんの愛情にあふれた家庭に入り、家族の一員になるのが一番幸せだと思います。一日も早く、アークの全ての動物たちが幸せになることが私たちの願いです。



by Akemi Hirata (ARK staff member)

I first came to ARK when a friend who was working there as a staff member told me that Oliver-san was looking for people to help her take care of dogs and cats — why don't I try coming up once? Since I love animals, I was just thinking at the time that I would like to find work at an animal shelter somewhere.

Back then, ARK was not well-known like it is now, and there weren't so many animals like now either. The staff consisted of three people, including myself. But then came the Great Hanshin Earthquake a few years later in 1995, bringing the first big wave of animal refugees to ARK. The number of animals grew as people who lost their jobs and businesses in the recession began abandoning their pets.

The work is hard and each day is a struggle to finish all our chores, but seeing the animals' joy when I bring them their meals and take them on walks soothes my tired spirit. The animals here are well-fed and healthy, and live in comfort — but for them to be truly happy, I believe they need to find a loving home. Becoming a treasured member of a family is the greatest happiness they can find — and it's something I and all of the staff at ARK wish for all of the animals here.

