

Sleeping Areas

It is the privileges of the alpha dog of any pack too choose where they rest and sleep. Should anyone try and challenge the right to this area, then the dominant dog will do all it can to reclaim this position.

Dogs and their ancestors, the wolf, naturally choose areas with height so they have a good vantage point, to see that is going on within their pack. The only objects of height around the home are beds, chairs and sofas. Allowing your pet access to these gives him the message that he maybe in control of the group. A message you most definitely do not want him to get.

To establish yourself as the leader you need to take control of these areas for sure. Setting your stall out from the very start avoids any confusion or grey areas appearing with your puppy's control. No go areas such as bedrooms should be established from the very beginning. If you have to keep your door shut, then this should be established right from the start.

Furniture is designed and bought for the people of the house and not generally the pets. However as soon as your back is turned they may very well take advantage, sneaking up there when you're not looking. Keep them out of these rooms when you leave them unsupervised, or up turn the cushions, to make the furniture inaccessible.

Being able to do things first, going through doorways, out into the yard, into the car and upstairs first, is again giving your dog the signals that he is in charge. Making sure your dog waits until told they can go through the door, or jump into the car gives the control and authority to the owner and therefore increases their position within the pack. This is very important before walks. Establish the rules that you will be in control before you even leave the house. Waiting until you're actually on the walk, before you take control is far too late, by which time the dog will have the upper hand.

Do you ever go and stand or move the dog's bed from time to time? By doing this you are demonstrating to the dog, that you have the ability and right to do this as leader. Call the dog out of his bed now and again ensuring you have full control not just whilst on walks, but around the house too.