

10 Canine Commandments

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1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. **Any separation from you will be painful to me.** Remember that before you buy me.
2. **Give me time to understand** what you want from me.
3. **Place your trust in me.** It's crucial to my well-being.
4. **Dont be angry with me** for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your entertainment and your friends. I only have you.
5. **Talk to me sometimes.** Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, **I'll never forget it.**
7. Remember before you hit me: I have teeth that could easily crush the bones of your hand, but **I choose not to bite you.**
8. Before you scold me for being un-cooperative, obstinate or lazy, **ask yourself if something might be bothering me.** Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, or I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart is getting old and weak.
9. **Take care of me when I get old.** You too will grow old.
10. **Go with me on difficult journeys.** Never say: "*I can't bear to watch it*", or "*Let it happen in my absence.*" Everything is easier for me if you are there.

REMEMBER THAT I LOVE YOU.