

# So You Own a Human



You own a human! Congratulations! Maybe you picked the human up at an animal shelter, or off an internet site, or out on the streets. Good for you! Take the human back to their place and move on in! Be sure to sniff around, walk the perimeter and get to know every room. Then settle in!

My name is Jubilation T. Bloodhound, and I will be your host for this Field Guide. The Field Guide will help you navigate your human and other people you encounter with 38 Helpful Management Hints and special bonus 8 Woof Proverbs to instruct your human how to be happy, healthy and wise. Because, as an experienced owner of humans, let me tell you, sometimes humans are the goofiest creatures on the planet! A human writer named John Steinbeck said it best:

*“I’ve seen a look in dogs’ eyes...and I am convinced that basically dogs think humans are nuts.”*

Take it from me, Mr. Steinbeck is right. Sometimes humans are a bit daff and crazed. But you learn to go with the flow. It’s your job not only to manage humans, but to be their Life Coach. Teach them the dog skills of Life. This Field Guide will help you navigate the nutty world of

# So You Own a Human

humans, and help you enjoy the love you have with the human you own. Good luck with your human, and Woof!

## WELCOME HOME



### **1. Buy the Necessities...and Toys**

The first order of business is to make sure the human makes the right purchases of food, treats, toys, treats, a comb to brush you and more treats. This will help ensure your people have the right initiative and are smart and well bred.

### **2. Find Your Spot**



## So You Own a Human

Once you have explored the dwelling, find your spot in the house you are most comfortable in. Circle that area several times before lying down, just to be sure it feels right. This will be your spot for rest and privacy.

You may find you require a number of spots around the dwelling. One when the humans are gone (the bed or the couch, ideally, places the humans don't generally like you to go) and another perhaps when humans are home.

If humans are cooking in the kitchen, you will want a spot where you can keep an eye on the kitchen happenings. See **Human Proverbs** for details.

For instance, any food that is dropped while the human cooks or eat is automatically yours. Sniff it sufficiently first. Be sure it is cool enough and that it is something you enjoy. For me, salads are out. Any kind of meat products are definitely in.



"Tell me this isn't celery."

# So You Own a Human

## 3. Manage your own Workload First

Before you can manage your human you first should take care of yourself. Make a daily schedule a priority and guard your time, setting aside a block each day to completing your own tasks without interruptions.

You might ask yourself, “Jubilation, what kind of schedule of tasks should I make?” I’m glad you asked. Here is my typical day: Eat. Sleep. Bark at something. Eat. Sleep. Bark at something. Make sure human gets exercise. Eat. Sleep. Bark at something. Time for bed.

Eager dogs can make the mistake of over-committing to their people and ultimately experience burnout, making them a less effective manager. Once you feel confident in your own schedule, you will be more attentive and focused on your people when they need you.



## 4. Make a Schedule

## So You Own a Human

If it is a family of humans, be sure it is understood who will be responsible for giving you food, water, walks, exercise, clean-up, and grooming. Be aware of which human takes which responsibility. Sometimes humans will trade off duties. No worries. Keep a mental list of who does what, particularly in following your commands. It's okay for you to play favorites and chum up to the one who chums up to you.

Very important you demonstrate a good attitude every day. First get up and stretch. Personally, I stretch out almost every hour, or at least after every nap. More on naps later.

Once stretching is over, it's a good idea to go into the human room and wake them up. Sure, it's only 4 in the morning. But you're hungry and the human needs to get their day going. These humans have a saying: *the early worm gathers no moss*. Or something like that. More on **Human Proverbs** later. Now if the human doesn't start moving right away, start growling at something right outside the window. Even if there's nothing there.

There are four levels of waking up a human:

1. Nose them sweetly as they lie in bed
2. Growl at shadow outside bedroom
3. Bark at shadow outside bedroom
4. Howl like a mad banshee at shadow outside window

Start with Point 1 and work your way down to Point 4. Once the human is up, go back to Point 1 and let them

# So You Own a Human

know how happy you are that they can face the day and ready to feed you breakfast.

## 5. Breakfast

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and it's important you eat well first thing in the morning. Don't let the human forget this. You might have to catch your human's attention by nosing your dog dish around the floor, so the human gets the idea you're hungry. Ideally you have a dish that makes a lot of sound when you push it. Metal bowls are the best. They scrape and scratch over the floor surface and make a delightful irritating sound that will for sure get the human's attention.

Nose the bowl toward the human. If the human is, perhaps, in the bathroom getting ready for the day, push the bowl right into the bathroom. Eventually, the human will get the idea. They are bright, these humans. They can learn your commands very quickly.



## 6. Naps

# So You Own a Human

After breakfast, take a nap. Many naps are required for your day to be complete.

**Note:** the words '*nap*' and '*sleep*' are interchangeable in this Field Guide.

## 7. Let Your Human Adjust

Your new human is bound to feel insecure and frightened by changes in their environment when you first arrive. It's important you get the human involved with your routine as quickly as possible.



## 8. Get to Know your Human

# **So You Own a Human**

To be an effective owner, you must understand the human or team of humans you are managing. Depending on their personalities, people respond differently to various dog leadership styles. Some require paws-on management while others excel when they are given freedom and flexibility. A smart dog can adjust their management techniques depending on who they are working with, cultivating every human's potential with personalized attention.

Getting to know your human involves learning what inspires them. Knowing how the humans handle their day can help you understand how to motivate them to follow your commands. Humans must learn to know your daily schedule and in turn you must know to get the humans off the couch and take you for walks and nature excursions. You can start to learn about your human by noticing their individual habits. Perhaps like you they are hungry when they first get up and they head to the kitchen.

## **9. Kitchen**

The kitchen is a go-to location in any dwelling. As I mentioned, you never know when the human inadvertently drops food on the kitchen floor. Be ready to pounce when this occurs. Kitchen freebies are a great way for you to help the human keep the kitchen floor neat and tidy. We will refer to Kitchen later in the Field Guide.

## **10. Set House Rules**



# So You Own a Human

Teach your human from the beginning what is and is not appropriate behavior. If something is “OK” today, your human will think it’s OK always. Make sure every member of the family is aware of the rules you’ve set. Consistency is key to being a responsible owner.

For example:

Get them to feed you on a timely consistent basis. See **Food Critic** for food maintenance. Be sure they always provide plenty of fresh, clean water.

And:



## 11. Exercise

Make sure you’re giving your human enough exercise for their health, age, and size. If you’re unsure what type of exercise (and how much) is right for them,

## So You Own a Human

take them out for short walks first, then increase the tempo and duration as required. Be sure they play games with you. It's fun and gets them off the couch.

### 12. Know Your Human's Patterns

You will become familiar with your human patterns of eating, drinking, sleeping. Any major variations in these patterns could indicate illness.



One of the great gifts we dogs bring to the world is kindness (See **8 Woof Proverbs**). Helping those who are sick or in need of love. But take it from Jubilation, when someone is sick or feeling blue, a good joke always works. Here's one for you:

## So You Own a Human

A man walks into a bar and spies a sad man sitting on a barstool alongside a dog with a For Sale sign around his neck. The man asks, "You selling the dog?" The sad man says "Yes. He's free if you want him." Intrigued, the man approaches the dog and says hello. "Hello," the dog replies in perfect English. "And how are you?" Astonished, the man steps back. "You can talk! That's amazing!" "Yes," the dog replies, "I learned English, French and German while I was in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. That was after my stint fighting with the marines in the Middle East where I learned various Arabic dialects. Now I spend my days reading Shakespeare to residents of a retirement home." The man stands there absolutely flabbergasted. He asks the sad man, "Why on earth would you get rid of such an incredible dog?" The sad man says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

---

### **13. Delegate Tasks**

Learning how to trust humans with key tasks allows you to focus on high-level dog duties instead of micromanaging your human. Once you learn about the human's strengths, weaknesses, experiences and skills, you will be able to accurately delegate jobs to the human within a given time frame. For example, having them turn the doorknob and letting you in and out on command involves setting clear expectations with the human and ensuring that they feel confident in their ability to complete their portion of the task. By delegating responsibilities to the human, you demonstrate trust in

## **So You Own a Human**

their abilities and help them feel invested in your wishes and desires.

### **14. Develop Clear Goals**

Set goals to guide your management effort. The human must understand when to feed you and when to allow you to nap so you can fulfill your busy workload. Creating goals at the beginning of your relationship will give the human guidelines and how the human can focus on their own behavior and how it impacts the success of the human-dog experience. Wag your tail and bark happily each time the human achieves one of these goals, no matter how small. It's good when your human feels good about themselves.

### **15. Give your Human Jobs**

Teach the humans your needs; when you like to sleep and when you like to eat and when you like to exercise. Giving your human a sense of purpose and accomplishment can increase their well-being.

### **16. Set a Good Example**

You are responsible for your human well-being (See **Life Coach**). It's important for you to set a good example. Owning a friendly, clean, well-mannered human reflects positively when you encounter other dogs you might meet in public.

## So You Own a Human



Out in public with your Human

### **17. Show Your Pride**

Bring your well-behaved human into public places. Be proud of the way your human throws the ball or plays with you. Advertise your human to all those other dogs you might encounter. It's perfectly legal to be smug about the quality of your human.



### **18. Keep Your Human Fit and Trim**

## **So You Own a Human**

We dogs eyeball other dogs and the quality of the human they hang around with. Be sure your human eats a well-balanced diet and give them plenty of exercise. Bark at them if they overeat. Learn how many treats they can safely consume. These methods can help prevent obesity. And believe me, other dogs notice if you have an overweight human. We laugh at the quality of your human.

### **19. Demonstrate Consistent Leadership**

Building trust with your human is an important part of being a good manager. One of the best ways to show that you are trustworthy and earn respect from the human is to be consistent in your behavior. When you let the human know, for instance, it's time to wake up and feed you, you must stay consistent with this behavior every morning. Although you should personalize your management techniques to each human you encounter, you also need to hold each human to the same standards of behavior. Allowing a human to – as they say – slack off is not good leadership. Consistent, reliable follow-through shows your human that they can trust you to be fair and equitable with everyone who happens to live in the household and are capable of following your commands.

# So You Own a Human



## **20. Provide Positive Reinforcement**

Praise your human for obeying your commands and behaving well. Positive reinforcement is a highly effective management technique where you reward humans who demonstrate excellence in the household. Such as scratching behind the ears, long walks or allowing you to take your naps. Be vocal when you notice someone accomplishing a task such as petting and stroking you or giving you a massage (See **Massage**). You can recognize excellent work by something as simple as a woof! Or a soft bark or wagging your tail or through a structured reward system, depending on what motivates your human the best. Find something positive about every human in the household so you can recognize top performers and encourage the others to be more confident as they grow their skills and accomplish tasks on your behalf.

## **21. Give Honest Feedback**

Good manager dogs are able to be tactful and direct with their humans when giving both praise and constructive criticism. To get the most out of your humans, you must be honest about their strengths and weaknesses, identify when their work is not up to your

## **So You Own a Human**

standard and strategize on ways the human can improve. Your feedback should be honest without being discouraging so that failures can be used as growth opportunities instead of demoralizing moments.

Dog kisses, for example, are an excellent way to demonstrate constructive praise. No, kissing a human is not gross. Actually, humans have a light salty quality to their skin that's quite tasty. Try it.

### **22. Allow for Flexibility**

Build a culture of mutual respect by being flexible with how each human accomplishes their responsibilities. Giving people the freedom to think they are in charge can help them enjoy their work and become more productive when it comes to following your commands. Help your people enjoy their station in life by encouraging them to customize their work process. When people feel that you as the household leader care about their well-being, they are more likely to accept direction and produce their best work on your behalf.

### **23. Exceed Your Own Expectations**

Lead by example and show the humans that you hold yourself to the same standards that you expect of them. Even if you have more flexibility in your workload as a dog, it is important to show that you are a team player by abiding by the same deadlines and expectations you set for the humans. Demonstrate that you have a personal stake in the success of the household. Effective dogs not only treat their humans consistently but also manage their own behavior based on the same fair expectations.



# So You Own a Human

For example, if your Workload requires 4 naps a day, sometimes attempt 5 naps in a day. Maybe even 6. This will demonstrate that you set high standards for yourself, and you are willing to meet and even exceed your own expectations.

## 24. Communication Skills



When you communicate, how does each human react? How well are they addressing your needs and desires? Customize your communications so you can manage each and every human in the household. There are licks, tail wagging, growls, barks, attentive nurturing, cuddling and soulful looks in your eyes. Know thy humans. Know how to grab their attention and, therefore, get what you want.

Humans have a tendency to *yak yak yak* like they have something important to say. As human Christopher Morley said, *“No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does.”*

## Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

