

AKITAS CAN be aloof at times and reserved with strangers. At first, even you are a stranger, including other people and pets. Akitas are interesting and intelligent dogs, they need leadership but not over dominance. They place a value on their own personal space. Expect the relationship to take time when adopting...be patient for a minimum of two weeks. Be consistent and be prepared to set priorities of direction and discipline. Akitas need consistency, exercise and affection, in that order.

FOR 1ST few weeks your Akita may try to get out the door / yard so be prepared to watch for any opportunities for the animal to escape. Discourage your Akita from being a guard dog when people come to your door...leash or hold Akita before you open the door. Akitas can climb like cats and they can run for miles...don't let them get away from you.

AKITAS HAVE strong personalities and each may be sensitive to different things. They can be "touchy" about their feet. Never grab Akita from back of neck, never approach a sleeping Akita or an Akita that's eating or when it's with treats or playing with a toy without first using your voice or when it is not familiar with you.

DO NOT get face to face, eye to eye contact, or "bear" hug as these are signs of dominance to the animal. Do not rush excitedly forward to greet Akita, instead stand back and call the Akita to you. Do not grab either side of face for affection for it might be taken as a threat...and do not rough wrestle.

DO NOT leave an Akita with small children or other pets unsupervised until the Akita is completely familiar surroundings. If you have children or small animals maintain control of their behavior and teach them to be respectful. If children or pets are guests in the home, either separate or leash control your Akita. Maintain control of kids and other pets for Akita will not tolerate aggression or abusive pets and kids.

KEEP FOOD and water in a private place and don't reach to take away food, treats or possessions. Food, toys, treats, beds and belongings can be bones of contention. Keep separated from other animals and kids.

AKITA GOES to private spots – this is an indication it wants alone time and respect them for that.

IN PUBLIC walking your Akita you want it close to your side and ask others to keep pets and kids at a 5-FOOT separation. When unknown adults approach, hold your hand up and tell them to stop and let the Akita walk toward them. If you wish your Akita to be in a crowded situation such as large social events or dog parks, start slowly in smaller groups and introduce them to that environment.

AKITAS MAY be protective of their property and their vehicles. Do not allow others to enter or approach without control over your Akita.

WHEN BRUSHING, bathing, nail clipping, let Akita smell and become familiar and accustomed to those tools prior to using them.

WHEN VET visits are appropriate expect your Akita to be nervous and defensive. You can prepare your Akita by getting them a soft muzzle and having them become accustomed to wearing the mussel well in advance of vet or groomer. Take your Akita for a very long walk before vet visits, to be sure your Akita is relaxed and not tense.

SOCIALIZE YOUR Akita always in a controlled manner but with lots of exposure to new environments. Leash control and soft muzzle are good "tools" to use for that time.

FOOD...high protein dry dog food with no corn, wheat or gluten. Don't hesitate to add meat or other nutritious "people" food. If your Akita has diarrhea, add 2 tablespoons of canned pumpkin or plain yogurt. Fish oil capsules will keep the coat healthy. Generally, we feed Costco's Kirkland brand of chicken, rice and vegetables.

PRESCRIPTIONS / MEDICINES...most of the time, prescriptions filled at vets are very expensive. Consider asking your vet for a script to go, and fill at Costco or Lambriar / Lambert Vet Supplies at 800.344.6337 (www.LambertVetSupply.com). Here you can purchase various supplies for fleas, ticks, mites, mange...they pretty much have it all.