



SHCR-SNE

## Helpful Guidelines to Keeping You Your Siberian's Alpha

1. You, and all humans, go through doors and passageways before your Siberian(s). Rite of passage is important to your Siberian(s). If you own more than one Siberian you will see this "I'm going first" interaction between them. ***You as the Alpha have this right first.***
2. You and your family eat first, before your Siberian(s). No exceptions except for doggie treats. ***The Alpha always eats first.***
3. If your Siberian is blocking your path, make him move out of your way. Do not go around your Siberian(s). ***Subordinate animals move for the Alpha.***
4. Call your Siberian to you for petting and attention. Do not go to him/her unless he/she is ill. ***The subordinate always greets the dominant.***
5. When you arrive from being away from your Siberian, if he/she does not greet you, ignore him/her. If you go running to your Siberian, then you are treating him/her as the Alpha. ***Your Siberian(s) will come to you out of love and respect for you as their Alpha.***
6. Use your Siberian's name when he/she is good and reward him. When your Siberian(s) is bad, just say, "Bad Dog", do not use his/her name. Motivation and reward vs. negative incentives. Your Siberian needs a good reason to do things well and not do things they shouldn't.
7. ***Practice "doggie discipline"***. When your Siberian engages in unacceptable behavior, discipline him/her in a way he/she understands. Try giving your Siberian(s) a scruff shake while using a grunt, growl, or some other communication he/she knows. Siberians, like wolves in the wild, talk with their eyes. It is important that you keep eye contact with your Siberian(s) when communicating. ***PRAISE, PRAISE and LOVE.*** This is the magic combination, not overbearing discipline.
8. When using toys while playing with your Siberian(s) be sure that you end up with the toy last. You then put it away, or if your Siberian(s) has learned to put his/her toys in their basket or container, you direct him/her to do it. ***You own and are in charge of everything as the Alpha, not your Siberian(s).***
9. Practice trust/dominance exercises. Put your Siberian in a down-stay posture, then gently touch his/her ears, paws and other sensitive parts of his/her body. Give him/her the message that this is pleasant and good for him/her. Offer treats as incentives for him/her allowing this activity. It will help when you or your veterinarian needs to touch or perform other necessary activities on your Siberian. Your groomer will love you for it. ***Your Siberian(s) must trust you and others as his/her Alpha(s).***
10. Prove to him/her that you can be trusted to protect them. Your Siberian(s) must learn that in all situations you and will protect him/her. Be consistent in enforcing all rules your Siberian is to live by. Establish regular routines he/she can count on. ***Be your Siberian's true Alpha leader.***
11. Practice taking objects [food, treats, toys, etc.] away from your Siberian(s). When he/she takes an object that they are not allowed to have, trade it for an object he/she is allowed to have. Tell him/her that the object you are taking away is, "Mine, not (your dog's name) – this is (your dog's name)" while giving him/her what he/she is allowed to play with. ***You as the Alpha own everything.***
12. Practice removing his/her food bowl away from your Siberian(s) while he/she is eating. You, and other humans, should be able to work up to removing food directly from your Siberian(s) mouth while he/she is eating without any trouble. ***You as the Alpha can do anything.***

13. Do not let your Siberian “mouth” you or anyone else. When he/she places its mouth around your arm, elbow, wrist, etc. he/she is usually showing a sign of affection and love, as their wolf counterparts do in the wild. As cute and fun this may seem, it must be stopped immediately. People not familiar with this trait may panic if your Siberian demonstrates this affectionate behavior on them and pull their arm away quickly causing an injury to themselves while thinking your dog bit them. Change this behavior to kisses. When your Siberian(s) starts to engage in this behavior tell him/her, “No, bite, give me kisses instead”. It will not take long for this natural, instinctive behavior to manifest itself as kisses rather than mouthing. ***You, the Alpha, sets all the rules of behavior.***