

10 Canine Commandments

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. *Any separation from you will be painful for 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. *Don't 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 will never forget it.*
7. Remember before you hit me: I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, but *I choose not to bite you.*
8. Before you scold me for being un-cooperative, obstinate 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.

