The Doberman – A guide to the Sherang

So, you have decided to invest in a Doberman… My only advice to you is: Good Luck!

The Doberman is different to most other breeds in its temperament and demeaner. You will find the Doberman either easy or hard to train, and there is no in-between.

What you will find is that each Doberman will have its own personality, sometimes based on the parents and sometimes based upon what it wants to be, regardless of its heritage.

They are strong, loyal and intelligent and training this breed needs to take this into consideration. Different training methods need to be considered for each dog, depending on wat it decides to follow, and which trainer it likes the smell of.

Basically, you have no choice in what the Doberman becomes or what it wants to learn. If you try and force them, they balk up and goodbye couch or staircase.

You may now think it is all doom and gloom, but it is not. You have purchased a working line, European Doberman, which was created as a personal watch dog and protector. If you follow these few simple points, your life will be a lot easier compared to if you annoy them (see note re removal of staircase).

1. They are companion dogs

2. They are working dogs

3. They are pack animals

4. They want to be in charge

5. They get bored really easily

6. Their diet is important

7. They are empathic

You need to understand, your Doberman WANTS to work for you and LOVES completing a task for you. Training is very important and needs to start straight away.

You need to remember to always establish that you are the alpha in the house. Here are a few simple points I found worked for my dogs:

A) You eat before they do and NEVER off the table. They need to wait until you finish eating, or they need to be fed away from your “high up on a table” eating place, either on the floor or on a place lower than your dining table

B) if you are going to feed them scraps it needs to be after you have finished eating and they are placed into their bowl

C) you need to give them a command to eat, and make them wait before giving them the command

D) from a VERY young age you need to be able to walk up to them while they are eating and be able to put your hand on their food or touch/take away their bowl. Give it back to them after making them wait for the eating command again

E) you go through doorways first and exit the car first at the destination

F) training, training, training! They will obey the alpha in the house

G) Never let your dog get away with barking at you or “pushing you around”. If they do this, you need to re establish your authority by giving them a verbal correction for doing something wrong, folding your arms and turning around and not paying them any attention.

H) if you give your dog a command, they must follow through with it. If not, they cannot get away with it and need to be given a verbal correction.

I) These dogs will automatically protect and guard their “Pack” (family members) and will bond very strongly with them. You do not need to teach these dogs to guard or protect.

Do not, in any circumstances, physically hurt your Doberman to punish it with any body part or something you are holding. These are not Labradors or other placid breeds (who love attention no matter if it is good or bad). If you go down this road you could potentially end up with them hating you or resenting you. This is not a good situation, and it is almost guaranteed they will challenge you to become the alpha and you could end up with a shy, aggressive dog.

If you need to punish your Doberman, you need to use visual, stimulatory or verbal means. Remember that these dogs WANT to work for you. You need give them the right feedback to make them understand what you want them to do, with clear signals when they have done something wrong. You cannot give these dogs mixed signals, this can cause them to not respond to you, have behavioural issues and challenge you to being alpha.

Visual means – using objects which have been “loaded” to have a meaning to the dog or removal of offered rewards etc.

Stimulatory means – Correction collars

Verbal means – “Loading” a word or sound

When you have the correct training method for your Doberman (don’t forget each one if different and will respond to different techniques) life is amazing with these dogs and like Maltesers, you can’t stop at just one.

And the most important thing – Have fun with your dog

