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## Outrageous Myths

### Don't Fall for These!

Category: Tips and Information

***"He takes awhile to warm up to strangers and children, so don't touch him."***

If this is happening to your dog, seek help from a professional now. If your dog is young, it is easier to address this issue. A dog that is fearful of others can be dangerous. This can lead into fear aggression, and that will lead to a dog bite. Some dogs are naturally shy or submissive and need to have a softer approach. But if you see fear in your dog that is his way of telling you he is stressed and is asking for help.

***"We have other dogs at home so we don't need to socialize her."***

A very big mistake. You can have 12 dogs in your household. That doesn't mean your dog will be social or like other dogs he doesn't know. Dogs develop a pack, that pack is your family, and the other dogs. Outside dogs are not part of that pack, and if you don't get your dog socialized to other dogs and people, he will become anti social and not welcome outsiders.

***"She only jumps on people when she's happy. She'll settle down when she turns 2."***

If you don't want your dog doing something when she gets bigger, don't let her do it as a puppy. This is not fair to your dog. Letting her do something, jumping, being on

your bed, chewing up items, as a puppy, and then at the magic age of 2, she is getting in trouble for these things will confuse her. You will have to undo all the bad behavior that you let happen, then teach new good behavior. Teaching the right behavior from day one is much easier on you and your dog.

***"I have a big yard; I don't need to walk my dog."***

Every dog needs to be leash walked. Leash walking a dog is an enjoyable part of having your dog. Walking with your best friend is very special and you both will enjoy it. Getting your dog out to see new places, practice her training skills, and it will teach your dog that you are the one in charge of where she goes, how she walks- making your leadership skills important to your dog.

***"She was abused as a puppy, so she guards her food. Leave her alone."***

She may have been abused as a puppy, or may not have been, but this is a serious issue that should be addresses quickly. No one can ever be positive the dog will not bite an unsuspecting person or child that is not aware of the guarding problem. You will find it very difficult to supervise every meal, treat, chew toy or bone through out your dogs life. Or who will be involved with your dog when caring for her if you are gone. Get professional help with this.