

Getting Your Way for Dummies

by Connor O'Malley

(Dog Version)

A cat's life, lazy, a cow's life, grassy, a horse's life, gluey, a dog's life, fabulous. Hello, my name is Toby O'Malley, and I have a PhD in begging and persuading. I have been in a family for thirty-five years (five human years) and have mastered all the thing a dog needs to know about having the best life possible.

Lesson 1: Begging

With great food comes great responsibility. To achieve the fairly challenging skill of begging, one must have a persuasive mind-set. The most effective times to beg are in the morning and the evening. Breakfast and dinner are the meals when humans take out the juicy and delicious meats like maple flavored bacon, rotisserie chicken, and juicy char grilled steak. An important begging tactic at the breakfast and dinner table is going to the most vulnerable person who loves you the most. Using your big puppy dog eyes, always make eye contact with that person, and maybe even shed a tear. While begging, you should start off by giving them a nice, slow, gentle paw to the thigh, almost like a wrist bump. Then rest your warm head on the lap of the most vulnerable person and finally, with a few high pitched whines, you should have at least some crispy, smoked, warm bacon in your mouth. Now, let me tell you a story about when I got in trouble for pawing the cook's leg. It all started when the cook turned on the frying pan. I could smell that savory, sizzling sausage from miles away. I walked in a daze to the kitchen and went up to paw the cook's leg, but, since I was in dog heaven, I was not paying attention, and accidently pawed the new stainless steel oven. Let's just say, I did not get any of that delicious sausage.

Lesson 2: Persuading

Persuading is one of the most important skills a dog can learn. Going in the car for a dog is like going to Disney World for humans. If you want to be able to secure a spot in the family car, you must pay attention to the activity in the house. As soon as people are rushing, getting ready, and picking up car keys, backpacks and purses, you must get up and grab your leash and bring it to them. They will be so impressed; they will want to bring you. When the humans open the door to the garage, quickly take advantage of this opportunity and sprint to the car door. When the car door opens, jump in, secure your spot, and let no one take it. If they say you cannot go, just dodge their hands, and jump to the back seat and give the look that says, "My heart will be broken if I have to stay home alone again." If they try to pull you out of the car, use your deadweight, lie down, and don't move.

Humans think they control us. However, to get what we want, we need to find our alpha, and time it right to get the things that matter most, like, bacon, walking off leash, and going on car rides. Remember, perseverance, pays off.