

Congratulations On Your New Puppy

Puppies can be a wonderful addition to your family IF they are properly trained. Most people think that puppies 6-8 weeks of age are too young to learn their manners. However, studies have shown that this is the OPTIMAL time to begin training them. Keep in mind, it is far easier to PREVENT inappropriate behaviors rather than try to change them later. Also bear in mind that some degree of damage is going to occur when you have an animal share your house; especially during the puppy phase. Have patience. The following tips should help you raise a fun, yet well-behaved, puppy. And remember, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us!

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Crate Training:

- Training, for anything, takes time and patience
- Always use crate for pleasant experiences... never use for "time-out" or punishment
- Locate where family spends a lot of time and add soft bedding
- Always use a happy, encouraging tone of voice when leading to the crate
- Crate should be dark, plastic and small enough for them to be able to stand up, turn around and lie down comfortably...like a burrow in the ground... anything larger and they will designate a sleeping area and a elimination area
- Drop tidbits of food or toys in crate and praise pup when enters... must enter willingly... if doesn't, repeat process until does
- Feed pup in crate a few times, with door open, until comfortable staying in there for 10-15 minutes... then try with door closed
- Slowly build up times dog comfortably spends in crate
- Associate going in the crate with verbal command and reinforce with praise
- Must allow for plenty of physical activity and fun time when out of crate

Housetraining:



- Crate training is best... crate should be just large enough for pup to stand up in and turn around... sides should be covered, like a den
- Gradually build up the time the pup stays in the crate based on the length of time in between eliminations
- When not crated... SUPERVISE! Tether them to you with a leash or rope. If they start to wander off, circle, sniff or look like they may have to go outside, ask them and head for the door

- Go outside with them and provide quiet, verbal praise during eliminations
- Reward with a tidbit, toy or praise immediately after elimination to reinforce
- If the dog enjoys being outside, don't make them come in as soon as they eliminate or they will begin to delay eliminations in order to stay outside longer!
- Take outside often at first, especially after eating, sleeping, playing and confinement. Keep a consistent schedule. Always use verbal commands and praise.
- Punishment is not a part of housetraining.
- If you find a mess, clean it up and do nothing to the pup
- If you see your pet eliminating in the house, get them to follow you outside immediately using a verbal command in an encouraging tone of voice, followed by elimination commands outside. Praise when they succeed!
- Reasons for "accidents": owner fails to adequately supervise, owner fails to take outside frequently enough or owners are unaware or ignore the signs that the pet has to go outside

Chewing and Mouthing:



- Provide a variety of chew toys made of various materials, make sure cannot ingest or swallow toy or parts of it
- Rotate toys every few days so they don't get bored
- Praise them when they are chewing on their own toys (pet, tidbit, verbal)
- Don't confuse by providing "old" forbidden items for chewing (old shoe, old sock, etc)
- Puppy proof the house and SUPERVISE at all times
- If the pup is chewing on something he shouldn't, take it away and give them their own toy then praise them
- Teething can be uncomfortable... may be soothing to provide chilled toys (place in fridge or freezer)
- Chewing is a lifelong trait so remember to provide chew toys to adult dogs as well
- Never allow to chew or mouth on your hands or fingers or other body parts... give them a toy instead
- Until the pup has learned self control, avoid wrestling games that may agitate them to nip or chew
- Two types of appropriate punishment: brief time out... place pup in small, quiet confined area for a few minutes or walk away from the pup... both situations remove something enjoyable for the pup.

Socialization

- Between 6 and 12 weeks of age, pup are afraid of little and it is relatively easy for them to enjoy new people, places and things
- Slowly begin introducing them to new experiences, noises, etc
- Make sure pup has a good time with each experience by using praise, tidbits or toys
- Do not force in to any experience they fear...take small, encouraging steps if pup allows...don't overwhelm with situations they cannot tolerate
- Never punish during fearful situations...instead, find a way to make the situation easier for the pup
- Handle paws, ears and mouth as much as possible...will make nail trims, ears and teeth cleaning much easier in the future

