

Wilde on Turtle Island

PUPPY TRAINING MANUAL



Your Working Jack Russell Terrier | Laura Jean Wilde

Please take note that every single puppy that comes from our home comes with a no questions asked return policy. If for any reason you cannot keep your puppy, we want them back home with us, not at a pound or shelter. Our pups are microchipped and we want them all to have a good life.

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
YOUR NEW PUPPY’S FIRST DAYS.	4
DOG PSYCH 101	4
SUPPLIES	5
PUPPY NUTRITION	5
GOOD FEEDING HABITS	6
Treats	6
GOOD MEMBERS OF SOCIETY	6
SOME GENERAL RULES:	6
Responsible Pet Parents	7
LEADERSHIP	7
SOCIALIZATION	7
PRAISE AND DISCIPLINE	8
VOCABULARY	8
HOUSE TRAINING.....	8
YOUR PUPPY NEEDS EXERCISE.....	9
A COLLAR AND LEASH WILL BE YOUR BEST FRIEND	10
GREETING	10
TRAINING CLASSES.....	10
PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES.....	12
And now a word on curbing potential bad behavior.	13
BITING	13
CHEWING - DIGGING	13
BEGGING.....	13
GROWLING OVER FOOD	13
JUMPING ON PEOPLE	14
DOG AGILITY TRAINING FOR YOUR PUPPY	14

INTRODUCTION

YOUR NEW PUPPY'S FIRST DAYS.

Expect the first few nights of your puppy being home to be little challenging. Your puppy may sometimes feel the pangs of loneliness and may whine as a result. He has been removed from familiar surroundings, so this is to be expected. There are a few things you can do to care more for your puppy and make his initial stay less challenging.

Make sure your puppy's sleeping quarter is in a small crate. Although your puppy will grow rapidly, you do not want to get a crate that is too large. It will not be comfortable for the puppy that is adjusting to a new environment.

This crate should be kept near your bed in a draft free area. It is important to get attuned to his cries at this point. If he cries, take him out to a relieving area and afterwards put him back into his crate. This is not the best time to start giving him treats or offer play time. He should get right back to sleep afterwards.

Get your puppy a stuffed toy. The best toy to give is a stuffed Dog toy. This toy will serve as his littermate and keep him company.

Never take your puppy to bed with you. This will help you avoid future headaches and bad habits. Learn to keep him in his crate.

DOG PSYCH 101

Human babies are born with an inherent and innate understanding of equality.

Your Jack Russell Terrier, like all dogs, in fact all canines, is born with an inherent and innate sense of linear hierarchy.

What this means to you, is that you **MUST** be his/her pack leader. Dogs need leadership. If you don't fill that need the puppy will be frightened and unsure of where s/he belongs. In desperation, your puppy will try to lead the pack.

There are no hard and fast rules about how a puppy should behave. Your puppy needs you to help him/her learn what is acceptable (to you).

SO,

When puppy is doing something really adorable, ask yourself would this be acceptable in an adult dog? If not you must discourage that behavior and replace it with an acceptable one.

SUPPLIES

A trip to the pet store can provide you with plenty of things that they say your puppy will need. You can easily spend a lot of money on things that you will never use. There are some other pieces of equipment that can come in very handy when you are dealing with your new puppy.

- Travel crates; In addition to the crate that you use in the puppy's bedroom, a crate that you can use when you are in a car is very useful. This will keep the puppy from being hurt whenever they are riding in the car. You would never allow your child to drive without a seatbelt. Keep your puppy safe as well.
- A bathtub; you can clean your puppy in your bathtub, but a separate tub may make the bathing experience easier. Your puppy will get dirty, so have the tub handy when you are ready to bathe him.
- Food and water bowls; these may seem obvious, but there are plenty of choices that you will find. It is important for the puppy to quickly learn where their food and water supply is and the right type of bowls will help identify this.
- Child gates; these are needed to keep your puppy out of places in your home where you do not want them. The gates are the best way to train a puppy about where they are allowed.
- Microchip; this device is implanted in your puppy. If the puppy is lost, they can be located using the microchip. This should be done as soon as possible when bringing a puppy home. Talk to your veterinarian on puppy's next visit.
- Grooming Supplies, It is never too early to get your puppy used to being groomed. Brushes, toenail trimmers, toothbrushes and doggie shampoo are some of the things that you will need to keep your puppy looking good.
- Exercise equipment, A walk is a great way for a puppy to get exercise, but they need more than that provides. The type of equipment that you can get will depend on the size of your home. Dog runs and toys that induce activity are the best way to allow your puppy to get the exercise they need.
- Pooper Scooper and Doggy Doo bags; when you do take a dog for a walk, make sure you have something to pick up the poo that they leave behind. It is the right thing to do and your neighbors will appreciate using this piece of equipment
- Clothing; if you want to dress up your dog, make sure the clothing you choose fits. In cold environments, it might be necessary to provide clothing to keep your dog warm. Remember that your puppy will grow quickly and that you will need to make sure that the clothing you have is not too tight.

PUPPY NUTRITION

Puppies just like human babies are growing rapidly. Their muscles, organs and bones are forever taking shape and as such they need extra nutrients in order to fuel this rapid growth.

When it comes to selecting high quality puppy food, your veterinarian should be able to



recommend something. In the first 6 months of life, the nutrient needs of your puppy are changing rapidly.

Our Puppies are started on Pride Puppy Formula. We will send a few days supply of their food with you. If you wish to change it to another brand we can recommend Blue Wilderness or Authority (grain free) puppy formula or a brand recommended by your veterinarian, do so slowly over a period of 7-10 days so as not to upset puppy's tummy.



After feeding your puppy a particular food for 6 weeks, assess his progress. If he is playful and energetic with a thick shiny coat, then he is probably digesting all his nutrients. His feces at this point should be brownish, and formed.

GOOD FEEDING HABITS

Puppies should eat at least three times a day until they are at least 6 months old. After 6 months, feeding him for at least twice a day is normal. Remember to make use of feeding guides on the labels of foods. Adjust the amount of food available to your puppy weekly; this will help keep him in optimal condition. Puppies need lots of calories in order to fuel their growth. It is best to evaluate your puppy's body condition to make sure he/she is getting the right amount of nutrients.

The brand of your food is a matter of personal choice. They are similar, but you can choose a brand based on the price, the ingredients or the reputation of the manufacturer. Be aware of what is in the food and whether it contains natural ingredients or not.

Treats

Dogs love treats and puppies are no exception. Treats can be used as rewards for good behavior or they can be offered to help supplement the puppy's health. It is important not to overdo the treats

GOOD MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

All dogs can benefit from obedience training as early as seven weeks and also when the puppy enters its new home. By six months of age, almost all behavior good and bad are already in place. This means that early training can be used to avoid problems before they become more difficult and frustrating. Bad habits are hard to correct, therefore owners should never allow nipping, chewing, digging, barking, mounting, etc. which are all normal behaviors but, if left uncorrected, can lead to behavior problems. Dogs learn each day what behavior will or will not be allowed. Remember that bad habits are hard to change.

To learn more about the first year of life and the three periods of development (Primary, Socialization, Enrichment). See the list of articles posted at: www.breedingbetterdogs.com.

SOME GENERAL RULES:

1. Remember that preventing problems is easier than solving them.
2. Do not leave children alone with a new pup. Inevitably, the pup will view small children as a littermate. They will nip, jump and begin to seek dominance and a pecking order.
3. Do not allow the pup to join in running games with children. The pup will begin to think of children as "prey" and might begin to nip.
4. Never allow aggressive play and avoid tug-of-war with a puppy. This can lead to aggressive behavior and biting. Instead, throw a ball for the pup to chase. Tug-of-war before four months of age also stresses the elbow joints and is not recommended.
5. Remind children to leave a sleeping puppy alone. Enforce the idea that pups need their rest. Do not surprise pups or adult dogs. A serious incident could occur.
6. Encourage everyone in the home, including the children, to think of the puppy as a sensitive, living thing, with needs and desires and not a toy.

Responsible Pet Parents understand that rules are always enforced and that the good behavior is always rewarded. Dogs look for leadership from their owner. Indulging in bad behavior such as nipping, begging, stealing from the table, barking, etc. are all bad habits. Do not make excuses for these behaviors and do not allow a pup to develop unpleasant behaviors. A trained pup will become a trained dog and those who come in contact with your pup/dog expect good behavior. Do not tolerate jumping, growling, snapping or nipping. This behavior must always be corrected so it is always seen as unacceptable to the pup/dog. Do not allow a pup or dog to steal food or garbage. Always correct this behavior and do not let it become a bad habit. Remember that a dog that is indifferent to his owner's commands has learned not to respect his owner. This means the owner has lost control. Turn this around. Be consistent with your commands and always reward good behavior. Dogs that constantly demand attention are over-indulged. When this occurs ask yourself if you are "buying" the pup's love with permissiveness, with over petting and coddling. Each pup will naturally find its place in the family pack. Owners must always assume the "leader" position to provide the security the pup needs.

Parents have an obligation and should not assume that the mix of children, dogs and pups does not need supervision. Children lack adult judgment, therefore all child-dog interactions should be monitored and yes, there will be times when you will have to protect the pup from children and vice-versa.

LEADERSHIP

Dogs require leadership, structure and security. Pups already know and understand these things because their mother's corrected them with firm, swift, and instant corrections. She would shake them by the neck, clout them with her paw, or pin them to the ground until they would submit. She made sure they knew she was the "boss". In a new home a pup will look for the same structure and leadership. If none is provided they will begin to assert themselves. This is usually seen in the form of growls, nips and other kinds of dominant behavior. All members of the family must agree to behave consistently toward the pup. There can be no exceptions, "**Oh, just this once**" is the beginning of confusion for the pup. The pup does not understand inconsistency. For example, if your house rule is that the pup will not to be allowed on the furniture, it must be all the furniture all of the time. Do not allow the pup on the couch one day and scold him the next. This is very confusing. Once they learn they are allowed on furniture, it is very hard to stop. The owner's body odor is the attraction and it is on all of the furniture even your favorite chair or your bed. To the dog it is all the same. Your body odor represents you and that is the attraction. Therefore, you must have one rule for the furniture with no exceptions.

SOCIALIZATION

Socialization is a necessary and important part of good development. Exposing a pup to new and different places teaches them to be comfortable around strangers and changing situations. By eight weeks of age a new puppy should be accustomed to normal household sounds: the vacuum cleaner, dishwasher, TV, radio, toilet, etc. Ideally, this was begun by the breeder. Take the pup on short car rides to get him/her over motion sickness. New and different environments such as a walk in the park, school ground, construction site, busy sidewalk, and shopping mall all provide interesting smells, sounds and opportunities to explore. Much more has been written about socializing your pup. For more information go to www.breedingbetterdogs.com and look under Articles for "Early Neurological Stimulation". An extensive discussion can be found in the book written by the Monks of New Skete titled "The Art of Raising A Puppy".

PRAISE AND DISCIPLINE

As leader, use a happy, enthusiastic tone when praising your pup for good behavior. Generous amounts of praise for good behavior will pay off. From the dog's point of view a reward means you like the behavior and want more of it. Never reward fearful behavior by "soothing" it with a soft voice or stroking. This only reinforces the bad behavior. Praise and discipline should not be confusing. Use a stern and loud tone when correcting bad behavior. Your tone becomes the signal and provides the feedback pups understand.

VOCABULARY

One syllable words work best. Pups and dogs respond easily to one syllable words. Remember they do not understand the meaning of words or sentences. However they do recognize sounds and associate them with specific behaviors. We suggest the following words as your basic commands: NO, come, down, sit, stay and OK. Tone is important. "NO" is for bad behavior or to stop something and it should be said in a voice tone that is loud and angry. "COME" should be a happy upbeat sound.

Dogs can learn a lot if the commands are simple and consistent. Remember this rule. "Learning is not portable". If a command is learned in the house, take the pup outside, to the park and shopping center and repeat the same command. It will not be long before the pup/dog learns what the command means regardless of the location.

HOUSE TRAINING

Dogs are den animals. A crate provides a secure place to prevent the pup from undesirable behavior. Since no dog likes to soil his den, house training will be simplified by using a crate. It can be located in your bedroom or some quiet place. As a rule, all pups will have to "go" upon waking, after eating and after drinking. Watch for behavior that looks like busy circling and sniffing. It is a signal that forecasts elimination. Food remains in the intestinal tract for up to



10 hours. Therefore, a regular feeding schedule will equate to a regular washroom schedule. Dogs allowed to free feed tend to munch all day. What goes in all day comes out all day. For example, a feeding at 6:00 a.m. will produce elimination by noon and a 6:00 p.m. feeding will produce elimination before midnight. Adjust your feeding schedule to the time you can exercise the dog. Those who work part-time can simply crate train the pup while the owner is away. Those who stay at home all day can carefully observe the pup behavior as they go about their chores, monitoring to see when the pups indicates he needs to "go". People who work full-time should not expect a young pup to be in his crate for 6-8 hours at a stretch. After elimination reward the pup with a brief play-time. Tossing a ball works well.

When it comes to potty and crate training, consistency and repetition are the way to go. When potty training, always use the same exit door and take to him a particular spot in the backyard. He will come to associate this spot with potty. When he becomes more independent, he will learn to go potty in this area on his own. You may also consider using potty training pads. They have lined pads that are scented to attract puppies to potty on them. Learn to leave clean potty training pad near the door you want the puppy to use as this will help alert you when he needs to go. Don't leave young puppies alone with these training pads until they are fully trained. Training pads may seem like toys to them and the plastic liner could cause breathing or digestive blockage.

There are certain words you can use to help your puppy associate these words in potty. Pick one you are comfortable with and stick with it. You may consider saying "Go potty, good boy! Good potty!" this way you are

training him to understand what needs to be done and when. Remember to praise your puppy anytime he goes potty in the appropriate area. Dogs are pleasers they always want to please their masters. Praising your puppy will encourage him throughout the process.

Remember, very young puppy's need a lot of rest, crate training takes advantage of this need. As soon as the pup awakens take it outside. Walk him on leash until he goes, then praise him happily. Encourage him with an expression, "Do your business," "Go pee,". Both are popular commands.

Be consistent with your reward.

Here are some do's and don'ts that are useful with a new pup.

Do:

- Expect a few noisy nights when the pup first comes home.
- Adhere to a rigid walk-play-feed-walk schedule.
- Feed on a regular schedule.
- Allow quiet time in the crate.

Do Not:

- Expect the pup to spend more than four hours in the crate.
- Allow children to tease the pup at any time.
- Take the pup out of his crate if he is barking or crying.
- Place rugs, pillows, etc. in the crate. Use newspapers.
- Use the crate as punishment.

YOUR PUPPY NEEDS EXERCISE

Maintaining a daily dose of exercise is good for your puppy's physical and mental well-being. Exercise can help avert life threatening disease like arthritis and help your puppy lead a more fulfilled life. Just like humans, dogs are prone to obesity related diseases. Exercises help to keep him healthy. It is good for his mental health as this will help curb destructive tendencies like incessant chewing, digging and nonstop barking.

The amount of exercise you give to your puppy will depend on his stamina, health condition and age. Rigorous exercises should be restricted until he is mature (12-18 months). Jack Russells are bred to work so once their bodies are developed they live to work.

Generally, your puppy needs 5 minutes of exercise per month of age up to twice a day. What this simply means is that your 3 month old puppy will need a total of 15 minutes of exercise and at 4 months, he will need 20

minutes of exercise. The type of exercises you engage your puppy in should include a variety of activities like swimming, playing with doggy exercise balls, and going for short walks on a leash. If your puppy is tired, allow him to rest before starting over. If he does not resume walking, please carry him home as he may be over tired.

Your puppy will generally feel happier and sleep better at night after a comfortable amount of exercise.



TRAINING TIPS

Food as a treat to train is recommended by many trainers. But the treat should be very small. A tiny piece of a treat, such as a small piece of hot dog or chicken is sufficient: the smaller the better. A pup will work hard for a small reward.

Eye contact is an important part of training. A new pup should be trained to bring their eyes up to yours. Pups should be comfortable looking at you and others eye to eye. The tendency is for the pup to glance and look away. Your goal is to have them look you in the eye and be comfortable with it. Verbal praise and petting should be part of this learning activity.

Get the pup's attention then, take a small treat and slowly move it up to your nose. This will cause the pup to follow the treat and be looking at you. When the pup is looking you in the eye move the treat from your nose to the pup's mouth while saying "GOOD".

A COLLAR AND LEASH WILL BE YOUR BEST FRIEND

Collars and leashes allow you to have a better control of your puppy especially when going for walks. It helps in teaching skills and discipline to your puppy. There are different types of leashes available for your leash. Before you make the choice of what type of leash to use, consider which ones better serve your needs.



- If you are thinking of taking your puppy for walks in the park, the flexi-lead leashes are your best bet. It helps the puppy be able to explore away from you. The length means your puppy can have a measure of independence while still under your custody. However, using this type of leash is not a good idea if you are in an area with high foot traffic or off-leash dogs. This is because the line may wrap around your puppy's necks or around a person or another dog's leg.
- Chain leashes look really nice and are good for puppies who like to tug and bite the leash. However, metal leashes are much heavier than you think; they are heavier than nylon or leather.
- Leather leashes are the easiest to hold on the hands. Nylon leashes, can cut into the hands or even give your puppy leash burn, but hold up well after repeated exposure to the elements.
- For exercising, I believe the best combination is a flexi-lead and a harness. For training the best combination is a nylon or leather leash and a pinch (choke/training) collar. Under no circumstance should a choke collar be left on the dog when not training. Death could result.
- Once training and socialization are functional then off-leash dog parks are a nice change for your dog.

GREETING

All pups should be taught to "sit" and to "stay". When visitors arrive, your pup should be on lead and told to "sit"- "stay" near the door. As each guest enters, tell them to ignore the pup. When they have been seated the pup should be brought on lead to meet them. The pup should sit in front of each guest so the guest can pet the pup. It is important that the sit-stay be mastered before trying this with strangers. Practice this exercise several times using family members before doing this with your guests. Your practice sessions should include distractions. A distraction could be a tennis ball that is dropped or rolled on the floor a few feet from where the pup is sitting. The pup should remain in the sit-stay position while it is petted.



TRAINING CLASSES

Most people can train their puppy on their own. There is nothing wrong with this. If you are confident in your ability to train your puppy, go for it. It is a fun experience that you and your puppy will remember. The bonds

you form with your puppy while training them can last a lifetime. But what do you do if you are not sure how to train your puppy? Where can you turn?

Training classes can be done as early as 6 weeks. It is a good idea to wait until the puppy is a little older before enrolling in any classes.

I recommend taking at least one puppy class: Preferably starting two to three weeks after you get your puppy home. This will give him/her enough time to settle in to the routines of your family. Most classes can be done for puppies up to one year old.

Decide which one of these will fit in your schedule and your budget.

While it may seem tempting to have someone train your puppy, you are the second most important part of the equation when it comes to training your puppy.

When you look for classes, you can check several different places

- Your veterinarian may be able to provide recommendations about the classes you need
- The local animal shelter may offer classes or will know places that do
- The local pet store may offer classes or will have a list of trainers that offer the classes
- Friends and relatives could provide the recommendations that you need



Once you have signed up for the class, make sure you attend. It is in you and your puppy's best interest to attend all of the classes so that the training is done consistently.

You can find experts who will teach you how to be the pack leader, or you can employ instructional videos, online support, books or any combination of these.

Instructional videos can be an alternative to people who cannot find a class that they can attend. They are very effective if they are used correctly.

Consistency is the key to using videos. Try to do the training at the same time

on a regular basis. Keep the training environment similar so that the puppy will know that it is time to learn.

I like Cesar Milan's training techniques and there is a complete line of training DVD's.

<http://www.cesarsway.com/shop/Mastering-Leadership-Series-Vol6-Raising-the-Perfect-Puppy-NTSC>

The downside of videos is the inability to get feedback from the experts who made the videos.

You can use books in the same way that you use the videos. The techniques that you learn in the books can be taught to your puppy.

Online resources for training can include videos and written material. This is a combination of the videos and books that may be more comprehensive than using one method. You will also have access to support person's to help guide you as you train your puppy.

It does not matter what method of training you turn to.

Both you and your puppy will benefit from what they are teaching.

It is a great way to start your puppy off on the right track in your home.

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

The method to keeping your puppy safe is to prepare for an emergency ahead of time. Below are some tips to get help you get started in preparing for an emergency.



1. Get and apply a Rescue Alert Sticker- you paste this kind of stickers in your home, it will help people and rescuers know that pets are inside your home. A Rescue Alert Sticker may carry any of the information below:
 - a. The name and phone number and of your veterinarian
 - b. The type and numbers of pets in your home
 - c. In cases of emergency and you have already evacuated your pets and by extension your puppy, write the word “EVACUATED” across the sticker. Rescue Alert Stickers are available from the [OSPCA](#).
2. If possible arrange a safe haven; if it isn't safe for you, it probably isn't safe for your puppy. Since not all evacuation units accept pets, it is important to determine beforehand the evacuation units that are most suitable for your circumstances. Here are a list of things you can do while arranging for a safe haven for you and your puppy.
 - a. Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
 - b. Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
 - c. Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
 - d. Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they can take in your pet.
3. Get your emergency supplies and travelling kits ready-Buy or build an evacuation pack and have it handy and ready for use. Make sure everyone in your household knows where it is. Make sure the kit is clearly labeled and easy to carry. The most essential items that should be in your evacuation kit are:
 - Pet first-aid kit and guide book. If you don't know what it is or where to get one, ask your vet.
 - 3-7 days worth of canned or dry food. Please replace this food every 2 months
 - Liquid dish soap and disinfectant, disposable garbage bags for clean-ups
 - Pet feeding dishes, extra harness and leash
 - Copies of medical records and especially vaccinations in a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires. Watch expiry dates on your puppy's medical supplies
 - Bottled water - at least 7 days worth for each person and pet.
 - A travelling crate or sturdy carrier
 - Flashlight, blanket
 - Recent photos of your puppy. This may be needed if your puppy is lost and needs identifying
 - Long lead and yard stake, toys and tidy bag
4. Register your Puppy- the best option is a microchip and collar tag. All Shelters and pounds will scan for a microchip. Your Vet can insert it and get you signed up. It does not harm the puppy, but it does provide some very valuable protection. The microchip will have an ID number that is registered with the company that offers it. A scanner will identify the number which can then be checked on a registry and the owner information will be used to contact them. In order for this to work, you must keep the information about your puppy current with the registry.

And now a word on curbing potential bad behavior.

BITING

All pups use their teeth. They nipped at their littermates as a way to establish the pecking order. Their mother never permitted them to nip her and she punished them swiftly when they attempted it. Her consistent behavior taught them about corrections and bad behavior.

Nipping precedes biting and it often begins as a way to set limits. A nip that is not corrected will escalate as the pup begins to think of himself as the leader of the pack. Corrections must be done instantly.

Never pet or soothe a pup when he is aggressively threatening anyone. A full-blown case of dangerous aggression can result. Correct this behavior with a stern "NO" and make it sound like you mean it. Think lower voice (like a growl).

Do not plead for obedience. Discipline does not have to be harsh physical punishment.

Use "NO" for actions that are not appropriate. "NO" is an authoritative sound that should result in an immediate reaction. Do not use the word "NO" combined with your pup's name.

"OK" is a happy-sounding, positive word. It gives permission and your approval.

CHEWING - DIGGING

Pups that are not allowed to continue destructive chewing do not develop into problem chewers. Pups left to their own devices, especially while the owners are away, will vent their loneliness, boredom and frustration on whatever object catches their fancy. A pup who is crated during his owners' absence cannot indulge in destructive activities. Freedom to explore is important but it should be supervised in your home. Remember, your pup will have to hear the word "NO" many times before he learns that household objects are forbidden. Clap your hands loud and stamp on the floor to attract his attention followed with a loud "NO". When he releases the object offer a substitute "chewy" and lots of verbal praise when he takes it.

BEGGING

Begging usually begins with an indulgent owner offering food from his plate or the kitchen counter. This easily leads to whining, barking, climbing on the table, etc. Never offer the pup food from your plate, table or kitchen counter. This is a bad habit and leads to begging problems.

GROWLING OVER FOOD

Pups should not be allowed to growl over food, especially if there are children in the household. Sit on the floor, hold the food dish, and call the pup to you. Verbally praise him for coming. As the pup eats, talk to him and pet him. Have each member of the family take turns at different meal times. If the pup should growl or indicate any defensiveness, he must be told "NO", then grabbed by his middle, and pulled backward away from the dish. Roll the pup onto his back and scold him. When he subsides, release him, and allow him to resume eating. Repeat if he growls again. This works well with most young pups. For older pups the owner should stand near the dish with the pup on a "grab" lead. Should the older pup growl, say "NO" firmly, and pull the pup/dog back away from the dish by the lead as you correct him. In a day or two, you may hold the dish on your lap while the dog is eating. An older dog that has developed this behavior should not be treated as above but should be referred to a professional trainer/behaviorist.

JUMPING ON PEOPLE

Start immediately to teach your pup to keep all four feet on the floor. Start this immediately when the new pup comes home. With the young pup, do not encourage him to stretch up to greet you, instead, crouch down to his level, assist him in sitting, and then greet him. Most pups enjoy this annoying habit of jumping on people to greet them. Whenever the pup jumps on you, simply grasp both front paws securely, holding them up long enough for it to become uncomfortable in the standing position. Then put the pup down gently. When the pup experiences this response consistently, he will avoid jumping up to greet you.

DOG AGILITY TRAINING FOR YOUR PUPPY

You may be thinking, "When can I start agility training with my new puppy?" You can start immediately, with certain recommendations. Puppies are always learning, so every time you are with your pup you can be playing and socializing with agility in mind.

Always remember, if you can control your puppy's environment, you can teach and train the behaviors you want, left on their own, even in a fenced yard, puppies will learn and develop behaviors that later we may want or need to extinguish. Expose your puppy to different surfaces.

One of the first behaviors we teach our pups is "Box" or "Table". This behavior transfers to the agility pause table. Lure pup up on a low table and treat them on the table. You can call the pause table anything you want.

Teach your pup to "Box", meaning to get up on a variety of obstacles. In our training field we use "Box" for upside down kennel tops, the bottom of barrels turned upside down, bird crates, and more. Be creative with your pup; get them to get up on all kinds of surfaces, exposing them to different shapes, sizes, and textures.

Once your pup is comfortable getting up on a "Box", and then you can begin to ask them to sit on the box.

You can also begin to use Buja boards for motion training. Buja boards are generally made from plywood, 36" x 36" with a painted surface or covered surface. On the underside, there is a 2x4 box where a partially deflated ball is placed. This enables the Buja board to rock gently. At first you can reward your pup for getting one paw on the board, then reward for two feet and eventually all four. Depending on your pup's temperament will determine how fast they get comfortable on the Buja Board.

Perch training can also be started with young pups. The Perch is generally a 1'x1' wood surface that is raised by 2"x4"s underneath. So the Perch is about four inches in height. The Perch helps teach pups rear end awareness. Again, you can reward your pup for getting one front paw on the perch and then the other. Perch training is mostly used with just the front paws on the Perch.

These are just a few behaviors you can teach your young pup. Exposure to a variety of surfaces and heights will help your pup build confidence in his future agility training.