

Puppy Training Packet

Congrats on your new puppy!

A mixture of emotions, but I know what you are dreading the thought of right now....

POTTY TRAINING!

Ah yes, a new puppy means accidents here is how to combat them!

1. **Never yell or raise your voice** at your puppy for having an accident. This can lead them to begin to hide when they potty instead of deterring them from pottying in the house, and before you know it, somewhere in your house smells, and you just cannot find it! It can also cause damage to the bonding with your new puppy.
2. Take your puppy out **hourly** the first week. (***In your own BLEACHED yard until parvo shot # 4 or out to a sanitized fenced and reserved potty area.***) Not only will that help them learn where they should go, but that will also help prevent indoor accidents.
3. How long can my puppy hold it? Puppies can only hold it for about an hour for every month old they are after each meal/hydration. So, your new puppy should not be expected to hold it for hours on end. Puppies also need a constant access to fresh water so a regular schedule for your puppy makes things easier on both of you.
4. **PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE!** Each time your puppy potties in his or her designated area, **IT'S CELEBRATION TIME!** That is right, your pup just did what you wanted him to do! Let him know you are proud! (Try not to spook him though 😊)
5. Be sure to clean any accidents in the home with an enzyme cleaner so your puppy does not get used to weeing there.
6. Potty pads.... They cause confusion. Other than making for a great shred, puppy pads do not aid in potty training, in fact, they hinder it. A puppy pad teaches your new puppy it is okay to potty in the house. So once your puppy has had their 4th shot and can go out for walks to potty, they will be reluctant to, and the potty training tends to have to start all over again, except with bigger poo and puddles.
7. Crate/kennel training/Zen zone training is highly effective with potty training. There is a such thing as owners being physically present but mentally absent. For every potty in the house, the longer it is going to take your puppy to get it. When you cannot give your puppy your undivided attention, put your puppy in the kennel/Zen zone with safe chew toys.
8. Puppies and dogs like to poop where there is **NO** poop, and pee where there **IS** pee. Clean up poop regularly and leave pee to speed up the spot picking process.

CHEWING (BITE INHIBITIONS TRAINING)

The tiny shark you have living with you will stop biting.... Or will they?

1. Puppy chewing is natural and normal - to an extent. Your puppies desire to chew should significantly decrease by the time your puppy is 8 months old (***when teething is officially done.***)
2. Decreasing pressure: **YOU WANT** your puppy to nibble on you, just not hard. Any time your puppy bites you or anyone else too hard, say a firm **NO** then **STOP PLAY IMMEDIATELY!** Put puppy in time out. Once your puppy has calmed down bring them back in to play, this may need to be repeated up to 20x before they get it. STICK WITH IT! Note: if you let your puppy out while they are jumping, crying, and barking to rejoin you, you are rewarding unwanted behavior. ***Puppies learn from their siblings and mother that biting too hard hurts, and typically by 12 weeks they have established a decent bite inhibition that does not have too much pressure behind it. Only thing is, puppies can come to your home 4 weeks earlier than that, which means you are left to finish that conditioning.***
3. Take advantage of your puppy wanting to nibble on you and do not begin to discourage this behavior until after 8 months of age to secure a proper bite inhibition training. Pull at the tongue, encourage a soft bite, discourage a hard bite, regularly evaluate/brush the teeth etc... Bite inhibitions training **NEVER** stops.
4. Why should I let my dog bite me? Dogs have a natural instinct to bite when injured or scared. If you encounter either of those situations with your dog and you get bitten, that's where bite inhibitions training comes in. Instead of getting a bone crushing full force (up to 300psi) you have taught your dog to decrease the pressure of his bites, so you get a small bite or maybe even just a graze with the teeth. Which leaves you shaken, but not stirred.
5. With puppies and young dogs, **ANYTHING** can be a chew toy. Do not leave down anything you do not want chewed. In cases where your shoes, cords, and other items are chewed, it is the fault of the owner not the puppy. Remember, if you cannot keep your eyes on them, put them in their own designated space.
6. Dogs can get entangled intestines from ingesting string, hair ties, bungee cords, rope, and even bologna string. This is a life-threatening situation that can kill a dog in as little as 4 hours. The first 24 months is the most common period for dogs to be ingesting random objects.

BARKING/HOWLING! WOOF, WOOF, AWOOOOO!!

Are you ready to talk dog? Because a lot of that is coming!

You have picked a verbal breed, whether that is something you are looking forward to or not, you will not only have howling, but lots of back talk. What you need to know about how to prevent unwanted barking and howling:

1. Before you can teach shhh you **MUST** teach your dog how to speak. Sounds nuts right? Bear with me here, I will make it make sense! Take out your treat bag, and bark/howl at your dog then say SPEAK. YES! Bark/howl at your dog! When you get a bark back on command, treat. Do this every day as a fun starter exercise and slowly eliminate treats in exchange for a caress of the head and a good boy/good girl.
2. Now, let us try the shhh. We are going to do the same bark/howl excite, but instead of treating when they bark, we treat when they stop barking after we give the shhh command.
3. You cannot train a dog to stop barking as they are barking at someone or something you must train this in a controlled environment. If you find your puppy is triggered by knocks, doorbells, people, animals, and other things, set up a controlled situation to teach them to be quiet any time they hear/see it. Odds of a burglar knocking at the door are slim, and even if they do, they will not know your dog is awaiting them around the corner. Barking with a door knock or bell can be a tiring nuisance for you and your family, teach them young!

RECALL

The scariest thing about having a dog is them slipping through the door, running off and getting ran over or lost. Building a strong relationship with your puppy is important for this very reason. Setting the foundations for trust when coming to you can mean life or death for your dog.

1. Look at me training. Teach your puppy his or her name by holding a treat to your nose and calling their name. Each time your puppy looks at the treat, treat them. Once they have that down just call them by their name without the treat at your nose. When you get eye contact, treat.
2. Always make coming to you a fun and good thing. If your dog upsets you and you make them come to you for scolding or when they run away from you and you yell at them to come back, your dog will relate that to having their name called because they are in trouble, not to what they did to upset you. If you do not catch them in the act, to punish after the fact is inhumane because they do not remember, all they know is you are upset with them. You have .5 seconds EVERY TIME to react and give negative punishment, if you cannot do that every time, which you cannot, then negative punishment will not work.
3. Work on recall training in your own yard daily until your dog comes without the slightest hesitation every single time even with distractions before ever allowing your dog off leash in public.
4. NEVER chase your puppy. Being chased is so much fun even for our own children. You always want your puppy to chase you. Before putting yourself in the position to be running breakneck speed through the neighbor's yard trying to wrangle your 10-month-old hormone driven teenage dog, you need to have a proper recall established.
5. Not even dogs want their fun ruined, you must do reward training when your dog comes to you, even when playing with other dogs. Every few minutes while your dog is playing with their friend, call your dog to you, have them heel, and make eye contact, then reward them by releasing them with a "go play." This teaches your dog that just because play is paused does not mean it will stop. This will give you an advantage when leaving dog parks and trails.

Aggression

You just tried to take something your dog wants, and they tried to take your finger along with them. Now what?

1. Resource guarding is the most common issue we deal with in canines. They do not want to share their toys, food, their home, and even you! Here are the following ways to combat each type of resource guard:

1.a Food aggression: Puppies are born with a natural instinct to get as much food as possible they push their smaller weaker siblings away and hold their own. As they get older the same thing happens with kibble/foods. If you have a dog that is exhibiting food aggression, the best way to combat this is by hand feeding. No meals go in bowls ever everything comes directly from you. This eliminates competition for an item they view as being “theirs” the bowl can trigger anxiety and tension. Whereas hand feeding you always have control of the situation.

1.b Toy/item possession: Same concept applies here, however, toys need to be removed from tense situations and instead be used as a means to train both dogs to work together. Keeping toys up off the ground keep fighting amongst other pack members down. Toys are not always just things we have bought them, toys can also be items they find out in their environment. If at any point you get growled at for taking an item from your dog, you should do as follows: Use the “drop it” command while holding up a treat. Typically, food resource means more to a dog than a toy resource. By telling your dog to drop something and following the drop command with a positive reinforcement tool such as a treat you are teaching your dog that by surrendering something, he likes it will be worth his while. He may temporarily lose his favorite toy, but at least he has instant gratification, which goes a long way with canines.

1.c Fence and yard aggression: Many dogs from a young age learn by watching adult dogs protect the yard with a bark and jumping at the fence. This also goes all the way back to the wolf, a stranger in your lands can mean death. A puppy may begin to bark and growl at people and other animals walking by. The best way to nip that in the bud is by desensitizing them to this early on. Have a neighbor walk by and use the command leave it or shhh when they come by. When your pup looks interested but does not go up to the fence or bark, treat and praise. Do not forget to have other dogs walk by as well and do the same.

1.d Owner possession: You/your children are the biggest resource to guard. If at any point you notice your dog obsessively guarding in this manor, call in a trainer **IMMEDIATLEY**. This is not something you want to go on more than once.

Aggression Continued

The only time this is acceptable is when you or your children are under a direct threat. Many owners think it is cute for their dog to do this, fact of the matter is, this can land your dog in quarantine with you to foot the bill, and depending on how severe the situation is, your dog could be euthanized. Unless your dog is being trained for protection work, this is **NEVER** something you want to see.

1.e Under no circumstances, should you be attacked by your dog. Playful bites and tussles are acceptable normal canine behavior, but at no point should your dog show you their teeth, snap at you, or actively try to bite you unprovoked. If you notice any of these behaviors contact a trainer right away.

Introductions

Puppies should be introduced to other well mannered, friendly, and behaved dogs regularly. Good interactions with dogs of all ages are necessary for social development.

Puppies should regularly interact with children under adult supervision regularly so they are used to being around children as adults and it does not bring them anxiety which can trigger a bite.

Inebriated people need to be introduced to your dogs and this is something they need to be used to. Occasionally you may host a party, you do not want your dog to attack someone because of how inebriated they are and ruin your party or bite the drunk homeless person on the corner.

Loud noises should be regularly made in and outside of the home.

Small animals need to be introduced carefully and under supervision.

Elderly people and people with disabilities should be regularly introduced to your pups from a young age.

All these interactions need to be positive. If your dog has a negative interaction in one of these situations be sure to make it normal and desensitized as soon as possible.

Do this your dog's entire life to achieve a well-rounded desensitized wolfdog.