



THE 7 MISTAKES NEW PUPPY OWNERS MAKE

The 1st Week - FREE Puppy Success Guide

Bringing home a puppy is exciting.
Most owners immediately focus on:

- **Sit** ▪ **Down** ▪ **Stay** ▪ **Leash walking**

But during the first week home, your puppy needs something even more important:

Safety. Trust. Confidence. Routine.

Avoiding these seven common mistakes can make puppy raising dramatically easier.

MISTAKE #1

Doing Too Much, Too Soon

Your puppy has just left:

- **Their mother** ▪ **Their littermates** ▪ **Familiar smells** ▪ **Familiar sounds**
 - **Everything they have ever known**

Many owners immediately start introducing:

- New people
- New places
- New dogs
- New sounds

Confidence grows through successful experiences, not overwhelming ones.

Good Dawg Tip: Slow is fast.

MISTAKE #2

Experience Stacking



Imagine this:

- Wearing unfamiliar clothes
- Riding on an airplane
- Meeting strangers
- Hearing unfamiliar noises

All at the same time.

That's what many puppies experience when owners combine:

- ✗ New harness
- ✗ New leash
- ✗ Car ride
- ✗ New location
- ✗ New people



Good Dawg Tip: Introduce one new thing at a time and pair with treats.

MISTAKE #3

Not letting puppies sleep

Many puppy behavior problems are actually exhaustion.

Young puppies often need:

18-20 HOURS OF SLEEP PER DAY

Overtired puppies are more likely to:

- Bite
- Bark
- Zoom
- Struggle to learn
- Have accidents

Sleep is not a reward.

Sleep is a biological need.

MISTAKE #4

Confusing Tolerance With Confidence



**“My puppy lets me do it,
so they must be comfortable with it.”**

Allowing something and enjoying something are very different.

A puppy may allow you to:

- Pick them up
 - Put them into a car
 - Hold them still
 - Put on a harness
 - Trim nails
 - Wipe paws
 - Examine ears
- without actually feeling comfortable.***

Young puppies often tolerate handling because they do not yet know they have another option.

The goal is not compliance. The goal is confidence.

We want puppies to learn: **“Human hands predict good things!”**

Good Dawg Tip: Introduce one step at a time and pair with treats.

MISTAKE #5

Ignoring Body Language

Your puppy is constantly communicating.

Watch for the anxiety behaviors:

- Lip licking
- Looking away
- Yawning
- Freezing
- Stiffness
- Tail tucked

These early signs tell us when a puppy needs more support.

Listen early.

Problems are easier to prevent than fix.

Good Dawg Tip: Be patient and go slow.

MISTAKE #6

Focusing On Obedience Before Confidence & Trust



Trust is the foundation of every future behavior.

Ask yourself:

“Does this interaction make my puppy feel safer or less safe?”

A puppy who feels safe:

- * Learns faster
- * Explores more
- * Recovers from challenges more easily



MISTAKE #7

Measuring The Wrong Things

Success this first week is **NOT:**

- X** Perfect sits
- X** Perfect stays
- X** Perfect leash walking

Success **IS:**

- *Relaxing at home
- *Exploring confidently
- *Enjoying handling
- *Learning routines
- *Building trust



BEYOND WEEK 1

Choosing Training Based on Price Instead of Philosophy



Many owners search for the cheapest puppy class they can find.

A good trainer understands that confidence, trust, and emotional wellbeing come before obedience

Ask yourself:

Does this trainer focus on building trust and confidence, or simply teaching behaviors?

Not every puppy learns best in a group setting. Some puppies benefit from a more individualized approach.

The best trainers adapt to the puppy in front of them.

The goal isn't a puppy that knows all the answers.

The goal is a puppy that feels safe enough to keep learning.

Trust, confidence, and connection create the foundation for everything that follows.



Let's Stay In Touch

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