

Special Tips for Your Puppy

The following information should be considered a supplement to the training you have recently received from your Dog Trainer. One of the most important things that you should remember when starting to work with your new puppy is that even though they are experiencing everything for the first time, they still have canine instincts and are expecting strong, canine leadership to provide them safety. You need to replace the care and safety provided by their Mommy.

Playing with your new Puppy:

This is especially important! If your puppy is going to turn into a big or strong dog, do not play rough with your puppy. You will teach him that it is OK to play rough and playing rough will not be breaking your rules. When he gets big and strong, he will still think that it is ok to play rough and you will be placing him in dangerous situations. This could turn out very poorly for you, your family, your friends, and your dog. Please do not do this!

Correcting Your Puppy's Mistakes:

Remember your techniques for correcting are based on getting his attention. This is either through the use of your body language & voice control or redirection. It is never necessary to hit your puppy with a newspaper. This type of punishment only tends to make your puppy fearful and traumatized and can lead to major aggression problems. Remember, your hands are for petting only.

Body Language:

Puppies use visual posturing, or body language, as their initial form of communication. You must do the same. The most important thing to remember is to always stay calm and stand tall whenever you need to correct your puppy's bad behavior.

Using the Correction Sound:

The correction sound should be used for everything your puppy does wrong, followed quickly by praise once he stops the bad behavior. Losing your temper will only make him want to avoid you. If your puppy ignores you, use the correction sound. When he reacts and provides your focus, praise him.

Training Tools:

The "training tool" simulates your puppy's snap or nip. It enhances your correction sound. You should use the training tool to assist in gaining your puppy's attention and focus when correcting.

It is designed to cause a distraction from his bad behavior and allow you to praise him for stopping. The training tool should always be used in conjunction with the correction sound. Our goal is to eventually not require the training tool when correcting.

Praise:

When it comes to educating your puppy, praise is as important as any correction. It should immediately follow any correction once the puppy ceases his bad behavior. Your praise highlights the appropriate behavior and provides a positive sense of acceptance.

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Puppy Examination:

Practice examining your puppy on a regular basis – it is an important part of your puppy's education. Look in your puppy's ears and eyes, etc. Always have him on a leash when you are examining him. Get your puppy accustomed to being touched. Rub his feet and ears on a regular basis as well as pet his head and back. This will solve possible fearful issues later in life when visiting the Vet, Groomer, or Day Care.

Exercise:

All puppies build up a great deal of adrenaline and it is important that we establish the appropriate way of draining that energy. Remember he has been home all day waiting for your return. He needs an outlet. Take him outside and throw the ball. Let him run around with a toy in his mouth. If there are several family members, have him run between them.

All you are doing is providing exercise and letting him let off some steam. After he has run for a bit, let him calm down for a few minutes before he comes back inside.

Regular Training:

Be sure to train your puppy for a total of fifteen to thirty minutes during the day. Try to be consistent and train every day. Be sure not to tire him and give him lots of praise when he does well. Do not bully your puppy. You must be sure he fully understands what you want. Always be patient.

Correct only when you catch your puppy being naughty, not after the fact. Never punish him by withholding praise or locking or tying him up. These things are wasted on a puppy, as he cannot relate in that way.

How Your Puppy Thinks:

In order for your puppy to understand something, he must experience it. Puppies learn by experience and association. Once they experience something, they assume their experience will remain the same going forward. Their world is based on consistency.

Early Socialization:

Early socialization is very important for your puppy's development. This is because what is learned during your puppy's first twelve months, good or bad, will strongly impact his lifelong behavior.

Do not make a big deal if he appears afraid of something. Let him approach the new situation with your guidance. Sometimes treats can be used as positive distractions to allow him to overcome specific fears. Have a child, mailman, or vet tech drop some treats for him. Make new situations safe and fun.

You need to include planned socialization into your puppy's training. By socialization, we mean introduction. Do not just consider your present life but try to consider what your life will be like over the next 10-15 years.

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For More Information : See Appendix / Socialization List

Some General Things to Remember:

- Never leave a leash on a puppy or dog when he is unattended.
- Any time you spend with your puppy should be spent first educating. These are important “personality molding” times. Play should always be implemented after training.
- Spend some time getting your puppy accustomed to different sounds and sights (vacuum, cars, schools, etc). Check with your vet regarding immunization before venturing out – puppies can be carried if necessary.
- A puppy that is kept in a special area of the house is easier to control as far as protecting your property is concerned.
- It is important to consider how long your puppy will be left alone. All day is a long time for a puppy to entertain himself. He will fill his day chewing and ripping things up. Spend as much time as you can with your puppy; when you have to leave him, make sure he has plenty of toys to occupy himself.

Dealing with Naughty Behavior: Always be mindful of any behavior your puppy might be displaying that could cause problems later. Things such as chasing the vacuum cleaner, biting the broom, or barking at birds looks cute now but could develop into serious behavioral problems later on. Prevention now is far easier than working on the cure later.

For More Information : See Appendix / Bad Puppy Behavior

APPENDIX

- **Socialization List**
- **Bad Puppy Behavior**



Socialization List

Here are some of the items you need to familiarize your puppy with in order to have a great puppy:

People with...

- Canes
- Crutches
- Wheelchairs
- Baby Stroller
- Shopping cart
- Luggage

People doing...

- Jogging
- Working
- Limping
- Driving
- Swimming

Home Environment

- Phone ringing
- Doorbell
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Dish Washer
- Hair Dryer
- Repair people
- Pool Man

Environments

- Vet Clinic
- Car
- Kennel
- Groomer
- Pet Store
- Crowds
- School

Socialization List

Vehicles

- Motorcycles
- Trucks
- Cars
- Bicycles

Sounds

- Thunder
- Fireworks
- Loud Noise
- Siren



Bad Puppy Behavior

Don't be fooled by thinking your puppy's inappropriate is "cute". Here are some things to look for and to correct when they are young.

Chewing:

Prevention is the best cure. Do not leave socks, shoes, or toys where your puppy can get to them. Give your puppy plenty of healthy, chewy/munchy food, such as carrots, broccoli, mushrooms, and celery sticks. Give him chewy toys like KONGS for puppies. Be patient and do not correct your puppy unless you catch him in the act of chewing your possessions. Ask Bruce or Robin about the proper use of "icky things" like Bitter Apple.

Playful Biting:

Freeze your hand movement and make your correction sound. When he stops using his teeth and starts to lick your hand, give him plenty of praise. Never play hand games with your puppy. If necessary, spray Bitter Apple on your hands before you handle your puppy to deter him from biting.

Barking:

Early puppy barking is a bad sign. Do not encourage any form of puppy barking by saying, "What's that?" Don't allow your puppy to bark at you, as this shows a lack of respect.

Digging:

Digging can be triggered by stress, boredom, or digging down to water pipes they can hear. Supply a digging pit, like a wading pool filled with washed sand and hide food/goodies for your puppy to find. Puppies prefer to dig where they know they'll find something good. If you don't want your puppy to dig, never leave him outside alone. If destructive digging persists, ask Bruce or Robin and we will figure out something to fit your specific situation.

Separation Anxiety:

Your puppy must be able to be left alone. Make sure that no toxic substances are left where your puppy can reach them. Put your puppy in another room or in his crate for varying periods of time during the day and night and give him items that will interest him. Don't always have him with you. You must start young to teach separation. If he scratches or cries, don't respond. The puppy will associate his crying with a positive response from you and you will have great difficulty in curing this.

Car Sickness:

Don't allow your puppy to be too hungry at the start of the journey because low blood sugar can create nausea. Puppies are usually more settled if they have had a small amount of food an hour or so before departure. NEVER allow your puppy to be in a moving car unrestrained. If your puppy is frightened, provide him with toys or other familiar items to redirect his focus.

Bad Puppy Behavior

Food & Item Stealing:

Do not leave food where he can get it when you are not there to correct. For persistent food stealers, set up food traps and be ready to correct your puppy. Give your correction sound if you catch your puppy stealing. Don't chase him. Crouch down and encourage him to come to you. When he does, praise him. Don't reprimand.

Guarding:

Teach your puppy that he does not need to guard his food or toys. Do not feed him in an isolated area. Walk by and touch his food, reach into bowl, pick up and put down. Do the same with toys. Never play "keep away" with food or toys as this will make him feel the need to guard.

Jumping up:

Do not encourage him to jump or push him down. If he persists jumping, correct him. Only give him attention or praise when he is on all fours.

