

Let's Talk Basics

Know the Breed: We cannot stress enough how important it is to educate yourself on the characteristics of the breed you are adopting. A great environment is ESSENTIAL. Raising a dog with appropriate interaction, socialization and training is very important. However, people frequently forget the role genetics play in forming a dog's personality and characteristics. Knowing the traits of your puppy will prepare you to control behavior and to



appropriately meet the needs of the dog. Not everything can be "trained out of" your dog. DNA plays a part in who your dog is. Like all dogs, always supervise your puppy when he/she is playing with other dogs or other people. Recognize that a dog may react to different

situations in various ways and be sensitive to those needs. Being a good owner is not a matter of changing the dog's inbred characteristics, but EDUCATING yourself, ACCEPTING them, and MANAGING them responsibly.

Spay/Neuter and Vaccinate: Spay & neuter procedures control population, helps with behavior, prevents health concerns, and helps control the tendency to run away. Even with good owners, accidental litters happen. Microchips reunite and vaccinations keep your pet healthy. **HEALTHY DOGS CONTRIBUTE TO A SAFER COMMUNITY**

Puppy Proof Your Home: To create a safe space make sure the following items are out of reach: electrical items/cords, chemicals, toxins, plants, rugs, breakables, valuables and trash. Be sure to sweep or vacuum frequently and supervise toy time!



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YOU'RE THE BEST PERSON TO KEEP YOUR PUPPY BOUNCING WITH HEALTH AND VITALITY. NOT ONLY ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DAY-TO-DAY HEALTH AND CARE, BUT YOU'RE ALSO THE PERSON WHO KNOWS THEM BEST OF ALL. THIS MAKES YOU THE IDEAL 'EYES AND EARS' OF YOUR VET BETWEEN VISITS!

Enjoy your puppy! Take lots of pictures to look back on later. They don't stay small for long, and there's nothing better than puppy kisses to brighten any day!



A Quick-Start Guide to Caring for Your New Puppy



PREPARE FIRST!

Bringing home a new puppy is an exciting, but sometimes overwhelming experience. Whether this is your first puppy, or it's been a while since you've had a pup, we'd like to help by answering the most common questions and offer tips to ensure you are giving your new pet the best care you possibly can.

Potty Training:

Make potty training a positive experience for your pup! Puppies are still developing the muscles they need to hold their urine for the first 12 weeks, so you'll need to take them out frequently and praise them when they go outside. Take your puppy out 20 minutes after eating or drinking and always take them out after nap time. Add in a verbal cue like "go potty" that your puppy can catch on to.



Keeping your puppy in sight while potty training fosters success. If you find that your puppy has had an accident inside, do not punish them after the fact. The puppy will only understand

why you are upset if you actually catch them in the act. Use a sharp verbal "NO" and then take them outdoors quickly to finish. Once they do, PRAISE your puppy!

Teething: Your puppy will lose its baby teeth and get adult teeth in its first 8 months. Chewing and biting is normal behavior. Provide your pup with plenty of age-appropriate chew toys to help alleviate the need to chew on things they shouldn't. If a puppy is biting you, it's found that the best way to teach that biting you is inappropriate, is to use a high-pitched "ouch" sound to mimic the noises puppies use with each other when playtime gets too rough. Then immediately give your puppy a toy to play with and praise them for playing with the toy.

Kennel/Crate: In most cases, kennel training is only going to benefit you and your pup. Kennel training is easiest if you begin early. Teach your puppy to not fear the kennel by feeding them meals in their kennel or offering high value treats whenever they enter their kennel. Kenneling your pup when you are

TRAIN YOUR PUPPY

not home protects them and protects your belongings. A kennel can become a safe place for your pup, and they will go to it when they need a break or even a nap. Teaching your puppy to 'kennel up' can also come in handy if you need boarding or have an emergency in which you would need them secure and safe. You can utilize the kennel at night as well if you don't want to encourage them to sleep in your bed. **REMEMBER:** consistency is key. They will be upset with your routine at first but stay the course! They will learn it and become comfortable with it in no time.

Leash: It is important to teach your pup from a young age how to walk on a leash, and to be comfortable with a collar. Take them on walks, car rides, potty breaks, and to the vet/groomers on a leash and collar. It's a high priority to always have them leashed when out of the house (for their safety and the safety of others) and getting them used to the feeling and tugging of it while young will only benefit you in the long run. Dogs who are not trained to wear a leash and collar often panic when one is placed on them, and this can cause them unnecessary stress or injury.

Basic Obedience: Puppy classes are strongly encouraged for training and socialization. Reputable classes require that your pup is up to date on vaccines. These classes are great for both you and your puppy because they teach you how to communicate with your puppy and teach your puppy how to listen to you.

Socialization:

Socialization is also a key component of training your dog. It's crucial in maintaining a dog with a sound

temperament. Expose your dog to a variety of experiences when they're young. Be careful in what you expose them to before they are fully vaccinated.

Desensitization: Introducing your puppy early on to a variety of sounds, smells, locations, and touch will help instill confidence in your dog and the ability to interact with new people, veterinarians, and groomers with more ease. It should be noted that this process needs to be gradual so that your puppy continues to trust you and you build confidence and not fear. Everything should be at their pace of trust and should be softly executed. From the day you get your puppy, randomly touch their ears, tail, paws, tummy and look at their teeth. When they allow you to do so, praise them and reassure them that it's okay. This teaches them that they are safe and will be calmer in places like a vet clinic. This also makes it increasingly simpler to look them over if they have a potential injury. Take your puppy on walks (once fully vaccinated) around other dogs. This teaches them to be okay with dogs in their same space and be accepting of all different sizes and breeds of dog. Slowly get them accustomed to noises and movements such as vacuums, hair dryers, music, clapping, chairs moving, hoses, water etc. It is also not a bad idea to have your puppy spend time with your opposite gender, and taller people (which tend to be scary for dogs).

REMEMBER: A dog is a lifetime commitment!
A good owner will not easily give up or attempt to rehome a dog with life changes, moves etc. DO NOT take on the responsibility of ownership if you are not serious!