

MY PUPPY GUIDE

This book was designed to get you through the first 30 days with your puppy. By teaching your puppy proper behavior and taking time to enjoy him, you can ensure he will become a lifelong friend! Good luck and have fun!



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MY PUPPY GUIDE

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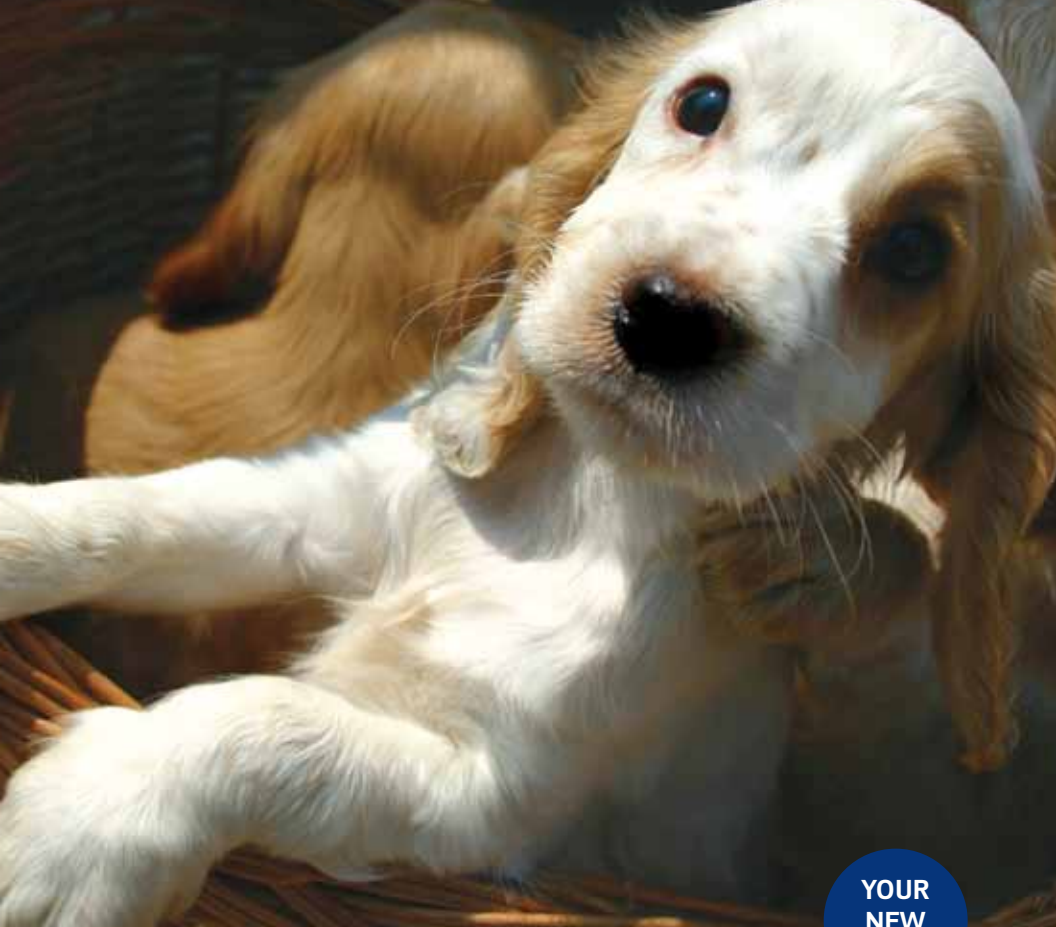
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**YOUR
NEW
PUPPY**

Congratulations!

Adding a new puppy to your home opens up an entire world of new experiences for you and for the new canine addition! All involved experience excitement and apprehension on some level at times. The first 30 days after the introduction of the puppy to your home are the most crucial for a healthy and successful relationship. This puppy book can help you get started on the right path.

Up until approximately twenty-four months of age, a puppy's personality correlates to one human year for every month old. This means that when you bring home an eight-week-old puppy, you have just brought a 2 year old into your house! They will get into things and try everything. Therefore, the first month of the new pup's arrival should be dedicated to housetraining and teaching your puppy boundaries. He needs to know where to sleep, eat, and eliminate as soon as possible. It is sure to be a learning experience for all involved. Just remember to take a deep breath, speak softly, and stay consistent with your routine. Once training is accomplished, the rest is all fun and an adventure for both of you!

Select a breed or breed mix that fits your lifestyle

So you're ready to bring a new family member into your household. An important aspect to consider when adding a dog to your family is selecting a breed or breed mix that fits your lifestyle. Purebred puppies have many predictable physical and personality traits which make it possible to anticipate the personality type of your adult dog. Breeders can provide insight into traits of specific breeds including: adult size, personality, characteristics, and energy levels. However, determining the personality, size, energy levels, and physical characteristics may be more difficult in mixed breeds. Regardless of which type of puppy that you choose, both mixed-breeds and pure-breeds can make a wonderful and loving addition to any family with the proper preparation and training.

Do I need a Kennel or Crate or both?

The puppy's adult size will help you determine what you need.



A kennel or crate is initially necessary to confine your puppy and keep him safe. When selecting a crate, keep the pup's adult size in mind – you do not want to have to buy several different sizes to accommodate the dog as it grows.

- Pick a kennel large enough to accommodate the dog at six months of age (when your puppy will be approximately two-thirds of his adult size). Many people will move the puppy to a pet bed or get a larger kennel when the puppy is fully-grown. Unlike humans who believe bigger is better, puppies think in smaller terms and feel more safe and secure in a smaller, cozy den area.

- An acceptable size should provide the puppy with enough room so that they can comfortably stand, turn around, and lie down. If possible, borrow one from family or friends until you can move your puppy into an adult size kennel.

- Another option you can consider if you only plan to purchase one kennel in the dog's life is to get one large enough for the breed's adult size and place a large box in the crate to take up excess space. This will ensure that your pup's kennel is large enough to accommodate growth, but also small enough to properly crate train him as a puppy. As the puppy grows, a smaller box can be added or the box can be removed completely to allow for more space.

Chew toys are a necessity when your puppy begins cutting teeth. Puppies will begin teething at approximately 5-6 weeks of age until they are well over six months old. Providing your puppy with appropriate chew toys is important not only for preventing potential injury, but also to avoid damage to valuable personal belongings! When your puppy starts to chew on something that he shouldn't, tell him "no," remove the undesired chew item (or block the puppy's access to the item), and give him a Nylabone or chew bone instead. Be cautious with small rawhide toys because they can get stuck in the puppy's throat. A great way to prevent choking or having an item become lodged in the throat is to get a chew toy that is larger than recommended for your puppy's size. This way, the puppy can chew it down as he grows into it.

CHEW TOYS



Puppies love to chew because of teething. The right chew toy can offer relief to your pet, but also a time of fun entertainment.

Food and Water Bowls

Food and water bowls need to be the appropriate size for the pup and can be placed on a mat or small rug to make cleaning easy, as well as to prevent the pup from sliding the bowls around when trying to get food or water out. Keep the food bowls in the same place so everyone in the family, including the puppy, knows where the food and water is located. By keeping the bowls in a central location, the puppy will be able to easily find them and the family can be cautious to prevent tipping the bowls over.

When it comes to outerwear, the best choice is an adjustable collar to accommodate your puppy's fast growth! A nylon choker, called a show collar, is excellent in public and avoids your puppy being able to slip out of the collar when excited or scared. A fixed-length leash is also critical to ensuring your pup's safety. Save the extendable leashes for later to avoid unintentionally training your puppy to pull. When you're training your rowdy and easily distracted puppy, it's important for you to have control in critical situations, which means you should always be able to easily grab hold of their collar.



Keep the food bowls in the same place so everyone in the family, including the puppy, knows where the food and water is located.

THE
FIRST
NIGHT

It's awfully quiet...



...break the silence,
giving comfort he's not alone



Give soothing comfort to your new baby with a soft radio and a nightlight.

Everything in the world is a potential toy for a puppy; therefore, the first day home is sure to be quite an adventure. Gates work well to confine your pup to one or two rooms. The kennel should be located out of the way but should be readily accessible for the puppy to nap or rest. Like babies, puppies will wake up periodically throughout the night, so the sound of a nearby radio on low or a ticking clock may offer the pup some much needed comfort. After all, puppies are used to being with their noisy brothers and sisters, and without something to break the silence, their new surroundings may seem awfully quiet. The pup may wake up and cry, listening to see if there is a response so they know they're not alone. In many instances, a softly playing radio will serve as a sufficient noise response. For additional comfort, a nightlight can be placed near the pup's kennel.

Because dogs are pack animals, the addition of a new dog to the “pack” is rarely an issue. However, it is not uncommon for an older dog’s routine to become interrupted by a rambunctious new puppy’s demands. With a little care and planning, the elder dog can become an important part of the puppy’s training by acting as the big brother/sister. There are some things that a dog can communicate to another dog better than we can. Peer pressure, or social learning, from other dogs in the house can be very helpful when training, as it can teach the puppy limits on biting, jumping, and the general routine of the home.

OTHER DOGS



Introductions to the pack

Take your time with introductions, making everyone comfortable and at ease.

Introducing a new puppy to the rest of the “pack” can be done in a number of ways. However, it is always best to use caution. Not every dog is immediately happy about a new bundle of fur in the house that they have occupied as an “only child” for most of their lives. To ensure the safety of both the new pup as well as any other dogs in the house, it is best that first introductions be made with the puppy in the kennel. Once the puppy is secured in the kennel, other dogs can be brought in and allowed to investigate. This investigation/introduction will usually take around fifteen minutes, but it could take up to an hour before both puppy and dog(s) are comfortable with one another. Once the dogs seem at ease with each other, you can allow them to interact under your supervision.

In some instances, the older dog may try to exert their status over their new housemate. They could even go so far as to correct the puppy with a snarl or nip when the pup violates their space or comfort. In most instances, this is normal, natural, and okay. In fact, it is important for a puppy to learn boundaries and manners when interacting with other dogs, and who best to teach them? Putting a paw on the puppy or stealing the puppy’s toy is normal “I’m the boss here” behavior. Giving the puppy another toy and letting the older dog be the boss will usually keep everyone happy. Correcting the older dog for taking the toy will only increase the tension between the older dog and the puppy. It could also cause the older dog to increase dominance behavior in his attempts to correct and interact with the puppy. It is important to mention that although the older dog may attempt to show the pup who’s boss, he should never be allowed to injure or harm the puppy in any way. Normal adult and puppy interactions include a variety of behaviors such as playful growling, tussling, and mutually ignoring one another. Adult dogs will also put a paw on the puppy to chill them out – all good behavior and should not be corrected.

FAMILY

Interactions between new puppies and older dogs can be fun to watch as the puppy learns how to become a member of their new family.

Just like babies, puppies need quiet time and naps

Puppies sleep at least 14 hours a day until approximately 12 weeks of age. Just like babies, they need quiet time and naps throughout the day. Once they are comfortable with the kennel, most puppies will naturally retreat to their kennel whenever they need a nap. This is helpful because you won't trip or step on the puppy while he is sleeping.

SLEEPING



The puppy should be kenneled anytime that you are not in the house. If a puppy is left in the house and wakes up alone, he will play, chew, and eliminate to occupy his time. Control your puppy's schedule for successful house training. Without kenneling your puppy, you're setting them up to fail. Supervision and control of resources, will guarantee that the puppy will make correct decisions as to what is an acceptable chew toy, play item, and bathroom location. Without proper supervision, he may find that a table leg or shoe is a good option to chew instead. It is easier to keep the puppy safe in a kennel and control his time and access to resources, than correct a bad habit that we allowed to develop.

KENNEL

Once they are comfortable with the kennel, most puppies will naturally retreat to their kennel whenever they need a nap.



1 Never use the crate as a form of punishment.



2 When the puppy is out of the crate, leave the door open to allow him to go in and out freely.



4 Do not let anyone mess with the puppy while he or she is in his crate. After all, this is the pup's retreat from the world.

Help your puppy love his kennel

5 TIPS

Not all puppies immediately love their kennels. Nor do they view them as a safe haven from the rest of the world. You can help your puppy to accept its kennel as their cozy, comfortable, and safe “bedroom” by following these tips.



3 Toss treats and toys in the crate randomly so the puppy associates crates with good things.



5 Avoid training your puppy to whine, bark, and howl when he wants out of the kennel. Never let the puppy out when they are being excessively vocal. Instead, wait until the puppy is quiet and THEN let the puppy out.



The experience of having your new puppy in their home during first weeks is similar to running a daycare. The puppy eats, uses the restroom, plays, uses the restroom, naps, and then starts all over again. In fact, puppies will use the restroom 15-20 minutes after eating and drinking, immediately after they wake up from any bout of sleep, and often during bouts of play, stress, or excitement. Take puppies out hourly when awake and lengthen that time as you learn their routine and them yours.

To start, your puppy should be taken out frequently and should not be brought back inside until the puppy has gone to the restroom. The puppy needs to be brought out as soon as he or she wakes up from a nap, when you return from work, when you wake up in the morning, fifteen-twenty minutes after any meal and drinking water, and every hour that the puppy is out of the crate and awake. Take the puppy to the same place when taking him out to do his business. Also, don't forget to praise their correct behavior by saying "good puppy" and giving him a small treat is also good. You should always use the same phrase, such as "Let's go out!", or "Outside!" when taking the puppy out so that he learns to go to the door. The goal is to have your puppy completely houstrained in 4 weeks, and accomplishing that goal will require a lot of consistency and patience from everyone in the house. No two puppies are alike, but here are some helpful hints to ease the task.

Houstraining is quickest and most successful when combined with crate training with a kennel, and can be nearly impossible without one. To expedite the houstraining, the puppy should be kenneled anytime it cannot be directly supervised. This includes when you're at work, during the night, or preoccupied and cannot watch for signs of needing to go to the restroom.

Helpful hints for housebreaking



Let's Go Out!

Pay attention to your puppy's routine the first few weeks - watch him, and whenever he starts to sniff around, spin in a circle, or squat, be sure to create a distraction, such as a loud "let's go out", then pick him up and rush them outside.

Routine

Take the puppy out after being kenneled for any period of time, when he is finished playing, when he wakes up from a nap and fifteen to twenty minutes after he eats. Do not bring the puppy back inside the house until it has used the restroom outside. This can become a waiting game early in house training.

Other dogs

If you have another dog that is housetrained, let the puppy out with the older dog and the puppy will soon fall into your older dog's routine. However, if the older dog is not housetrained make the same demands of the old dog! You do not want the puppy to pick up the older dog's bad bathroom habits and they both need to be housetrained!

Accidents happen

When the puppy has an "accident" and begins to wet on the floor, startle them with a loud "No" and "Let's go out!", then pick the puppy up and take him outside. If the distraction is startling enough, the puppy will stop urinating or defecating and will be able to finish his business outside.

Praise and reward

Positive reinforcement for the desired behavior when doing any training is big! Using rewards and positive reinforcement works much better than training with punishment and negative reinforcement.

Teach puppies to “sit” at just 6 weeks of age

Teaching a puppy to “sit,” on command works wonders for stopping the puppy from doing many annoying and potentially dangerous behaviors such as jumping up on guests, bolting through gates, doors, and making for a generally unpleasant experience. The “sit” command can also be easily taught to puppies as young as 6 weeks of age (although the sit may only last for a brief period of time at that age).



TEACHING “SIT”



To teach the “sit” command, simply hold a tiny treat over the puppy’s head and S-L-O-W-L-Y pull the treat back toward the back of the pup’s head, where the head and neck meet.

Say the word “sit” as you are moving your hand back with the treat in it. The pup’s nose will go up as it follows the treat, and their bottom will automatically go down.

Give the puppy a treat for following your hand, even if he or she doesn’t master the “sit” immediately.

Repeat this process until the puppy is consistently putting his bottom on the ground. After a few repetitions of the puppy following your hand and putting its bottom on the ground, try luring the puppy without having the treat in your hand. When doing this, only give the treat once the puppy sits his bottom on the ground.

Continue practicing over and over until the puppy can sit by only using the command and with no hand movements at all.




REWARD

You should continue giving the puppy the treat each time he sits on command and then practice the "sit" in all different rooms of the house, and anywhere else you bring the puppy.

Once the puppy has mastered the sit in all rooms, yards, and several different locations, you can begin asking the puppy to sit before doing anything rewarding with him.





Ding Dong...

...who's here?

CHARGING THE DOOR

The outside world is a wonderland of sights, scents, sounds, strangers to meet, friends to greet. Dogs like to be the first one out the door and will learn to charge and push their way out. A dog's enthusiasm and excitement, paired with their adult size will knock people down if you do not train them away from the behavior.

Open the door and say "ok" when they can go out. If they start to charge the door, bump their nose with the door and say "wait". They will learn to look up and wait to be asked no matter the reason the door is open.

This training should be used for fence gates as well. Start early with this training - it is easier to train the puppy to wait than to stop them from bolting through the door once it becomes a game.

They soon learn that even when a door or gate is open they do not go through unless told.

Welcome friends

Because most guests tend to dote on puppies, puppies begin to view visitors as a source of fun. After the first week, your puppy may become over excited when you have company come to your house. To avoid allowing your puppy's emotions to take over and tackle your guests, ask the puppy to go to the kennel before the guests knock at the door or ring the bell. Allow the pup to remain in the kennel until the company is settled comfortably in the home. If the puppy is being well-behaved, you can turn the excited puppy loose and allow him to greet everyone (with their permission, of course). Ask your guests to have the pup sit prior to petting to avoid jumping up on them. If the pup does jump, let your visitor know to either ignore the pup or issue a stern "No." As soon as the pup sits, they can resume petting and playing.

HOUSE GUESTS

To avoid allowing your puppy's emotions to take over and tackle your guests, ask the puppy to go to the kennel before the guests knock at the door or ring the bell.



Gentle touches help prepare puppy for grooming

HANDLING

Puppies will need to be introduced to handling, grooming, and nail trimming while still a baby. Visiting the veterinarian, being handled by children, and having their nails trimmed are all necessary and routine experiences that dogs should tolerate.



GROOMING

Pet the puppy anywhere and everywhere that a child, groomer, or veterinarian may touch them. Gently tug the pup's ears, tail, and feet. Put your fingers in the ears and gently open their mouth. Since puppies are especially sensitive on their muzzle and feet, be sure to gently rub your puppy's muzzle and play with his nails and between the toes while restraining the leg. Encourage family and friends, to handle the puppy in the same way, and give plenty of attention to the pup for his patience and tolerance. This type of handling and brushing needs to happen from day one to ensure that your puppy will tolerate handling as an adult. At 4-6 months of age, puppies will start shedding their puppy coat and growing their adult coat and regular grooming will help keep the shedding to a minimum.

Nail trimming is necessary throughout your pup's life. Playing with the puppy's legs and toes have gotten him comfortable with leg restraint. Most owners start this feet training while the puppy is quiet and relaxed or napping. Dogs identify a leg restraint as submissive – therefore the goal is to get them over that so they are not pulling when you clip their nails. Be sure to give him plenty of treats and praise to help make the experience more enjoyable.



Avoid the “quick”

To trim the nails, hold the pup's paw nail in one hand and the clippers in the other. Using the same quiet demeanor you used in foot training snip just the sharp tip off the nail, talk quietly as they allow you to nail trim. By trimming just the tip of the nail, you will avoid “quicking” the pup or clipping down into the sensitive nerves and blood vessels. On pups with dark pigmented nails such as chocolate or black nails, seeing the quick becomes difficult. To start, only trim the sharp tips to avoid nicking the quick with the clippers. The puppy will forgive you for cutting too short but it is easy to avoid. Have styptic powder on hand to stop bleeding. If you happen to get into the vessel - just dip the nail in it and it will quickly seal.



Routine nail trimming will help the quick recede and keep the nail permanently shorter.

For some smaller breeds, an emery board or fingernail trimmer is all you need for the first few trimmings. Dogs do well with an electronic rotating nail file, which is especially helpful for thick nails. Puppy nails are sharp, so dulling these sharp points will help save your arms from scratches. Once you gain confidence in learning where your pup's quick is located, you can begin trimming the nails as needed. The quick will recede each time you trim the nails, causing less chance of accidentally nipping the quick. Likewise, if a dog's nails go untrimmed for too long, the quick will continue to grow longer, making it easier to quick the nail. It is best to prevent problems associated with long nails by clipping the nail tips each week until a routine is established.



Helpful nail trimming equipment to have:

- *Electronic nail file*
- *Trimmer*
- *Clipper*
- *Emery board*
- *Styptic powder to stop bleeding incase the quick is cut*



Playful bites that hurt

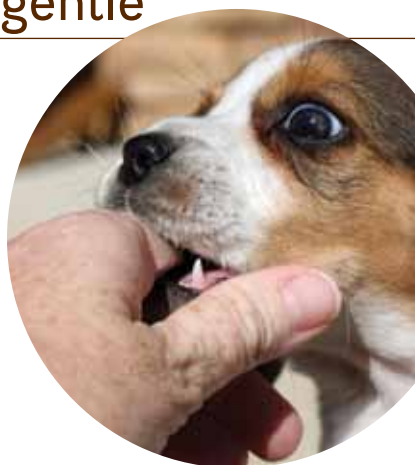
BITING

Some breeds, like retrievers, have naturally soft mouths and will rarely bite down hard unless they get overexcited with playing. For most other breeds a soft mouth is something they will have to learn. You can encourage a soft mouth by letting your puppy know each time he bites hard enough to hurt you.

When pups are playing with their littermates and bites his littermate too hard, the littermate will yelp and the play session will end. Because puppies already know that if they bite too hard, it causes their companions to leave, it is easy to train a puppy not to bite using the same lessons. Puppies love companionship and love to play; they quickly learn to control how hard they bite if they want their playmates to continue the interaction.

Train your puppy to bite gently

To train your puppy to use their mouth gently, just play with him as you normally would. When the puppy bites with too much pressure, say “OUCH!” in a raised voice, and stop the play for a few seconds. You are going to say “OUCH” anyway so say it loud enough to startle the puppy. The puppy will understand that he was being too rough. Follow the “OUCH” with “Gentle,” and resume the play. Continue the training each time you play with the pup and the pup will quickly learn to play with a gentle mouth. You will know they have the message when they accidentally bite a little hard and quickly follow by pulling back before you can yell. Puppies pick this up quickly, and when they are getting a little too aggressive playing with friends, you can use the “Gentle” command to bring it down a notch.



“OUCH” followed with “Gentle” will teach puppy to play with a gentle mouth.



Humans are not toys

Encourage rough puppies to play with a toy rather than your hands, arms, or clothing.

Some puppies will always want to play rough, despite bite inhibition training. Encourage rough puppies to play with a toy rather than your hands, arms, or clothing. Tug-of-war toys are good tools for teaching puppies not to use you or your clothing as toys. Your puppy will soon bring toys to you for play and you'll know they have the message that “humans are not toys.” You will then be able to pull, tug, and hide it for a fun playtime without experiencing a playful biting.

All dogs have teeth and will use them in the right circumstances, whether out of fear, or pain. A dog that has been trained to inhibit its bite will bite using a much softer mouth. A dog that was prevented from biting altogether and never trained to have a soft mouth is going to use full-force hard bite when scared. Do the training for a soft-mouthed inhibited bite.



An affectionate greeting

JUMPING UP ON PEOPLE

Dogs are social creatures and, if allowed, they will enjoy meeting, greeting, and being with other dogs and people. Dogs greet each other by sniffing tails, undersides, and faces. They also show affection and respect by pawing and licking the muzzle of other dogs. They naturally want to do the same with us. Since we humans are taller, dogs feel they need to jump up to greet us or try to get our attention. However affectionate the gesture, it is not welcomed by everyone. To prevent your puppy from jumping up on you or your guests, do not give the puppy attention while he is jumping up when you greet him. If the puppy knows the “sit” command, ask him to sit before and during petting. If the puppy does not know the “sit” command, wait for the pup’s front feet to land on the floor and then you can immediately give him attention. If you make it a rule that the puppy’s front feet need to be on the floor before you or anyone else gives him attention, you will soon replace your pup’s desire to jump with the desire to sit or stand patiently for attention.

Train the “hush” command

To train the “hush” command, simply reward a puppy when he stops barking by saying, “Hush!” “Good dog!” and then discouraging your puppy from barking when he does it again by a sharp, “Hush!” or by making a hissing noise “ShShSh”. Once you get the quiet response you want, reward the puppy by saying “Good dog”! Avoid rewarding noise by giving the pup attention, affection, or freedom when it is barking. Dogs will naturally bark when strangers approach, that is good, but they need to learn to back off when you say “hush.”

If a pup insists on barking and will not hush, a time-out may be needed. Quietly pick up the puppy and place them inside or in the kennel. Attention-hungry puppies will view any attention, even negative attention, as a reward. Fussing at the barking puppy only rewards the barking behavior. Put the puppy in time-out to get the message – keep barking and go to time out! A quiet puppy is much easier for your family to interact with and more fun to have around.

A word of caution about teaching a dog to speak on cue: do not train a young puppy to bark and get a treat, or you may unintentionally teach the puppy to bark the whole time you are eating dinner.

BARKING



Some breeds, like terriers and sight hounds are notoriously vocal. Barking is perfectly natural, and puppies will bark at people or other animals to gain attention or just because they are happy. Prevent your puppy from developing the bad habit of indiscriminate barking by discouraging undesirable barking and training a “hush” command.



Encourage them to walk with you

The first 30 days leash training is started with putting a fixed leash on and encouraging them to walk with you.

- You can start with short lessons always walking only and going where the puppy wants to go then encouraging them to follow you.
- You want to teach them to go quietly with you and stay close. This behavior is easy to teach if you have another dog to walk with as puppies tend to follow the older dogs lead. After time we just fade out the older dog and the puppy follows you.
- No running on leash, walking only or stop and reset them. Do not put a puppy on an extended leash where you have no control or a harness where they learn to be a sled dog and pull! Nylon choker leashes often called show leashes are the best to use for training on leash.



Train to “come” when commanded

This command is one of the easiest to train. Start early keeping training simple; reward your puppy for approaching you, whether you called him or not. They soon come whenever you give the command “Come”!

To train your puppies to recall have a friend hold your puppy and from ten feet away get the puppy’s attention. When the puppy is wiggling and trying to get to you, give the command to “come” and allow the puppy run to you. Reward the puppy for its enthusiasm and excitement for coming to you. Then repeat the exercise and increase the distance each time the puppy successfully comes to you when called.

**COME
WHEN
CALLED**

Simple training by repeat and reward. Reward with treats, but also with your love! They will soon come when commanded.



HAVE
FUN!

Start training early and remember puppies are new to the world and are going to make mistakes. Positive reinforcement goes much further than punishment.

Tips for training your puppy

- 1** No need to yell – a puppy hears at 100 feet what humans hear at 10 feet. If you train puppies by yelling, you train them to only listen when you yell. Talk normally and expect a response. Yell only when they are in danger.
- 2** Avoid commands that sound the same – Giving the “No” and “Go” command is confusing. Using “Move It” to get the puppy to move out of the way is better. The same goes for “Sit Down”, “Lay Down” command. Keep it simple and clear “Sit” and “Down”.
- 3** Never set the puppy up to fail. It could mean placing the puppy in the kennel or placing your puppy on a leash when guests arrive to your home. The puppy wants to please you, so help them out a bit and they will succeed!
- 4** Never let your puppy get away with anything that you would not let your children get away with. We wouldn't tolerate a child yelling continually, nor should we let a puppy bark continually. Likewise, jumping on people or furniture and biting are not acceptable behaviors for puppies or children.

