

When you bring a new puppy into your home there will be a period of adjustment. Your goals are to help your puppy to bond with it's new family as quick as possible., to minimize stress associated with leaving it's environment and to start training and socializing immediately.

How do I prevent my puppy from doing damage or getting into mischief?

The rule of thumb for dog training is “set the dog up for success.” Supervise the puppy at all times until he has learned what he is allowed to chew, and where he is to eliminate. This may take up to 7 or 8 months for some individuals. Keeping the puppy on a 10-foot lightweight leash is an excellent way to keep puppy in sight and to train puppy not to wander off. This is particularly helpful with a highly investigative puppy or for a very busy household. At any time that the puppy cannot be supervised, such as throughout the night or when you need to go out, place the puppy in the crate.

What is the best way to punish my puppy for misbehavior?

Every effort should be made to avoid punishment for new puppies. It is generally unnecessary and can lead to avoidance of family members, at a time when bonding and attachment is critical. By preventing problems through confinement or supervision, providing for all of the puppy's needs and setting up the environment for success, little or no punishment should ever be required. If a reprimand is needed, a verbal “NO” is usually sufficient to distract a puppy so that you can then redirect the puppy to the correct behavior.



How can I prevent problems?

* Supervise the puppy at all times when he is not in his crate to ensure that the puppy does not get himself into mischief, or cause damage to himself or the home.

* Leaving a remote leash attached is all that is usually needed to prevent or interrupt inappropriate behavior such as garbage raiding, chewing on household items, house-soiling or wandering off into rooms or areas that are out of bounds. If the leash is attached to a harness you can quickly correct other problems that might arise. When the puppy cannot be supervised, the crate will be necessary.

* Next, get the puppy into a positive oriented training class as soon as possible, certainly by 12 weeks of age and later than 16 weeks.

* By training your puppy early, you will help prevent unwanted behavior problems from developing and you will learn how to develop clearer communication with you new family member. Call early and reserve a spot in classes now even though your puppy may now be only 8 weeks old. The better classes fill quickly so call ahead!!!!



What must I do to provide for my puppy's needs?

Playing, chewing, exploring, feeding, socialization, training, exercising, and elimination are basic requirements of all puppies. By providing appropriate outlets for each of these needs, few problems are likely to emerge. Puppies should be given chew toys that interest them and occupy their time, such as stuffed kong toys, anklebones, empty plastic milk jugs, empty boxes etc.

When supervised, the owner can allow the puppy to investigate and explore its new environment and can direct the puppy to the appropriate chew toys (and away from inappropriate areas).

* Play, exercise, grooming, training, and handling must all be part of the daily routine.

* New tasks, new routines, new people and new forms of handling can be associated with rewards, such as tasty food treats, to ensure success. And, of course the puppy will need to be provided with an acceptable area for eliminations, and will need guidance until it learns to use this area.

