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Introduction

Every experience a newly adopted puppy has, is new to him and adds to his education. It is up to you, the new owner, to assure that he learns desirable behaviors in response to his experiences and surroundings.

This may be a new experience for you as well as for your puppy, but you are doing the right thing in learning all you can to help your puppy. Try to stay calm and speak quietly to your puppy.

Remember to be consistent in your training and teaching – that means that what you did and the result you expected yesterday should be the same as today and tomorrow. Be patient.

It is much easier to PREVENT PROBLEMS than to solve problems; it is easier to TEACH GOOD HABITS rather than correcting bad habits.

- Spend time with your puppy and get to know him and his habits and idiosyncrasies.
- Start immediately with correct and thorough housetraining.
- Teach your dog to stay in a crate.
- Socialize your puppy with other animals and with all types of people.
- Play with and exercise your puppy every day.
- Make sure your puppy has access to appropriate toys and chews.
- Praise your puppy when he does what you want.

On the other hand, there are some definite “no-nos” to raising a puppy. These include:

- Never raise your voice to your dog. Yelling, shouting, and screaming will only make your puppy fear you and cause problems like submissive urination.
- Never strike your dog. Hitting or kicking a dog will make him fearful and will not help him to know what he did wrong or how to please you.
- Never tie your dog outside by himself for more than an hour at a time. Anything that you do that separates your dog from you is seen as punishment by the dog.
- Never crate your dog for more than four hours at a time. A puppy should not be crated more than a couple of hours at a time until he is old enough to hold his bladder and bowels longer.
- Do not allow problems to develop because you are too lazy or unsure of yourself to work with your puppy in a firm and consistent manner. Problem solving is a lot more work than problem prevention.

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Housetraining Issues

First, you need to understand that puppies younger than 8 weeks (12 weeks in some breeds) are incapable of controlling their bladders and bowels. The physical development of their sphincters and smooth muscle is not complete. Once they are fully developed, housetraining will work better.



In the meantime, make sure you keep Puppy confined to his room - an area that is easy to clean like a kitchen, mudroom, or bathroom – no hardwood floors or carpets.

Using a gate or a wire pen will help. You may want to put newspapers on the floor and change them as they become soiled. Give Puppy some toys and chews to keep him

occupied.

- ✓ Remember that every time there is a change or break in routine, he needs to be taken to his potty place. Therefore, decide where the potty place will be – it can be a specific corner of your yard. Also, decide on a potty cue word like ‘business’ or ‘potty.’
- ✓ Use a nylon slip collar and 6-foot nylon or leather leash every time you take Puppy to his potty place. When you get to his potty place, say his name and the cue word (“Tippy, business”) and stand in one place. Do not walk all around or let Puppy pull you any place.
- ✓ He may sniff any place he wants within the 6-foot radius of you. After a few minutes, repeat his name and cue word. If he does not potty, say ‘house’ or ‘in the house’ and take him back into the house and confine him to his room.

Repeat in 20-30 minutes.

- ✓ When Puppy potties, praise him and scratch him under the chin and behind the ears if he likes that or give him a small treat (remember: if he doesn't potty, he doesn't get the treat).

Even if Puppy is younger than 8 weeks, you can still put him on a schedule. That schedule may demand that you get up earlier than normal in the mornings and take Puppy to his potty place. (Praise him if he does it right.) Then feed him three or four times a day.

Water should be available to Puppy starting at breakfast and all day long until 2-3 hours before bed when you take it away for the night to avoid nighttime accidents.

About 15 minutes after eating and drinking, take him to his potty place. (Praise, praise, praise when he potties.)

If Puppy is really young, you will need to take him to his potty place every two hours – or more often if he potties more frequently. Play with Puppy 3-5 times a day for no more than 15 minutes at a time.

Provide Puppy with the opportunity to use his potty place during play time and after play time. Many dogs need to potty while exercising.

If you want to let Puppy out of his room to be with you, take him to his potty place before releasing him from his room. Whenever he is out of his room and not outdoors, you will have to be vigilant in watching Puppy.

Some people put the puppy on his leash and attach the other end to themselves or take it with them throughout the house or rooms where the puppy is allowed. Keep your eye on Puppy!

If you catch him in the act of an accident, immediately say “no” and pick him up and take him to his room or to his potty place (the potty place is preferable, but if your yard is not fenced, you may not want to take a chance on taking him without his leash being on him). When you get to his potty place or room, say his name and potty cue word.

Don’t forget to praise him if he finishes pottying in the right place! If you do not catch him in the act but he has an accident, you have to consider it an accident and you must take the blame for it since you were not watching well enough.

A puppy should not be crated for more than two hours at a time until he is 3-4 months old. At that time, he can be crated for longer periods of time by gradually lengthening the time.

If you work, you will need to find a way for him to get exercise and the opportunity to potty during the day. That may mean you will need to go home for lunch or have a neighbor or friend help by taking Puppy outside once or twice during the day for a few weeks.

As you spend time with your puppy, you will get to know him and understand if he needs to potty 5 minutes before eating, 5 minutes after eating, or 30 minutes after eating. Remember that what goes in must come out, so if he gets a big drink, guess what – he will have to pee a big puddle or two puddles!

Puppy Taken From Mother Too Early

Does your puppy display any of these behaviors?

- Cries, whines, or barks whenever she is alone.
- Chews or sucks on your fingers.
- Wants to be tucked under your chin.
- Nuzzles your neck and hair every time she is picked up.
- Even at a young age, she seems scared of or aggressive toward other dogs.



If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these behaviors, there is a good chance that your puppy was removed from her mother before she was eight weeks old, or at least at an age that she considered “too young”. You are now her surrogate mother.

There are cases (like the mother becoming ill) where it is necessary to raise the puppy away from the mother, starting at an early age. Whether you were over-anxious to get

your puppy, the person who sold you the puppy was over-anxious to be done with puppy messes, or there was some other reason for removing the puppy from her mother before she was 8 weeks old, you now have some challenges connected with her socialization.

Her early socialization should have been with her mother and littermates, establishing bonds and establishing a hierarchy. Without this socialization she will never be able to relate to other dogs. She may become aggressive or overly submissive or she may have sexually-oriented problems.

- ✓ If possible, take her back to her littermates for play periods 3-4 times a week for 2 weeks and then 2-3 times a week for 1-2 weeks and then once or twice again in the next couple of weeks. This is the very best thing you could do for her – even if you can only get her together with one or two littermates.

Even if the littermates are leaving and there is fewer each time you go, the time with one or two littermates a few times will be very beneficial.

- ✓ If you cannot get her together with her littermates, see if you can find someone who has a similarly aged and sized puppy that she can play with several times over the next month.

She needs to wrestle and roll around, nip and be nipped. She needs to chase and be chased. And you need to let her and whatever dog she is with determine who is on top and who is on the bottom when they wrestle.

If you notice that she is always on top, you will know you have a very dominant dog and you will have to work very hard to establish yourself as her pack leader (alpha) and be consistent and firm in your handling of her.

- ✓ If you have another dog at home, it is ideal if that dog would adopt the puppy for socialization. However, it depends on the breeds of the two dogs as to whether that will work.

The puppy may be too dominant or stubborn for the older dog or may get larger than the older dog very quickly, or the older dog may be too old to feel comfortable with the puppy's rough play and biting.

- ✓ Never leave the two alone; always supervise their interaction until you are sure about their relationship and hierarchy being established and that both dogs are safe with each other.

- ✓ If you cannot find a dog for your puppy to socialize with, you will need to take your puppy places where she will interact with other dogs regularly such as a dog park (a fenced area where dogs are off leash) or a puppy class at a training facility or pet supply store.

- ✓ Get her, a big stuffed toy (it does not have to be a dog, but a large stuffed dog is good) to have in her bed and sleep with – this will help her feel safer. You will leave it with her at night and for naps for 2-4 weeks and then begin to remove it for some naps, then for all naps, and then simply take it away – as if she was being weaned from her mother.

- ✓ Do not give it back if she cries and fusses. (Since you will only be using this for 3-6 weeks, it is okay to get it at a garage sale. Make sure it has no parts the puppy

can chew off and swallow – or get stuck in her throat – and clean the entire surface of it with detergent and plenty of water using a sponge and then let it dry thoroughly before putting it with her puppy.)

Whining

Why do dogs whine and cry - sometimes incessantly?

Is it only when there is some physical pain, which is causing them discomfort?

Is it to express his sorrow at being left alone?

Or is it just a ruse to catch his owner's attention?

Actually, it could be any or all of these reasons. The first one requires little elaboration as only a vet can cure that. The second reason is also often a valid one.

Dogs are pack animals and hate being alone as they start assuming that they have been separated from their pack. And that is when the whines and the howls start. As for whining to catch his owner's attention; all dog owners should take heed, as, with time, it might become a bad habit.

To eliminate this, what you can do is...

- ✓ Leave him on his own for short periods till he becomes used to it. After that, he will accept longer spells on his own.
- ✓ And while you are with him for these short spells, play round with him in the area where you leave him and make him feel good so that he starts to think that his area of activity is a fun place and not one of confinement.
- ✓ He will definitely start whining or howling when you leave him, but don't react by letting him out or coming back to comfort him. He will cotton on to the fact that he can blackmail you into staying with him by his whining habits.

But don't, of course, be unduly harsh. He may genuinely be uncomfortable in his designated area and you might perhaps require spending more time with him there.

- ✓ If, even after that, he continues with his mournful sounds, yell "No" at him loudly. Keep on leaving and returning and repeat the "no", if he howls. But, once he stops, come back and shower him with praise.

It'll serve the dual purpose of reassuring him that he is not being abandoned and that his owner will appreciate it if he stops howling.

- ✓ If he carries on with his whining and crying even when you are at home, work out a schedule by which he will spend a lot of time with you playing, training and doing exercises.

It has been seen that focused attention from its master for a little while will ensure that a dog doesn't cry and howl for the remaining part of the day.

The other thing you have to keep in mind is that you should pay attention to your doggy friend only when he stops howling and whining. Unless he stays quiet, ignore him totally.

He will, with time, realize that his only hope of gaining your attention is by not whining incessantly.

An interesting suggestion we can make to you in this regard is, if your dog is not stopping his whining tendencies, but you need a few moments of peace, here's what you can do.

Very gently, ask him to "Stop Whining". If, as is most likely, he pays you no heed, yell out "Stop Whining" and squirt his face with water. A few dose of this and he will get the idea, and you will probably get momentary peace.

But, of course, the most worrisome aspect of the howlings can be when he is in genuine physical discomfort. So, if he suddenly starts whining when he's never done so before, take heed and get him to a vet right away.

Mouthing, Nipping, and Biting

Puppies use their mouths to explore and investigate everything, including each other and you. Part of puppy play is mouthing and nipping which leads to chewing on each other. The puppies don't care if what is in their mouths is a tail, a foot, an ear, or a person's finger or arm. When the playmate protests, they release whatever is in their mouths. Such behavior is a means of communicating and of establishing hierarchy.



When you bring your puppy home, he sees you as his littermate. So now all moving parts of your body are targets for his mouthing, nipping and biting behaviors. Since you know this is "natural," you may even think it is cute . . . at first.

However, his razor sharp baby teeth and his doing this all the time will give you scratches, scrapes, puncture wounds, gashes and blood that are not very fun. And your friends will quit coming if you let him do this to them. Ignoring this behavior or ignoring the puppy is the worst thing you can do.

Put a stop to mouthing, nipping and biting immediately. When he starts to mouth or nip, quickly put your hand around his muzzle and say "NO!" He should whine or whimper in displeasure. That is the response you want.

Now open your hand for him to lick. Licking is allowed. Praise him when he licks instead of nipping or biting. If he tries to mouth, nip or bite again, repeat the correction. It may take several weeks to completely stop this activity, but he should do it less and less each day if you are consistent with the correction.

Give him some soft toys and a ball he can carry. A Kong® toy with peanut butter inside will encourage him to lick rather than bite and chew. Other rubber toys are good for chewing which he needs to be able to do when he is teething.

Until he is at least 6 months old, he should not be given anything rawhide or any greasy chews like hoofs and pig's ears. Little pieces of those can get caught in his throat and choke him.

If your puppy is mouth-oriented and nips or bites or mouths you, make sure you do not play any type of tug-of-war games with him. Puppies who are mouth-oriented do well with toys like Nylabones® and Kong® which are meant for their mouths and their teething exercises. You can put peanut butter or a treat in the Kong® toy and let your puppy spend quite a bit of time licking it out.

Some of the herding breeds do their herding of large animals by nipping at their heels. Therefore, be very aware that nipping at your heels may be a normal instinct for your puppy and discourage it each time he does it. Try putting him on a leash and keeping him at your left side so you do not have to discipline him as often.

Chewing

All puppies chew. It is part of their teething process. It normally begins about three months of age when the permanent teeth begin to push up through the gums underneath the puppy teeth. It usually lasts about 6-8 months until the puppy has lost all of his puppy (milk) teeth and his adult teeth are completely in and set solidly in his jaw. He chews during this teething process because his gums are sore and because it helps the teeth to come through the gums.

Many puppies and dogs chew when they are bored. Leaving him alone for long periods will be an encouragement to chew on furniture legs or pieces of clothing. Try not to leave your dog alone for more than a couple of hours at a time for a few weeks.



You may need to have someone take him for a walk (or two) while you are at work. Make sure he is getting plenty of exercise because a tired dog is a good dog.

Start your puppy with appropriate toys, especially those that he can chew.

An appropriately sized Nylabone® is an important early toy. You may have to start with a small one and buy larger ones as he grows. His present Nylabone® should always be about 1 ½ times as long as his mouth is wide (at the widest point). They even come in various “meat” flavors which may appeal to your dog.

Other rubber-type toys, with and without squeakers, are readily available at pet stores – animal shapes, sandwich shapes, etc.

If toys have squeakers, be aware that a puppy can chew the squeaker out of the toy and choke on the squeaker, so watch your puppy closely and take the squeaker away immediately if it is even close to being chewed out of the toy. If you leave him in his room or crate, make sure he has several safe toys that he does not have access to except at those times.

Do not give your puppy a chance to do destructive chewing.

This is a hard one because puppies chew everything – furniture legs, pillows, door jams, shoes, pieces of clothing, books, electric cords, etc. Before you bring Puppy home, puppy-proof your home just like you would childproof it for a toddler.

Any room where the puppy will be allowed must have covers on electrical outlets. All items must be off the floor – shoes, clothing, books, newspapers and magazines, toys, etc. Put valuable objects up high where Puppy cannot get them (even by jumping). Move valuables and foods to the backs of counters. You may need to use Duct tape-to-tape electrical cords to floors and walls.

Create a room for your puppy.

This is an area that is easy to clean like a kitchen, mudroom, or bathroom – no hardwood floors or carpets. Using a gate or a wire pen will help. You may want to put newspapers on the floor and change them as they become soiled. Give Puppy some toys and chews to keep him occupied. This is where puppy will stay when he needs to be confined for longer periods of time.

Crate train your puppy.

This is where Puppy will stay for short periods of time.

Keep your puppy right with you where you can watch him carefully whenever he is not in his room or in his crate.

You will want to confine Puppy to his room or his crate at night if he gets up in the night and finds things to chew. When he is out of his room and his crate, put his training collar on him and attach his 6-foot leash to him and to you so that he is right next to you at all times and you know what he is doing.

Look down and talk to him. Tell him where you are going and what you are doing: “Let’s go take this magazine into the bedroom, Tippy. Now we need to hang up this sweater in the closet. I’m going to sit at the computer for a few minutes and you need to lie quietly by me.” He will soon learn to stay with you but out of your way.

Teach your dog the command ‘*leave it.*’

The concept of this exercise is to teach your dog to not touch things you tell him to leave alone – whether it is food on the ground or offered by a stranger or it is your antique chair leg.

You can start with placing treats in three places around your home and yard. When your dog goes to get one of the treats, pull at his leash and say, “Leave it”.

As time goes on, he will find another treat, when he approaches that treat, pull his leash again.

Repeating this exercise for a period of days will teach him to stay away from food not in his bowl. Give his leash a jerk when he reaches to take food out of someone's hand or when you catch him chewing something he should not chew.

Always take him to his food bowl after performing this exercise. You want your dog to understand it is still okay to eat; it just must be in the appropriate place.

If puppy is chewing furniture, go to your pet supply store and get a product called Grannick's Bitter Apple. Put one to two drops on whatever he is chewing (with him watching) and a drop on his tongue. Say "no chewing" and let him think about it. He may foam at the mouth from the bitter taste, but he is okay. He will be able to smell the Bitter Apple on the object and will probably leave it alone.

Hyperactivity

Puppies have a lot of energy. When they are really young, that energy is expended quickly and then it is naptime. As they get older, the energy can be overwhelming to their owners.



Some breeds seem to have endless energy and stamina. That is the reason breeders of those breeds screen prospective owners carefully to make sure the people getting the dogs will be able to channel the excessive energy.

Start out easy with your puppy and play games with him for 15-20 minutes at a time. It is best to do these games outside, within the safety of a fenced yard.

Throw toys and have him bring them back. Throw balls and have him bring them back. Hide toys and have him find them. Teach him to bring you the newspaper, your shoes, or other items by name. Teach him to put his toys away, each one by name.

Some dogs like Border Collies love to play Frisbee®. Start with the Frisbee®'s lips up so he can hold it easier. By six months, he will want to play for 30-45 minutes at a time.

Take your puppy for walks. Walks are great for socialization (with other dogs and various other animals and with other people) and for obedience training. Start by walking a short distance (15-20 minutes total) and gradually lengthen the distance and time.

In hot weather, walk in the early morning and late evening when it is cooler and less humid. In cold weather, walk between 10 AM and 6 PM when it is warmest and be aware that some breeds need a sweater or coat.

Two or three walks a day are ideal for young dogs. They will anticipate them with great excitement, especially if they are near the same times each day. You can walk all over your neighborhood or apartment complex and you can go to various parks and dog parks.

By six months most puppies will be able to do 3 walks of 45-60 minutes if you take water for them to have at intervals. Most pet stores sell folding dishes you can put in your

pocket. Then, if you take a bottle of water, you can drink from it and you can give Puppy some in his dish.

Don't forget to allow your puppy time to go potty before the walk, about 15 minutes into the walk, and again at the end of the walk. Some times during the walk, let him sniff and explore. Sometimes walk briskly so he has to hurry to keep up with you. The rest of the time, walk at a pace that is comfortable for both of you.

Make sure he has plenty of toys to play with. Some dogs love to shake soft, stuffed toys. Others love things they can chew. Others will want you to throw their toys and fetch them for you in the house as well as outside. Some love tug-of-war games.

Some breeds are well suited to going with you when you jog, rollerblade or bicycle. However, they will not be able to keep up with you or go very far until they are older. Do not do these activities with them until they are at least 9 months old and start out with short distances at a slow pace. Watch your dog for signs of exhaustion like excessive panting or lagging.

After an exercise period, sit on the floor or on some steps and talk quietly and calmly to your puppy. Stroke him and tell him how much you love him. Praise him for all he is learning. Then take him to get a drink and then to his room or his bed and encourage him to lie down and rest a while.

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you train your puppy to exercise for a while and then rest and praise him for doing so. He will then learn that he cannot just go, go, go all the time.

Once you start taking your puppy to training or socialization classes that will serve as lots of excitement and exercise for him. You will then have to practice at least once a day for 20 minutes, which will also serve as part of his exercise.

Once your puppy is reliable with obedience commands and socialization, you may want to train him for agility or flyball or rally.

Agility and flyball will channel his energy in fun ways for both of you. You can start training for both in your backyard, but need to find a training facility where one or both is being taught to understand the finer points and learn some of the more complicated parts. If your dog is a 'field dog' breed, you may want to start training him for 'field trials' or to go hunting with you.

There are many breeds, especially hounds and terriers and hunting dogs like some retrievers, pointers, beagles, coonhounds, etc., that you will never wear out and once they are no longer puppies, you will not be able to keep up with!

However, many will become happy with several good long walks or play periods if you then invent games that are jobs for them to do to please you.

Crate Refusal

Be aware that crate training may take a day or it may take several weeks depending upon your dog. (In a few rare cases, dogs simply never crate train and will injure themselves trying to escape.) Be calm, positive, and patient. Be consistent with your dog.

Put the crate in a room where you and your family spend time such as a family room. The floors of crates are either slick – plastic or metal – or wire. Therefore, covering most of the floor with a cheap rug with a rubberized or non-slip backing (or a pad or dog bed) will help your dog's footing and comfort in the crate.

Make sure it does not have much of a nap or any loops that can catch the dog's toenail. Such a rug can be easily washed in the washing machine and hung to dry (do not use a dryer to fully dry it as the rubber backing will come apart).

If your dog has a blanket he likes, you may want to put it into the crate. You will also want to put a favorite toy in the crate. A chew toy he likes is a good way to occupy your dog in the crate.

Before asking your dog to enter the crate, ALWAYS take him to his potty place, use the cue word you've chosen to mean 'go potty' and give him ample time to potty.

Use the word "kennel" or "crate" to mean 'go into the crate.' Always say it in an upbeat, happy voice such as "Tippy, crate."

To get your dog into the crate, start by opening the door and securing it to stay open, or taking it off the crate. Then try putting your dog's favorite toy in the crate as you say the word you've chosen to mean 'go into the crate.' If he goes into the crate to get his toy, praise him happily – even if he comes right out with the toy.

If he refuses to go into the crate, encourage him with happy words like "go get it" or "get your toy." As he goes into the crate to get the toy, say whatever you've chosen to mean 'go into the crate.'

Reach into the crate and get the toy for him if he still refuses and play with him with the toy for a few minutes. Then put it just inside the door to the crate and tell him to get it.

If, after 2-3 tries, he refuses to enter the crate, try some favorite treats instead of the toy. Another possibility is purchasing an appropriately sized Kong® toy and putting peanut butter in it.

Allow him to have it outside the crate a few times and, if he likes it, then put it in the crate so he will go in and sit there to work on getting the peanut butter out of it. If he won't enter the crate with the treats or the Kong®, leave the treats or the Kong® there and leave the door open.

Go about your daily routine and let your dog stay with you so he does not think the crate means you are leaving him. You do not want the crate to cause him separation anxiety.

Often if the treats are in the crate and the door is open, he will get curious and go get a treat (or the Kong®) when he thinks you are not looking. If you see him do it, praise him. After he has gotten treats out of it a couple of times, place treats farther in the crate so that he has to go at least halfway in the crate to get them.

Whether or not your dog enters the crate, you will want to work with his entering it 3-4 times a day for 10-15 minutes. If he goes in, praise him. For the first 3-4 days, do not close the door; allow him to go in and out at will.

If, after two weeks of this, your dog still will not enter the crate, there are a couple of things you can try.

- ✓ Move the crate to another room such as your bedroom or a room you go into but do not allow him into as yet. INVITE him into the crate as a way of inviting him into the room.
- ✓ Try feeding your dog his meals near the crate for several days to dispel the idea of it being scary. Then put the meal inside the crate for several days. Once he eats his meal near the front of the crate, start moving it farther back until it is finally at the back of the crate.
- ✓ Find a friend who has a crate trained dog or a doggie daycare center. Ask if you can bring your dog to watch another dog that is crate trained. Because dogs are pack animals, your dog may enter a crate after seeing another dog enter it. Or, he may enter to smell where the other dog has been. If the crate is large enough to accommodate both dogs and the two dogs get along with each other, encourage them to go into the crate together.
- ✓ Your last resort is physically picking him up and putting him in the crate. If you have to do this, make sure he has enough room to stand up and to turn around and to lie down comfortably.
- ✓ Praise him and make it sound like a game. Pet him and praise him while he is in the crate. Give him a treat. Leave the door open and let him come out when he is ready.

For puppies that do not want to be separated from you, getting to go in the car in the crate may be a good incentive.

Begging At The Table

While begging at the table may look cute the first few weeks, it will become annoying. If anyone gives the dog even one bite while sitting at the table, which is all the encouragement the dog needs to beg whenever anyone is at the table.

Rule #1: *Feed your puppy at regular times each day. He should have his meal prior to your sitting down to supper. He should only be fed from his own bowl and he can only eat from his own bowl.*

Rule #2: *Designate a place where your puppy will sit (or lie down) and stay while you eat. Name that place such as 'your room' or 'kitchen'. That name becomes a command to your dog just before you go to the table. "Tippy, kitchen."*



Since this is a puppy, you may have to also teach Tippy to lie down or to stay. Don't be afraid to repeat your instructions and command frequently until the puppy realizes you mean for the whole meal.

Rule #3: NOBODY - that means not you, not your family members, not your friends, and not Grandma – *can feed the dog from the table or from their plate!!*

You may have to give Puppy a chew toy or a Kong® toy with peanut butter in it to keep him busy while you eat. After a couple of weeks change the toy to a Nylabone® or something else so he does not expect the Kong® with peanut butter every single time you sit down to eat for the next 12 years. If you switch around what you give him, he will eventually go get a chew toy himself or just sit quietly.

Car-Sickness

Let's start by talking about taking your puppy (and later dog) with you in a vehicle. *Dogs feel safer, are safer and are less often carsick in the vehicle if they are secured in some way.*



Dogs jump out of open car windows if they see a squirrel or another dog. Dogs jump out of and are thrown out of open pick-up truck beds (and are seriously injured or killed or hit by another vehicle which seriously injures or kills them).

Dogs in open beds of trucks can also be thrown hard enough to break their back or a leg if you have to start or stop suddenly or turn sharply. Small dogs are often thrown on the floor or against the door of the car when you turn, stop or start, thus causing great fear and possibly injury to them.

There are harnesses that attach to the people seatbelt and there are doggie car seats for securing your dog. There are tethers to use in the bed of a pick-up truck. If your dog is going to ride in the open bed of a pick-up truck, he either needs to be tethered from two sides or he needs to be in a crate, which is tethered from two sides.

Small dogs and puppies need to be secured using a harness and tether. That does not mean that you hold the end of the leash while you drive! It also does not mean that the dog sits on your lap while you drive!

While your dog will think that sitting in the front seat with you is great, it is safer for him to be in the back seat. Do not let him jump from one seat to another. If he is a big dog, he may not need a tether or car seat, but he must be told what seat is 'his' and he must stay in that seat. If he is a small dog, get both a car seat and a tether for him.

Why does your puppy get sick?

There are a couple of possible reasons, most of which are the same ones that people have for getting carsick.

- ✓ He could have an empty stomach or he could have a very full stomach. Never take Puppy for a ride in either situation. If it is about time for him to eat, try to feed him half of what he would normally get, give him time to go potty and walk around, then about 15 minutes later take him in the car.

- ✓ He could be getting far more motion than you think from all the bumps and turns and starts and stops. By putting him in an appropriately sized car seat and tethering him, you will eliminate much of that motion. If he doesn't like the car seat, put a soft blanket on the seat and tuck it securely into the crack between the seat and the back of the seat, then put your dog on the blanket and

Jumping On People

It is natural for a puppy to jump up to see people. Just imagine how you would feel if you were always below knee level! What is cute for a puppy is not cute for a grown dog. No grown man knocked down by your dog will think it is cute; no woman whose legs are all scratched will be amused. Therefore, your dog should never be allowed to jump on anyone (you included).

- ✓ When the dog jumps on people, give the command "FLOOR" and quickly back away or push the puppy away (don't kick it) so that his feet land on the floor instead of on you.

- ✓ Repeat this every time he jumps at you. If you cannot do this, take him by the shoulders and push him down to a laying down position on the floor.



- ✓ Do not release his shoulders until he relaxes. If he jumps again, push or pull him down again. If it is difficult for you to pull him down by the shoulders, put a training collar and leash on him and jerk him sharply away from the person.

- ✓ If he is really excited, put one foot firmly on the leash so that he cannot get up to jump. Once he has calmed down, release him and make him SIT – STAY. When he does it, praise him.

- ✓ Do not let him jump up, go crazy, or jump on the people in response to the praise. You may need to keep the praise low-key.

- ✓ When your dog has a habit of greeting visitors at the door, controlling this type of behavior may be impossible without a training collar and leash. To teach your dog to sit and greet people, practice "SIT - STAY" at the door where visitors usually enter.

Once the dog is able to perform this with some reliability, introduce a guest at the front door. Using the sit and stay command, allow the visitor to enter and greet the dog, not the other way around.

Have the visitor stay about five minutes, then exit through another door, only to come back to the front door again.

If you practice this exercise several times a day, your dog will eventually learn to sit and greet people at the door instead of knocking them over.

So, there you have it. I can't think of ten more important areas of concern for new puppy owners and I hope we have been able to give you valuable insights into these.

It's not easy to bring up puppy. We realize this and have tried to give you practical solutions to some of the most commonly faced problems of puppy owners.

We know these are not the only issues which will trouble you but firmly believe that if you tackle the ten problems enumerated here in the way we have suggested, you will go a long way towards establishing a warm and loving relationship with your dog.

We wish you luck.

Nancy Richards