

Bring a New Puppy Home with the Right Attitude

Oh, the joy of pitter-patter little feet running around the house, playing, staying out of trouble, pottying outside, not biting or chewing everything in sight...what a delight! Whoa! Right! You've got to be kidding? Seriously, a new puppy is wonderful joy for everyone, but the puppy needs to be taught some lessons and manners so he can behave in a 'human world.' Puppies will do what puppies do; such as potty where ever, eat, sleep, chew things, jump all over everything and everyone and investigate anything that moves. So now, how do you begin with this new puppy you just brought home?

Start with the right attitude

This cute little bundle of joy will soon become that adolescent dog and it is up to us humans to teach them what is expected in this human environment. Now, the first weeks of your new puppy's life with you will be busy and demanding. There could be times when you wonder if getting that adorable puppy was such a good idea. However, if you keep your sense of humor and patience, things will go better if you ensure your not giving your puppy too much freedom too early on and start teaching now. Luckily, puppy-hood only happens once, then you enter into adolescent behaviors. Oh the joys! If you take the extra effort now with this new puppy, this effort will pay off in the future.

What you'll need

Get the supplies and equipment you'll need. Here's a short list:

- Wire or plastic dog crate
- Easily washable, hard-to-destroy bedding material, imitation sheepskin works well, tip-proof, stainless steel or ceramic food & water dishes.
- Buckle puppy collar & lead or harness.
- ID Tag with your phone number to wear on the collar
- A collection of high quality, safe chew toys: Kongs, Buster Cubes (for feeding, exercise and 'entertainment,') Planet Dog Balls, other 'interactive

toys' where you can stuff it with food or treats; bones; sturdy stuffed squeak toys, tugs, or other tuff-style toys. (Remember puppies need to chew - and furniture, shoes and other household things are not good chew items.)

- Grooming supplies: ask your local pet store, breeder or groomer for recommendations.
- Quality brand puppy food without chemical preservations, fillers, or by-products.
- A wire, wooden or plastic "baby gate" for blocking doorways.
- A Certified Pet Dog Trainer to help you teach and train your puppy.
- A reservation in the next puppy kindergarten class.

Puppy-proof your home.

Raising a puppy is a lot like raising small children -- they get into everything!

Some of what they get into can be hazardous to their health or to your possessions. You can make life safer for the puppy and your furniture by getting rid of hazards and temptations ahead of time.

To a puppy, the world is brand new and fascinating! He's seeing it all for the very first time and absolutely everything must be thoroughly investigated. Puppies do most of their investigating with their mouths -- "Look at this! What is it? Something to eat? Something to play with?" Murphy's Law says that a puppy will be most attracted to the things he should least have -- electrical cords, the fringe on your expensive oriental rug, your brand new running shoes, or favorite 'thing.'

Preventing destructive and dangerous chewing is easier than trying to correct the puppy every second. Look around your home. What objects could be put up out of the way of a curious puppy? Don't allow your puppy to roam without 'active supervision.' In other words, know exactly where and what your puppy is doing all the time by 'watching and supervising the puppy.' Are there rooms your puppy should be restricted from entering until he's better trained and more reliable? Install a baby gate or keep the doors to those rooms closed.

Now, take a walk around your yard looking for potential hazards. If your yard is fenced, check the boundaries and gates for openings that could be potential escape routes. Puppies can get through smaller places than an adult dog. If your yard's not fenced, make a resolution right now that your puppy will never be allowed to run off lead. He won't ever know enough to look both ways before crossing the street to chase a squirrel. Keep him safe by keeping him on leash. Bring him to puppy class

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and begin teaching skills you and your puppy will need while co-existing happily together.

Use a schedule

Work out a schedule for you and the puppy. Housetraining is much easier when the puppy's meals, exercise and playtimes are on a regular schedule throughout the day. Makes housetraining so much easier. A puppy or dog loves routine.

Have your Housetraining 101 Skills ready

First, have a good product to clean because there will be accidents if you don't watch the puppy consistently. A few good products are: FRESH 'N CLEAN, NATURE'S MIRACLE, ICKY-POOH, URINE OFF or some other guaranteed product. Now, I suggest Ian Dunbar's "Error Free House Training Tips" where the rules are easy to follow and understand. Here are those potty directions - remain patient, consistent and again keep your patience - this will happen if you remain consistent and don't allow the puppy to have accidents inside.

- For Morning Potty Routine you need to stay out until the dog does both, urination and defecation. Always - remember the dog may have to urination twice and defecate once or defecate twice and urination once.
- Now, for potty routines to be developed, the dog or puppy needs to be on a feeding schedule - this way you will find how much time between when the dog eats and when it needs to eliminate; both urination and defecation.
- Reward - reinforce every time your puppy eliminates where he should.
- Let the dog out every 45-60 minutes and bring a concealed treat with you.
- Have the dog on leash; Don't walk around and talk to him or engage him, just stand still with him and wait quietly while the dog explores the small area you have decided the potty will 'belong.' (Remember walking around will only make the potty exercise 'longer' -- the walk can become the reinforcer when potty training is becoming successful.)
- If the dog eliminates, reinforce with a "reinforcer/treat" at the end.

Now, if nothing happens in about 3 - 6 minutes - take the dog back inside and follow the remaining directions:

When inside, the dog is in one of three scenarios only as follows:

1. Dog is crated or in a small enclosure (not on carpeting) - baby gates in doorways, bathrooms, exercise pens.
2. Dog is out - however, **ACTIVELY** supervised (this means you have a long line or leash attached to him and to you; or you wear a big bow as a **REMINDER** you are watching him. This is the biggest part. Please understand that active supervision doesn't mean they are in the same room but you are watching TV or reading, doing dishes, laundry, etc.
3. Dog is out - when you are actively engaging the dog (playing a game, training, petting etc) - again, means you are actively supervising in a way that a leash or line isn't necessary.
4. The dog is then reinforced/rewarded with a **SMALL PIECE OF TREAT** for each successful elimination outdoors; if indoor accidents occur - you need to adjust your supervision.
5. Remember - don't punish the dog for an error - all it will do it teach the dog not to potty in front of you and they get very good at "hiding it."
6. When you get some consistency in pottyng - now stretch out the time from 60 minutes to longer periods

Everybody needs their own place

Decide where to put the dog crate, and have it set up and ready for his or her arrival. Where to keep the crate will depend on what's most convenient for you as well as the puppy's response. Puppies don't like to be isolated in one part of the house while their family is in another. You might have to experiment with different locations until you learn what works best for both you and the puppy. Nighttime sleeping should be near you so you are able to take him out to relieve him during the night, depending on the age of your new puppy.

Visit your vet

Make an appointment with your veterinarian to give the puppy a complete checkup within 72 hours of your purchase. If you don't have a vet yet, ask around, other dog owners, good nutritional stores, or your trainer can make a recommendation. Although the puppy has most likely been health-checked by the breeder, an exam is additional security against health defects, problems that weren't apparent the first time. If your vet offers microchip ID implants, this

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might be an excellent time to get one. Set up the vaccination schedule or other healthcare choices you'll need to consider with this new puppy.

Ask questions!

Contact Dog Training by PJ and speak with a Certified Pet Dog Trainer. Start puppy classes early. Don't wait too long and miss critical socialization periods. You want your relationship with your puppy to be successful. Don't be afraid to ask questions. And of course, do enjoy your new bundle of fur...think of the many years you'll be enjoying a well-mannered and trained dog - that learned early on how to live in this human environment. Remember, puppies are programmed to be dogs...and often times those dog behaviors, social skills and other dog interactions are not what us, as humans really want. So, really in a word, TRAIN!