

Dog Training by PJ

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Effective Management of your Puppy, Adolescent or Adult Dog

Puppies come with a set of pre-established behaviors; however, most of these behaviors are unacceptable to us humans. Your puppy already knows how to potty when they feel the urge. Your puppy is an expert at chewing anything they can wrap their mouths around and of course, there is the crying, whining, and barking if your puppy finds itself alone. There is also the very ghastly behavior of eating anything they think might resemble or be food, including the non-food items, and mostly all the "pooops of the world." Then, puppies greet by excitedly jumping up, and *play*-biting all living things. In our "human world" we simply don't wish for all these normal puppy behaviors to occur. So, How do we stop these unwanted behaviors?

MANAGEMENT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS FOR DEVELOPING A WELL ADJUSTED, MANNERED PUPPY, ADOLESCENT DOG AND OFTEN TIMES THE ADULT DOG:

Some rules are important for managing your new puppy as well as your adolescent dog.

- Confine any puppy to one room, such as the kitchen, bathroom, or another puppy-proofed safe room. Use a baby-gate to help confine the puppy or adolescent.
- Crates are another great way to manage your puppy or adolescent dog, if you have properly introduced a crate to them. However, a crate should never be used for long periods with the exception of *bedtime for puppies (nighttime - sleep for humans.)*
- Consider tether systems when you are at home indoors; teach the puppy or adolescent "what you want them to do" when you are "_____" instead of constantly telling the dog "no," "go lay down," stop doing whatever - with a tether system you can create the environment you desire, because the dog has no choice - give them something desirable to do while being tethered on their beds or wherever you wish them to remain quiet. If you never teach quiet -

they will not "grow into a quiet, calm dog," unless you are waiting for the geriatric dog.

- Supervise like a "mother bear cub!" Feedback when teaching the puppy housetraining and chewing has to be immediate. **NEVER** punish a puppy! Find alternative ways to *redirect or give a time out* to the puppy. Punishment when the dog has eliminated only teaches them that **YOU ARE THE UNPREDICTABLE FACTOR IN THEIR LIVES** - and sometimes you *CAN* love and act friendly, and other times you are a crazy person. If you punish the dog for having an "accident" in the inappropriate place what you are teaching essentially is **DON'T EVER POTTY IN FRONT OF THAT PERSON**. If you must punish someone - pick up that tightly wrapped newspaper and hit yourself over the head and repeat "I should have supervised my puppy more carefully and I will remember he is **ONLY A PUPPY** who has not been taught by me on what is acceptable in this **STRANGE NEW WORLD WITH HUMANS!**"
- The easiest way to keep your dog from chewing shoes, for example, is to avoid leaving shoes around your dog. Or the easiest way to keep your puppy from chewing things you don't want chewed - puppy proof your home. You would child proof your home if you had or have a child - why not puppy proof your home. Take away the frustration of finding things chewed - don't leave them accessible to the puppy or adolescent dog; yes - adolescents still chew things!
- Help him get it right - direct his chewing instincts towards appropriate chew toys (a stuffed "KONG" is ideal for this as well as a "BUSTER CUBE" - food cube.) Various soft plush and rope toys will also help redirect him to more appropriate things to chew and bite. Try a Frozen KONG delight! Feed a meal in the CUBE! Try it! ***Remember: You can always come in for a free consultations with our trainers at various local nutritional pet food stores (visit www.dogtrainingbypj.com - come talk to us - for details)***
- While housetraining - take him out often and at least every hour during the day. Reward and praise him immediately when he potties outdoors or the appropriate place. Remember they don't have the ability to control their bladder or bowels until they are more developed, generally between the ages of 5-8 months depending on the dog. It is like telling parents of children that **ALL CHILDREN** should be potty-trained by the age of 3...some take longer and some learn faster. It is very individual. **REMEMBER you are trying to shape desirable behaviors that will last a lifetime.**
- Don't reward whining or barking when the puppy is left alone by returning to the dog even to say, "no barking, whining, etc." Instead, ignore the whining or barking and when the puppy is quiet then return to the room and praise him. If

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you run to the room even to *punish* it teaches him that whining works and that you will come back if they get loud! Get him comfortable in being left alone by leaving and returning to their confinement area HUNDREDS of times for very short periods.

- Burn off your puppy's energy, both mentally and physically. Tired puppies are less apt to do unwanted things. **Continue to teach the puppy into adulthood**, just because you do a puppy class does not mean your puppy is trained. **Puppies become adolescents long before they become mature adult dogs; your adolescent dog needs several years of consistent training to be well-mannered adult dogs. Join another class - one class does not mean your puppy is trained or socialized - it is continual, consistent training that will make for a well-mannered, adult dog.**
- Exercise the puppy or adolescent dog before you have to leave home; again a tired dog is a quieter dog.
- If you work long hours, consider a dog-walker, or dog day-care. If you are unable to use a dog-walker or dog day care, you need to play daily with the higher intensity games like ball-fetch, tug-of-war, hide & seek, with a mini-training session between each "throw of the ball." Remember to exercise your dog's mind and body to "wear them out mentally and physically."
- Have him work to acquire his food. You can do it as "hide & seek" game around the yard (in the beginning help him locate it) then make your absences predict that his meal is hidden around the yard or house and he has to get busy when you leave if he wants to eat. Dogs have an innate ability to *work for their food*. No wonder we have so many problems related to under-stimulation. Try a BusterCube® or other food delivery interactive toy and feed breakfast in the cube. You'll need to make it easy at first, then as the puppy or dog gets better at making the food fallout of the cube, change the setting and make it more difficult.
- Get him more attentive on toys. When you play with him, incorporate toys! Hold chew toys, pull toys, squeaky toys, hide them in a room and then "whoop it up" when he finds the toy with a game of tug or fetch. Teach him the toys by name. REMEMBER - the more you teach your puppy - silly tricks, names of toys, names of people (with association,) or fancy behaviors or "obedience cues"- you teach the puppy the meaning of words from the English language. They know *dog*

language (bark). Dogs are a highly social animal and love to *communicate* so teach English, as a Second Language to your puppy.

- Manage your puppy or adolescent dog to learn wanted behaviors instead of "self-rewarding" the unwanted behaviors, such as chewing up watering systems, tables, furniture, socks, etc. Puppies and adolescent dogs need to earn the privilege for the entire house. It really is the key to success - if they are unable to do or get to do it - they will not learn how "fun" it is to be "bad!"
- Remember, to never isolate your puppy or adolescent dog for **long periods** or banish him to the backyard or a room. This can create additional unwanted behavioral issues. Remember dogs and puppies are social animals and need to be with you when you are home.