



BEHAVIOR TIPS FOR NEW PUPPY OWNERS

HOUSETRAINING

The most important aspect in housetraining your new puppy is CONSISTENCY. Once a regular schedule is established, it should be followed to ensure the puppy is learning a routine. This not only makes it easier for the puppy, but also makes it more enjoyable for you.

Begin housetraining at a young age (7 ½ -8 ½ weeks of age), the sooner you start, the faster they begin to learn. You can still teach an older dog, however it may take a little bit longer.

- Supervise the puppy both indoors and outdoors, therefore you can watch the puppy as much as possible, preventing any unwanted accidents. To make this easier you may need to put a leash or bell on the puppy.
- Until the puppy has not eliminated in the house for 4 consecutive weeks it must be watched 100% of the time.
- Establish a regular feeding schedule. Feed the puppy 2-3 times daily and only leave the food down for 20 minutes.
- Take the puppy to the desired area of elimination as soon as it wakes up, approximately 15-30 minutes after each meal, after it drinks, after it plays (especially if the puppy voluntarily slows play), before and after confinement, and whenever it sniffs or circles. A general guideline for a new puppy would be approximately 6-8 times daily.
- Always go out with the puppy, guide it to the same area and use a key phrase (i.e. "Go Potty", "Go Pee", etc.). As soon as the pup eliminates, PRAISE it. You can praise with touch, play, treats, or just excitement in your voice.
- ONLY allow play AFTER the puppy eliminates. The pup must understand it is outside for a reason. Again, play after elimination is a great reward. If the puppy does not have to eliminate, do not play with them outside, just bring them back in the house.
- Whenever the puppy cannot be watched closely, confine it to a small room or dog crate. REMEMBER even though it is confined the puppy can still only hold its urine or feces for so long. If left for too long of a period, it still may have accidents in the house.
- If the puppy soils in the house:
 1. Correct it with a loud NO! But only if you catch the pup in the act. Then quickly scoop the puppy up, take it out to the desired area, and allow the puppy to finish eliminating. Remember to praise if they finish eliminating outside.
 2. NEVER scold the puppy after the fact. Never strike a puppy or rub their nose in the mistake. Physical punishment may even slow the housetraining process.
 3. Thoroughly clean up any soiled area with a product made especially for pet odors and stains.

DESTRUCTIVE CHEWING

Chewing and mouthing are normal behaviors for all puppies. ALL puppies chew. This is how they investigate the environment, get relief while teething, and entertain themselves. This is why a great deal of supervision is necessary for the first 9-12 months of age.

- Anything you do not want chewed (i.e. dangerous, expensive, or irreplaceable objects) must be placed where the puppy cannot get at them. If it cannot be put up or placed in a cupboard, you should make it taste bad. You can purchase a product called bitter apple spray which would make furniture, wires, table legs, door moldings, cabinets, and phone cords taste bad. This would prevent the puppy from returning to these items to chew.
- Buy a variety of safe rubber or nylon chew toys (ex. Kong, Rope, Bones, etc.). Only put 2-3 toys out at a time, and exchange them with new ones after the puppy begins to get bored of them.
- Play with the puppy as often as possible. Encourage any biting towards these safe toys. A small amount of cheese, peanut butter, or meat juice wiped on these toys may encourage chewing.
- Praise the puppy any time it begins to chew on the appropriate items.
- DO NOT allow the puppy to begin to chew on old socks, nylons, shoes, towels, stuffed toys, or any other object that resembles those things you do not want chewed. The puppy will not be able to differentiate between the socks it can chew and your good socks. Remember anything you do not want the puppy to do when it is an adult, do NOT let it do as a pup.
- If the puppy begins to chew an "off-limit" object, scold them with a loud NO, and immediately replace it with an acceptable chew toy.
- NEVER scold or punish the puppy if you do not catch them in the act. NEVER spank or hit the puppy.