

New Puppy - New Home



When you bring your puppy into its new environment allow it to become familiar with the new surroundings slowly. Pity the poor pup that is turned loose in a large house, wanders off to an out of the way room, and then can't find its way back to the people. Start with only one or two rooms and the yard. Gradually, as its confidence grows, allow more freedom. Baby gates work well to portion off sections of the house. The first rooms the pup is introduced to should be the ones where it is to spend most of its time. They then become "home base" for the pup.

Limit the amount of people the puppy is exposed to at first. Allow the pup to bond to the immediate family before trooping in all the neighbor children and friends. Too much contact with new people or dogs will be a bit overwhelming and cause the pup to be shy. There is also more risk of the pup being exposed to disease, particularly if visitors have been around dogs with parvo. Even a vaccinated dog can contract parvo.



Puppies will play hard and then practically fall asleep mid-play. They are babies and do need lots of naps. Be observant of the puppy's activities so that it doesn't get overly tired. Any early training you are doing should be limited to 5 minute segments. They have a short attention span until about 6 months of age.

Using a Vari-Kennel or wire crate in the home is the perfect way to house train your puppy. Most dogs will not mess in their beds and the puppy will become accustomed to its crate and consider the crate its private den for sleeping. Often missing shoes can be found stashed in the crate by an ambitious pup. Crate the puppy at night and at other times when you cannot give the pup your undivided attention. While you are distracted with a phone call, the couch pillow can be de-stuffed or an "accident" can occur. As soon as the pup is let out of the crate it should be taken outside and told "go potty" or some similar phrase.



Very young puppies may need to be taken out during the night as they may not be able to "hold it" till morning. It helps to restrict water for a couple hours prior to bedtime. Most puppies and dogs will have a bowel movement within a ½ hour of feeding so feed on a schedule which will help the pup establish good habits. Always take the pup to the same area of the yard for doing business so that the entire yard doesn't become his toilet. It

may help to always leave one pile when cleaning the yard so that will reinforce in the pup's mind that "this is da place". Also take the pup out whenever it wakes up from a nap. Like all babies it will have to "go" then.



If you live where taking the pup outside for its "business" is not possible, consider "paper training" the puppy. This is especially helpful to apartment dwellers. Spread newspapers down in an area of the kitchen or bath and take the puppy there for potty breaks. Always see that he goes on the paper. He will probably begin to use one area or corner by choice and you can gradually reduce the area covered by papers. Eventually, the puppy will go to any newspaper on the floor – so watch out for the Sunday Sports section!!!

There are also some new products out that are called "wee-wee pads". They are scented to attract the dog and encourage it to go on the pad. There are also trays that can be used which would have a similar function as a cat's litter box.

A new environment can cause a pup to go off feed or have diarrhea for a few days and it may forget what housetraining it has. Patience is the word. **NEVER RUB HIS NOSE IN HIS MISTAKE** – this only conveys to the puppy that eliminating is wrong. He won't make the connection to the fact that it is the location that is wrong. Just whisk the pup outside if caught in the act and clean up what was left behind. Spray a Listerine/water solution on the area or sprinkle baking soda there which can be vacuumed up later. This will mask/eliminate odors.



You no doubt will have a variety of toys for the puppy. It is a wise idea to only give him part of the toys at a time. Rotate them so that there is always something new. Some toys should only be allowed under supervision. Many dogs will de-stuff soft toys and if they eat too much of the stuffing they could become impacted and possibly require surgery. Some dogs become obsessive trying to get the little squeakers out of their toys. Again caution is suggested so that they don't swallow parts of the plastic squeakers. One of the best dog toys is a plastic liter bottle or Gatorade bottle with the cap, label, and extra ring on the neck removed. Put pieces of kibble inside or dog cookies and watch the fun. When the bottle gets trashed, put it in the recycle bin and get a new one. Sure beats paying \$20 for a Buster Cube that does the same thing.

