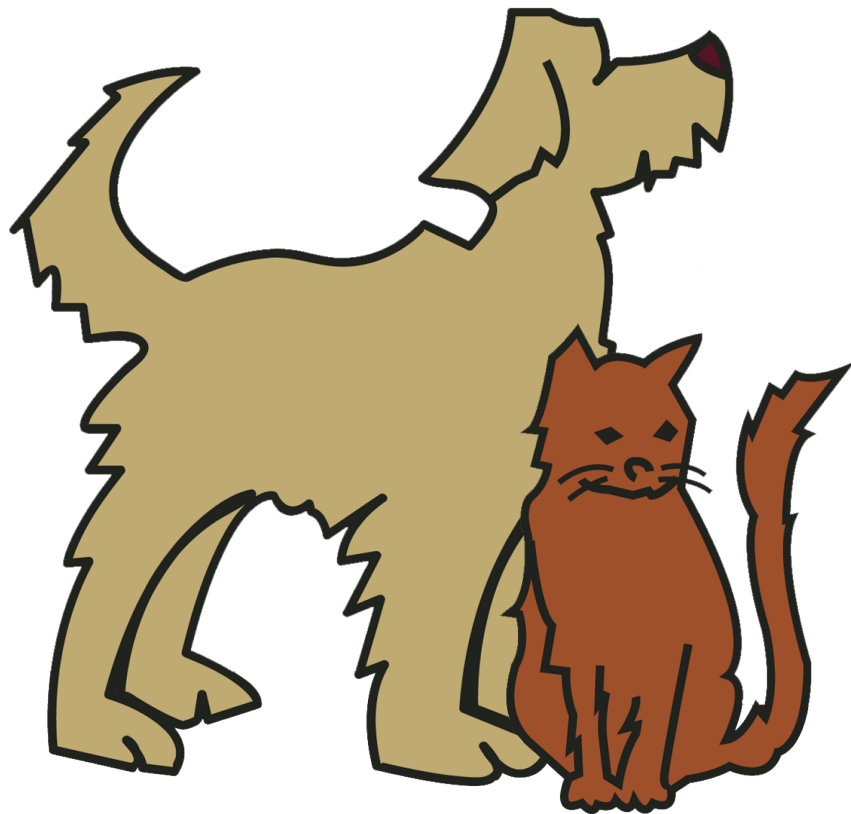




New Puppy Packet



Scavenger Hunt for Puppy Socialization

Puppies are cute, fun and so much work! There's house training, bite inhibition, puppy-proofing and socialization, for starters. Socialization - the process of helping your puppy become comfortable with the sights, sounds, and other experiences of life with human beings, is your most important job.

Try to give your puppy as many new experiences as possible so that he'll be comfortable in any setting as he ages. Use lots of treat to keep your puppy happy and secure, and be careful not to overwhelm your pup with too much, too soon. Be sure that he meets at least a 100 people by the time he is 16 weeks old, from babies to senior citizens. This will help him be friendly and social throughout his life.

People

- Infant held by an adult
- Infant in a car seat
- Girl, between 2 & 6
- Boy, between 2 & 6
- Small group of kids between 2 & 6
- Girl, 7 or older
- Calm boy, 7 or older
- Boisterous boy, 7 or older
- Small group of kids, 7 or older
- Small group of kids with a ball
- Man with a beard or mustache
- You in a hat
- Stranger in a hat
- Stranger in sunglasses
- Person with a bike
- Person on roller blades or skateboard
- Person in a wheelchair
- Person with an exaggerated gait
- Person using crutches or a cane
- Woman with different skin color
- Man with a different skin color
- Person in uniform
- Person driving a truck
- Person carrying packages
- Woman wearing a flowing dress

Sights, Sounds and Sensations

- Stroller
- Balloon
- Umbrella
- Camera
- Musical instruments
- Automatic door
- Mirror
- Bus (unloading passengers)
- Large truck
- Grocery cart
- Walking between parked cars
- Vet's Office
- Cat with an attitude
- Older, well socialized dog
- Pet store
- Lift the dog up onto a table like surface
- Touching inside dogs mouth
- Touching feet and toes
- Tap toes with a metal spoon
- Flapping movement (flag or towel)
- Sudden soft noise (magazine dropping)
- Sudden louder noise (keys dropping)
- Sudden scary noise (book dropping flat)
- Bathtub (with and without water on)
- Lawn Mower
- Sprinkler

First Days For That New Puppy

When you bring your new puppy into your home for the first time, he'll probably feel frightened and apprehensive. Remember, he's in a strange new environment.

The right way to hold a puppy is with one hand under his chest and the other supporting his hind legs. Hold him against your body so he'll feel secure and protected. Be cheerful and encouraging with your new puppy. Give him lots of affectionate attention and let him explore his new surroundings and become familiar with them. Loud noises, crowds of strangers and noisy children may scare him. Don't punish your pup or speak harshly to him, even if he has an accident or makes a mess. At this early stage, the only thing a puppy learns from your reprimands is to fear you. A happy experience in its first few days at home will have a lasting, positive effect on your pet's attitude.

After your puppy has become accustomed to his new home and to you and your family, you can begin to expose him to others. Take him to a family gathering or for a walk in the neighborhood to meet the neighbors. Dogs are instinctively social and your puppy will be eager for friendly contact. Do not leave your puppy alone for long periods of time.

You may already have the perfect name for your new pup but if you're still deciding, here are some tips: Two syllable names that end in "a" or "o", like Sara or Bosco, are the easiest for the dog to recall and won't be confused with one syllable commands like "sit" and "stay". When you do choose a name, use it consistently until your pup understands and responds to it. Calling your new puppy "Freckles" and then using "Freck" and/or "Freckie" will confuse him.

Your puppy needs a place of his own. Give him a box or dog bed inside a pen in a draft free corner. (A travelling pen has the advantage of being useful throughout your dog's life. If you decide to buy one, make sure it will be big enough to fit your

pet when he is full grown). Your puppy will use this place to rest and sleep and he'll feel safe and protected there. Putting a carton or box on its side to make an enclosed bed will make him feel even more secure. Why? A cave was home to the dog's wolf-like ancestor, so your puppy instinctively feels cozy and safe in anything remotely cave-like, even just a turned over box! Add some warm washable bedding (like an old blanket or towel) and your puppy's place is complete.

Use care when choosing a wire pen for your puppy. Make sure the mesh is small enough that your pup can't get his head or a paw stuck. Avoid pens that have sharp, exposed edges that could injure your puppy or protrusions that could snag his collar and choke him. Watch out for large, open hinges that could pinch an inquisitive nose or paw. And if you choose a collapsible, portable pen, make sure it's strong enough that an energetic puppy can't collapse it and injure himself.

Respect your puppy's privacy when he is in his special place, don't just reach in and pull him out; let him come out by himself. Don't let children bother or tease him. He needs to feel that he is safe when he is in his special place. Try not to leave him locked there for long periods and don't banish him to his place when he has been bad. Doing that will convince him that it is a place of punishment rather than a comforting refuge.

Crate Training the Puppy

One of the most useful devices for raising a puppy, and perhaps one of the most misunderstood, is a fold up wire dog crate. Properly used, this device can aid house-training puppies. It can also save hundreds of dollars in damage to household items. Since the crate is portable, it can easily be taken along on trips. Thus, overnight visits or vacations with the family pet can be more enjoyable. People who raise, train and show dogs have been aware of the benefits of crates for years. Unfortunately, the new pet owner is not well informed.

I advise owners of new puppies to concentrate on house-training, socialization, and crate training during the early weeks of rearing. However, before owners begin crate training, they should be aware of several tendencies in the normal, healthy pup.

Separation Reflex

When separated from their social group, most pups whine, bark or howl. These sounds are referred to as distress vocalizations. In the wild, these sounds increase the chances that a puppy will be reunited with the pack. If a pup's movement is restrained while it is isolated, it will respond with escape behaviors such as digging, thrashing about and chewing. These behaviors have obvious benefits for survival.

Many pet owners inadvertently elicit these behaviors by placing the pups in a barricaded kitchen or other unoccupied area of the house. Sometimes these owners provide a ticking clock, a radio, or a hot water bottle to "comfort" the animal. The entire procedure is unnecessary at the least, and can harm the puppy psychologically and physically if emotional behaviors indicating stress are allowed to persist or worsen.

Recommended Procedure

The procedure we use and recommend to clients for inhibiting the separation reflex is based upon several other canine tendencies. These are the pup's preference to bed down with, or in the presence of others, to bed down in a sheltered, den like atmosphere, and to learn through association. The procedure we recommend to clients is as follows:

1. Acquire a collapsible dog crate with a metal tray floor. The crate should be large enough for an adult dog to stand and turn around.
2. Assemble the crate in a bedroom of the house.
3. Introduce the pup to the crate by placing several treats in and around it. Also feed the pup several meals inside the crate.
4. Well before bedtime, place the pup in the crate and offer a treat. Close and lock the gate.
5. Leave the room, but remain just outside the door to audit the pups behavior.

6. At the first indication of any separation response, intervene with a sharply raised voice. The idea is that the pup associate its behavior with the startling outcome the behavior produced. Some pups will not respond to a raised voice. We have found that most respond well to sounds generated by a shaker can (small coffee can containing several coins) or a newspaper slapped sharply on a door or wall.

7. Usually, the pup settles quietly in the crate after three to eight attempts at emotional responses, if they are followed by the startling sound. After the puppy is quiet, keep it inside the crate for about ten minutes. Caution the client not to praise or pet the pup immediately after releasing it. This can reinforce the desirability of leaving the crate.

8. After an interval of 30 to 45 minutes, repeat the procedure. Extend the pups quiet time in the crate to about 30 minutes.

9. While the pup is inside the crate provide one chewable toy. Other items such as blankets or newspapers are not necessary. Also any collars or leads should be removed to prevent entanglement.

By the time bedtime arrives, the pup has already associated being quiet with being inside the crate. Also, the effects of produced by separation are negated if the crate is in a bedroom where a member of the family sleeps.

Overnight Elimination

Clients should be advised that usually after waking, the pup will eliminate. If the pup awakens while inside the crate and need to eliminate, it will probably whine or bark since dogs tend to avoid elimination in there bedding areas (den effect). The pup can then be taken outside to eliminate.

Pros and Cons

This procedure has several advantages for house-training puppies. First of all, the pup does not form the habit of eliminating inside the house. Second, the pup can be placed in its "den" when it can not be watched during the day. Destructive habits are less likely to develop and can be controlled if they do. Third, the separation reflex is inhibited, thus curtailing possible side effects related to stress.

A pup that has been successfully crate trained will prefer resting in its "den". As the pup matures, it will voluntarily seek out the crate and enter it at appropriate times. While inside its crate the dog will be quiet. These are all indications of a comfortable, pleasant association with the crate. Of course the piece of mind the owner enjoys knowing that the dog is comfortable, quiet and not destroying the house is immeasurable. Many clients ask how long their dog should be kept in the crate. The answer depends on the dog. Some animals are never able to have run of the house, even when mature.

Housebreaking & Spay and Neuter

Housebreaking

Patience, perseverance, and consistency are the human qualities necessary in housebreaking a dog. The basic theory of housebreaking is to promote the opportunity for the animal to relieve itself in a given location and to prevent the possibility of the animal to soil the house. As a creature of habit, the dog learns by association. The dog **can** do it; weather or not it **will** do it is up to the trainer.

Training begins immediately, and the goal is not accomplished overnight. It takes patience. Whether the relief station is on newspapers or outdoors, a timely routine must be followed. The first thing in the morning, last thing at night, after meals, naps, and play periods, the dog is ushered to its specified place. This spot might be an appropriate location of your choice where layers of newspapers await the dog or it might be a designated area of a fenced in yard. By maintaining a strict schedule for a few weeks until the idea is associated, the animal gradually can be given more freedom as a test of behavior, but the constant routine takes patience.

Lavishly praise a dog when it performs correctly. If an accident does happen, simply be persistent. Since creating good habits is easier than breaking bad ones, perseverance is important. Clearly show the dog where it should have relieved itself. Do not bother to put its nose in the puddle or scold it after the fact. Neither tactic is appropriate. Also, bear in mind that during the learning process the animal should be warm, for coldness tends to affect the dog's inner control, especially in a young pup. When an accident does occur, clean the area immediately with water and vinegar or ammonia and remove all odor, for canines have a keen sense of smell and usually return to a place that was previously used. Coping takes perseverance, yet perseverance bring communication.

In language and location, be consistent so that the dog truly understands and is not confused. Convey the message; denote the place. Use the same command; use the same spot-every day, rain or shine-it takes consistence.

Instinctively the dog already knows one place it does not soil, and that is its bed. By nature, the dog wishes to keep its bed clean. The dog will go far away from its bed to relieve itself. Also by nature, the dog wishes to please people. The dog simply must be shown what pleases people. Consequently, its fate as a housebroken dog evolves from its trainer-a person of patience, perseverance and consistency on behalf of the dogs welfare.

To Spay or Not to Spay

Spaying prevents the animal from bearing young or coming into season. The bitch will normally come into season for the first time at the age of six to nine months. This period lasts about three weeks and usually occurs twice a year until the end of her life. If you do not want to have a litter, or go through heat periods, then by all means have her spayed. Spaying will not change her personality or physical condition and, contrary to popular myth, spaying does not make an animal fat and lazy-almost all "Seeing-Eye" dogs are spayed females! It does lower the metabolic rate so less food is required. If spaying is preformed before the animal is sexually mature (before the first heat), mammary tumors, pyometra, and genitourinary infections can be prevented. These conditions are very common in un-spayed bitches.

The operation is an ovariectomy. It is major surgery and general anaesthetic is required. After the animal to be spayed is prepared for surgery, a 2 to 3 inch incision is then closed by stitching it back together.

An animal can be spayed at any time. However, there are certain times when the risks of surgery are greater, such as while she is in season, when very close to delivering a litter, or when she is not in good general health. Most veterinarians feel there is no advantage to allowing her to have a litter. Vets generally agree that the best age to spay a bitch is around 5 to 6 months of age, before the animal has a season. Since animals mature at different rates, leave the precise time to your vet. It is recommended to wait 2-3 weeks after weaning a litter or 3 weeks or more after passing out of season.

Dogs that have been spayed are hospitalized from 1 to 3 days, depending on the health and age of the dog, as well as the requirements of the veterinarian.

Not much aftercare is required after spaying. It is important that you do not feed or give your dog water for the first hour after getting home. Many dogs are very excited on returning home and sometimes make themselves ill by eating and drinking to much. Confine your pet to the house, if possible, and take her out on a leash as needed for the first few days. Prevent her from jumping up and down as much as possible, as this could stretch and open the incision. Prevent her from licking and biting the stitches. If you notice her doing so and cannot prevent it, call your vet for advice. You will need to make an appointment in 1-2 weeks after surgery to have the stitches removed.

Modern surgery cannot be preformed cheaply. Your vet is obligated to perform surgery in a sterile and humane manner. It can cost \$50.00 or more, but will save the worry and expense of having unwanted puppies.

Exercise and Your Puppy

Puppies under one year should not be “exercised” in a regimented fashion. By this I mean exercise that is forced like jogging for miles, following a bicycle or a horse, or even prolonged walks on a leash.

WHY?

It is **unnatural** for a puppy to repeat the same movement over and over for a long period of time. It puts enormous stress on immature ligaments and joints and may cause irreparable damage that will affect your dog for a lifetime. This can be a major contributor to Hip Dysplasia. In observing puppies anyone will tell you they are extremely active. But that is all natural for a puppy. Puppies will change from walking to trotting to galloping to leaps and bounds then plop down for a rest period. And then repeat these activities all day long. This free form of exercise is natural and allows the puppy’s muscles, joints and ligaments to develop in the way they were created. Puppies will regulate their movement and energy.

WHAT IS OK?

Under 4 months of age

20 minutes on leash or “forced” exercise a day and then all the free romping and playing the puppy wants.

4 to 8 months

Up to an hour total daily with some time outs for free play during that period. And again all the self motivated movement the puppy wants.

8 to 12 months

A full hour controlled exercise twice daily again with free play time.

OTHER DANGERS

Running up and down stairs

Slippery floors

Jumping off high places

Slipping and sliding on polished or tile floors

Chewing

For obvious reasons, natural selection has favored investigation by mouth in canine species. The domesticated dog's oral orientation is obvious. Presence of oralism in the form of sucking response in pups shortly after their birth gives mute testimony to its importance in the development of the animal. The owner's understanding of the pup's use of its mouth is an important aspect of puppy rearing. Many persons are unaware of the high degree of oral orientation in the young dog.

Puppies are Chewing Machines

Shortly after the third week of life, exploratory behavior emerges in puppies. The pups begin to leave the nest and to expose themselves to varied novel stimuli. They begin rapidly to process and assimilate information from the world around them. Much of this information is processed orally. Puppies seem to test almost everything they encounter by putting it in their mouths.

At 8 weeks of age, a puppy's oral orientation is still very noticeable. When the pup is placed in its new home, one of the first things it does is explore and test its new environment. It uses all its sensory receptors to do this, especially its nose and mouth. Because the pup tests such a wide variety of objects orally, it must be monitored continually if it is to learn what it may and may not chew.

Establishing a Preference

The owner can help the pup make this discrimination of what is acceptable. The more stimuli the young dog encounters the more it learns what can and can not be chewed. If too many chewable toys are provided, the pup is overwhelmed by objects that elicit the chewing response. Thus, discrimination training is incomplete.

We recommend that puppies be given two to three chewable toys, such as nylon bones, knucklebone that do not splinter, or balls made of hard rubber. Toys that are cloth, leather and carpet should be avoided. All other objects are off limits.

If the pup's chewing is consistently confined to a limited number of items, the owner can expect the animal to prefer these items to others when it matures. In other words, a preference for chewing certain items can be established.

Harmful Objects

Unfortunately, the young dog does not inherently avoid orally testing many items. The owner should be made aware of this fact and cautioned about objects in the home that could be harmful to the pup. Number one on the list is electric cords. We suggest that to prevent injury, the pup can be taught to associate electric cords with an unpleasant taste. The following procedure can be used.

1. The cord is treated with Bitter Apple or Bitter Yuck.
2. The Pup is taken (not called) to the electric cord

3. The cord is placed in the pup's mouth. The pup is then profusely praised when it ejects the cord.
4. The procedure is repeated using cords in different locations.
5. All cords are lightly sprayed with the deterrent for 30 days. (Most pups only require 2 or 3 oral treatments before avoidance develops.) Prevent other issues by picking up things like needles pins or other foreign objects that could be harmful if swallowed.

Learning About Chewing

A dog's chewing, like so many other behaviors, is influenced by the outcome the dog associated with the behavior. Pleasant outcomes encourage the response and unpleasant outcomes discourage it. Most owners realize this, but few are aware the outcome must be immediate. When a puppy chews something that is off limits, discipline must be imposed at once. Any delay makes the disciplining useless, or even harmful. To provide immediate discipline, the owner must continually watch the puppy. If it cannot be watched, it can be placed in its crate. Some pups can be taught not to chew an object if the owner only raises his or her voice, praises the pup for stopping, and then gives it an acceptable object to chew. Other pups require a more assertive approach such as the shake-praise procedure. But no matter what procedure is used the pup should be disciplined while it is chewing.

Chewing and Stress

Leaving a young dog home with access to all areas of the house is inviting trouble. Isolation produces stress in social mammals of the higher orders. This stress is often redirected orally. I have lost count of the times clients have told me how their pups acted when left alone. The clients are concerned about damage and seem amazed that it can be so extensive. They often say such things as "We only left for a few hours, when we returned the drapes were pulled down, one side of the couch was chewed and the dog had begun working on the carpet."

After I suggest that these are signs of stress, the usually reply "But the dog was so happy and excited when we came home. We cannot understand why it would do something like that to us". I then explain that very carefully that most normal, healthy puppies must be taught to deal with solitude. One of the reasons dogs are so attractive to us is because they are socially dependent. The negative effects isolation produces in dogs bear witness to this social component.

Training a pup to be calm and quiet when alone is an essential part of the rearing process. But, it's a training procedure that requires the owner's time and effort. The procedure is simple, requires just few days, but pays dividends.

Puppy Tips & Ear Problems

1. Start with diet. Some foods are like “puppy uppers”. Consult a pet nutrition expert. Be sure to change diet gradually over 3 - 4 days,

2. Do NOT manage your dog by keeping him tethered in the back yard. Notice he is anything but calm when you release him after he’s been tied. The dog should be supervised as dogs have been stolen out of back yards.

3. Do NOT keep your dog confined in such a way that he is isolated. Confinement in a fenced yard, the basement, laundry room, causes frustration in most dogs. This leads to digging, barking or chewing. Again, notice that he is not calm when you let him out of the basement into the house.

Note: Configure the dog in a crate or some sort of gate system, so that he may be in a part of the house where family members typically spend time, does not produce behavioral problems when used correctly.

4. EXERCISE - Lots of it! Let him chase a ball or toy 0-30 times. No fenced in yard? No problem. Use a basement or garage if you have one. If not, roll the ball down a hallway, or move the coffee table and let him chase a toy.

5. Many dogs react to over-stimulus. Pop the leash on and take him for some walks. This not only helps to get him exercise, but helps to desensitize him so he is less reactionary. Well socialized dogs get to see the world and are less likely to fly, leap or bark and every little thing.

6. Don’t start games you can’t finish, such as tug-of-war or rough wrestling. Wait to play those games (if you must) until you have maximum control over the dog.

7. Make sure that you, not your dog, initiates all games. For instance, dog grabs show-we-chase. Another popular game is keep-away. The owner gets close to the dog, then he dashes and darts just out of reach. Dropping a toy at the owner’s feet and barking or pawing until they throw it is an easy game for most dog to teach their owners. Don’t chase, don’t lunge, and don’t allow yourself to be so easily trained. Call him to you....offer a treat. If he wants to play, and you don’t mind throwing the toy, OK. But, first he must sit for a few seconds-quietly!

8. Bored dogs need something to do in your absence. We can read or watch TV if we are confined. Give your dog a special toy or ball when you will be gone. He only has this toy in your absence, so it will be interesting to him.

9. Enroll your dog in a training class so the two of you can learn to communicate. Some of us have seen too many Disney movies-we expect the dog “know” what we expect of him. A good training class will help you teach your dog some useful replacement behaviors, and help you with undesirable habits.

10. MAKE CHANGES! - Repeated behaviors will become habituated. It’s foolish to assume that a dog will “grow out” of his wild ways. Actually, if continued, those habits will become much more strongly ingrained, and more difficult to modify or extinguish. Remember, it’s pretty hard to find a good home for a dog that digs, jumps, chews shoes, barks, and thrashes houses.

Suddenly your dog begins to scratch its ears persistently or rubs its head against a door frame or the floor. Or, it may display a swollen ear flap. In some instances, black debris is visible in the ears. A foul odor may emanate from the ears. The dog shows pain when the ear is touched. These are warning signs of an ear irritation or infection.

A prompt trip to the vet is in order to identify and treat the problem. If not treated promptly, an ear infection may spread into the dog’s inner ear. This could result in a permanent loss of balance for the dog, evidenced by a tilted head and inability to walk in a straight line.

The Threat of Hematoma - Another serious consequence of delayed treatment, when an ear infection is suspected, is hematoma. This blood filled sac on the ear’s inner tissue, the result of excessive scratching by the dog. Blood vessels are ruptured and fill up the inside of the ear. The hematoma should be treated by a vet. The ear infection that caused the scratching should be cleared up or hematoma may reoccur.

Ear Shapes Pose Problems - The shape of the ear in certain breeds is a pre-disposing factor that may contribute to ear problems. Dogs with long, floppy ears tend to be the most vulnerable. Moisture, debris and glandular secretions may become trapped. Excessive moisture caused softening of the skin inside the ear, allowing infectious organisms to grow in inordinate numbers.

Other Causes - Your dog may have a bacterial or fungal infection. Appropriate treatment is needed for infections can spread to the middle and inner ear and cause permanent damage and may even be life threatening. Other causes of ear problems include allergies and skin disorders.

Preventive Care - When your dog receives its regular checkup, have the vet also inspect the ear. Check to see if there is an odor from the ear. And be sure to check for ear wax-there is an ear cleaning solution for dogs, but read and follow directions on the label. Deep cleaning of ears should be only done by a vet. Place cotton in the dog’s ears before bathing as soap and moisture may contribute to inflammation. Remember to remove the cotton.