

TIPS FOR TRAINING

Puppy survival tips, the first two weeks

Congrats you've found the perfect puppy! Now what? How are you going to housetrain her and prevent her from chewing everything in your house?

The moment your puppy comes into your home start with these housetraining tips. Confinement along with scheduling is the secret to errorless housetraining. Using a crate and a puppy playroom will help your unsupervised puppy avoid making mistakes. Alternatively, if you let your new puppy roam free and form bad house-habits, you will most likely have to confine her as an adult too.

When you properly manage your puppy there is less opportunity for mistakes. Additionally, you are in complete control of what objects she has access to in her confinement areas, so she will learn to chew only on appropriate items. Hollow chew toys stuffed with food will teach her what is appropriate to chew, and reward her for quietly enjoying some appropriate recreational chewing. Regular, early confinement will also help your puppy learn to enjoy spending time at home alone.

During that first week, puppies characteristically learn good or bad habits that set the precedent for weeks, months, and sometimes years to come.

The very first day your puppy comes home

Strict scheduling for eliminating outside is key to housebreaking any puppy. Choose a toilet area just outside your door and take your puppy there every hour for elimination. You'll take her there more frequently if one of the following behaviors occurs. Waking up from a nap, eating, drinking, chewing on a bone, and the often over looked, active play, all of which can trigger loss of bladder control. As your trust begins to grow for not eliminating inside, outside potty breaks will be less frequent. If your puppy is given the opportunity to make "mistakes," bad habits will quickly become the status quo.

With an elimination schedule, housetraining is easy, efficient, and errorless. During her first few weeks at home, regular confinement (with chew toys stuffed with kibble) teaches the puppy to settle down calmly and quietly.

Mistakes

If your pup is ever left unsupervised indoors she will most certainly chew household articles and soil your house. These accidents set the precedent for your puppy's choice of toys and toilets areas for many months to come.