

10 Puppy Training Tips

1. Socialize your puppy early and as much as possible. For example, throw a puppy party. Make some desserts and invite family and friends over to interact gently and positively with your new pup. Have friends pick him up, praise him, and feed him treats.
2. Socialize your puppy with other dogs. Be sure to pick dogs that have a stable temperament. A good rule of thumb is to pick dogs that you would like your dog to imitate.
3. Teach your puppy to say "Please!" Before you give your puppy any kind of reward like petting, praise, or giving him his meal, ask him to do a behavior for you first. A sit works well here. Think of it as "I do this for you, you do this for me." This is a wonderful way to teach your puppy to respect you as well as teaching him some manners at an early age.
4. Take your puppy kindergarten class in your area. Make sure you attend a class first before signing up for the series. Be familiar with the techniques being used. Look for classes that use positive reinforcement instead of the older, punishment-based techniques.
5. Provide adequate physical and mental stimulation for your puppy. Keep running and jumping to a minimum while your puppy's bones are still growing. Introduce your dog to mentally stimulating toys like frozen Kongs and Buster Cubes. Remember to rotate the puppy's toys each day so that he will not grow tired of them as quickly.
6. When children and puppy are in the same area, the owner must supervise! It is always supervise or separate! It is very important to keep your child safe from your puppy's sharp teeth as well as keeping your puppy safe from your child's exploring hands.
7. Keep your puppy on a schedule. Feed your puppy at approximately the same time every day, give or take an hour. This will help you determine when the likeliest time that your puppy will need to eliminate.
8. If you play with your puppy in the house, make sure to take him out to potty about 3-5 minutes into the playtime. Stress of any kind, even pleasurable stress can cause him to eliminate. Also take him out at the end of the play session.

9. Play constructive games with your pup like Fetch and Hide and Seek. If you would like to raise a dog that is gentle with people, stay away from rough games like wrestling and tug of war.

10. Do not grab toys out of your puppy's mouth. Instead exchange the toy he has for either a yummy good treat or another toy of a higher reinforcement value.