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## TRAINING YOUR NEW PUPPY

The easiest way to train your pup is using a crate. Pups will feel secure when left alone in a crate with blankets, toys, food, and water. They will learn to think of the crate as their "den" and will often choose it willingly as a place to rest. If the crate is small, an older puppy will be unlikely to soil it, however no puppy can be expected to last 8-10 hours without urinating and defecating. If you aren't going to crate train your puppy, when left alone confine it to an area that can be made safe. The confinement will give the puppy a sense of security when you are away as well as damage to your home (or the puppy!). Leave a light on and a radio playing. Gradually expand the areas to which he has access over a period of weeks. If you have to leave him for longer than 2 or 3, hours, the puppy will have to urinate and defecate so you'll have to train him to a litter box or paper. Make certain to "puppy proof" the room; no cupboards with chemicals: no strings, ropes, slippers, magazines or mail the puppy can shred or eat, risking an intestinal obstruction. Do leave a blanket or rug, water, toys, and a small amount of food or a biscuit. Please note that pups have drowned in toilets and turned on stoves in kitchens.

Puppies develop a preference for certain substrates on which to urinate or defecate. This means if you train your dog to urinate on paper it may be difficult to train him to not urinate on the evening newspaper if you lay it on the floor before you are finished with it. It is harder to paper train a pup and then retrain him to go outside, but it can be done; if it fits your circumstances; it is best to teach him to go outside from the beginning. Here are some hints to get you started:

Take your puppy outside every 2 hours. Give him time to sniff around, say something along the lines of "hurry up" or "be a good dog" and praise him lavishly when he squats and when he is finished. Your pup will learn to associate those oft-repeated words with eliminating and will hopefully promptly squat when they are repeated in the future.

Always take your puppy outside approximately 30 minutes after it eats the meal. Pour on the praise as he squats and after he is finished.

If you must train your pup to go on paper or on litter, place it close to the Door he will be using to get outside. When you are available to go outside with him, take him outside 30 minutes after meals and wait for him to squat and praise him for doing so. When you are ready to wean him from the paper to go outside, you should catch him just as he goes to squat on the paper rush him outside and wait for him to urinate outside. Praise him in excess! Sometimes if you take the paper (especially if it has been used once) outside and place it where you would like him to urinate he will get the idea. You can almost see the light bulb coming on over his head! Of course you cannot leave the paper outside all the time, but often all it takes is one or two times for the puppy to switch from paper to grass.

Punishment has almost no role in housebreaking a dog. If you see your pup start to squat or find him in the act of urinating or defecating in a forbidden area, scare him with a sharp "no", coupled with a loud noise such as a handclap. Then grab the pup and take him outside, praising him when he begins to urinate or defecate outside. If you scold your dog upon finding a pile or puddle already created he may make the association between the scolding and the puddle, but not between the act of making the puddle and scolding. Often this situation will lead to a puppy that learns to hide while urinating or defecating in the house making housebreaking even more difficult. It is very important to clean soiled areas well. Dogs have a very acute sense of smell and may return to previously soiled areas. Use a good product such as "Pet Odor Eliminator" according to the instructions on the label. Avoid using ammonia based cleaners - these may encourage your pup to return to the area since ammonia is one of the breakdown components of urine.

Start teaching your puppy to ask for everything he wants by learning to sit and stay, all pups should be taught to sit and stay for walks, food, treats, attention, etc. The fastest way to teach this is with food treats (keep them small so he doesn't get filled up). Keep the training sessions short; your pup's attention span will not be much longer than 10-15 minutes. Hold the treat in your closed hand close to the ground, say "sit" and repeat it until he falls over or his rump hits the ground.

Immediately reward him with the treat. You can work on distinguishing "sit" from "down" later, for now settle for a rear-end that is on the ground. The earlier you start teaching your dog to look to you for cues and to "ask" you for anything it desires, the better off you will be. All dogs should be taught discipline. This is particularly true for large breeds that can be unpleasant, at best, and dangerous, at worst, when out of control.

Puppies become socialized to other dogs between the ages of 4-8 weeks and to people between 5-10 weeks. They learn to explore new surroundings between the ages of 5-16 weeks. If they are not exposed to new experiences during these periods they can become quite fearful when taken out of their home. In the first two months that you have the puppy, make certain that he can interact with other dogs, people of all ages and that he experiences cars, traffic, and any other animals or environments in which he will be expected to function. Increasing numbers of animals are being abandoned in animal shelters because of behavioral problems. Please do your part to reverse this trend by raising a happy, well-trained dog. If you are experiencing difficulty or unusual behavior, please don't hesitate to contact us!!