



13 January 2012

What does my puppy need when I bring it home?

Every puppy sold carries a great opportunity to 'up sell' products, particularly as many clients don't even know what needs to be done to prepare the home for puppy's arrival. Here are some vital tips which puppy's new owners may appreciate.

Puppies are adorable, cute, funny, and playful bringing out a nurture feel to the most hardened of owners which usually means breaking every rule in the book! An effective tip is to visualize the dog at 18 months old and train the puppy for the type of dog owners want it to be at that age. A large 16 week old puppy jumping is a great game, but at 6 months the game turns into unacceptable behaviour particularly if all the visitors get thrown over!

Rules

Before bringing a puppy home, people should reflect on the affect the puppy will have on their lives – where it sleeps; who gets up when it needs to go out; who feeds it; when can we play; how do we play; do we pick it up; is it allowed on the furniture or even on beds?; etc. Like any creature, a puppy needs boundaries – and the looser the boundary the harder for the dog to settle in and ineffectual the training.

More accidents happen when a puppy has access to the whole house – particularly a soft carpeted area (reminds them of grass, a great place to toilet, and hard to clean for mum. There's usually some leftover smell so that means it's okay to return to the same spot and do it again....).

A puppy learns very quickly that if it jumps and nips for attention it will get picked up; so please think this through the repercussions of such actions, particularly if there are children in the family

Confinement and rules will make bringing up a puppy a lot more enjoyable, easier and more consistent for the puppy.

Sleeping arrangements

Leaders sleep together, so it is seen in the dog world (after all dogs are not unlike wolves in behaviour). Ideally the puppy should have its own sleeping quarters, preferably in a confined area – one without too much daylight, so puppy does not wake the family as soon as the sun comes up. A laundry or bathroom, or smaller room areas, ideally with a tiled or wooden floor as it is easier to clean. A puppy soon learns to sleep alone, and whilst a puppy on your bed gives warm fuzzies, a fully grown dog may easily take over the whole bed (I have clients that have been thrown out of their own beds!)

K9COACH PTY LTD • INCORPORATING PUPPY COACH

21 Sixth Ave Burwood Vic. 3125

Tel: 03 9889 8555 or 1300-K9Coach (1300-592 622)

www.k9coach.com.au Email: info@k9coach.com.au

ABN 57 324 817 560

Member of:





How to settle

A puppy is a little like a wind-up toy, noise and movements animate a puppy and the longer it continues the more difficult to settle the puppy down. Using body language as a means of communication rather than is recommended or talking softly and gently. Moving very slowly as if 90 years old has a huge calming influence on puppy and will result in less biting, nipping and a reduction in unacceptable little habits.

Crying and what to do

As with children crying is often attention seeking behaviour. Constantly going to puppy when it cries will soon have the puppy crying as a good way to get the family to give it attention. NOW is the time to teach the puppy that it is OK to be alone, and not to worry or panic when it does not get attention, AND it learns to keep itself busy. We create separation anxiety and similar from a young age – puppies are more confident in being alone when we teach them from a small age. Take advantage of that now – and benefit for the next 15 years or so!

Introducing the kids

Puppies and children are great together, but they are also good at hyping each other up, teasing puppies is a common occurrence when they are having fun together, but should be avoided. Teach the children not to chase, to reduce the likelihood of being bitten/nipped, not to pick up the puppy (even if very cuddly and cute) to avoid it jumping for attention in the future. The younger the children the more supervision required and never leave children and dogs alone together regardless of their ages. Quality time with the puppy is much better than quantity. Having set rules with kids respecting puppy as a creature and not a toy will create harmony much more easily.

Make the most of a very short learning window

Puppies learn about 60% of life's ground rules between 8 and 16 weeks of age, a great opportunity to maximize this time with learning that is fun, constructive, and positive. Working without a structure and mutual respect will enforce lasting impressions that are harder to change. Research what your breed needs (ideally before you get the puppy) so as to make the most of these 8 majestic weeks of puppy fun setting the foundation stones for a happy, healthy and well-balanced adult dog.

Hans van Heesbeen
Senior Trainer

K9COACH PTY LTD • INCORPORATING PUPPY COACH

21 Sixth Ave Burwood Vic. 3125

Tel: 03 9889 8555 or 1300-K9Coach (1300-592 622)

www.k9coach.com.au Email: info@k9coach.com.au

ABN 57 324 817 560

Member of:

