



The Mannerly Dog

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Training Tip Sheet: Puppy Management for Safety & a Bright Future

- Confine your new puppy in a safe place when you're not home or can't watch him. Don't allow bad habits to begin. A portable crate or kennel is ideal; otherwise, use a laundry room, bathroom, or other safe area that you have puppy-proofed. Provide a bed, a water bowl, and something good to chew on to pass the time; if you'll be gone for a while, you may provide a potty pad.
- Your new puppy will readily follow you if he's very young; make the most of this by rewarding him with treats as he comes along wherever you go. When he's older, he will become more interested in the world and less in you. By training early, you'll make it more likely he'll choose to stay with you.
- Don't approach your puppy; call him to you. Dogs like to have a choice and often feel threatened by being approached. Calling him to you in a friendly manner, even from a short distance, gives him the choice to come; when you reward him with a treat as he comes, he begins to learn that coming to you is a good thing to do.
- Don't push or pull your puppy; call him to come with you to re-position him. He may be small now, but he won't always be. Helping him make good choices now will make your life with him later much more enjoyable.
- Don't pull things out of your puppy's mouth; trade him something good. If your pup has something in his mouth you don't want him to have, don't chase him or start an argument with him; simply offer him something better, like a particularly yummy treat that you don't normally give him. He'll probably drop the item when you hold that delicacy in front of his nose, eat the treat while you pick up the prized item, and you both win. Plus, this is the first step in training your puppy to fetch things to you rather than running away with them.
- Don't take your puppy's food bowl away while he's eating; to teach him not to fear hands near his food, drop extra pieces of food into his bowl.
- Don't yell at, shake your finger at, threaten, or hit your puppy. It may stop the behavior you don't like, but it may also cause him to fear you. If your pup does something you don't like, make a mental note to train him to do something different. Allow the situation that is upsetting you to pass, and work on it when you and your puppy are both in a good mood.
- Your puppy needs to be properly socialized to people by 16 weeks of age. Watch his body language carefully; give him treat when he approaches someone confidently. Do not force him to approach people; let him do it when he is ready, and reward him with a treat when he does.
- If your puppy was reared in a typical dog family, with a mom and siblings, he probably has the beginnings of good manners with other dogs. Maintain these skills as he matures by finding safe, healthy, mannerly dogs of similar age for him to play with. Pay attention to his body language and play style and allow short play periods (10 to 15 minutes at first) interspersed with rest time to de-stress. Watch the other dogs and make sure they are exhibiting appropriate, polite styles of play with your puppy. Never allow the interacting pups to become too aroused