

Welcome Home!

As you begin a life with your new canine companion, here are some tips from the Brunswick Canine Learning Center and Do Good Dog Training:

The first five months of your puppy's life may be the most important. This is when they learn most of their social behavior with humans and other pets. Confidence, temperament and training during this period can last a lifetime, but so can fear, isolation and ill temperament. Puppies socialized properly at this age often are our best canine pets; those isolated in the home or tied out often never develop proper social skills with anyone but the immediate family.



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Animal and Avian Medical Center

Training your new puppy



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Positive reinforcement of the behaviors you want repeated should be the main focus of all your puppy's training

Try all these social exercises often:

Take your puppy to different places where they will encounter many people of different types, ages, etc.

Introduce your puppy to things in the house or outside that make noise and have movement (ex: vacuum, kids on bikes, pots/pans, etc). It is essential to not praise or cuddle pups that react negatively during these exercises.

Feed your puppy very small treats or food by hand. Remove the food while he is eating, then give him a better treat and replace the food.

Trade toys that your puppy is playing with for better ones.

After your puppy has began vaccinations, introduced them to other vaccinated puppies and well socialized dogs.

Train your puppy at least a few times daily.

Bring your puppy's cage into your room to strengthen the social bond.

Handle the puppy's feet, ears, tail and mouth every day.

Introduce your puppy joyfully to all visitors.

Always crate train your puppy for training and safety.

Use only positive training and be consistent!

Potty training:

You will need to pick the times when your puppy is most likely to eliminate and praise then when they go where you want them to. **DO NOT EXPECT A PUPPY TO TELL YOU WHEN THEY NEED TO GO OUTSIDE.** Puppies eliminate after feeding, playing or approximately every 30-60 minutes when out of their crate. Do not waste time punishing them for their accidents. Praise them when they look like they are going to eliminate correctly, as they are eliminating correctly and just after eliminating correctly. Do not wait for them to come back indoors for their praises or treats.

Crate training:

Your dog's cage is for training, safety and comfort. Always make it a fun place where your puppy feels safe, not a place for punishment. Crate training is necessary at home to prevent stress at the groomer, kennel and at the vet's office.

Chewing:

Puppies want to use their mouths, so give them something constructive to chew or they will find something on their own. Praise them for chewing their toys and redirect them as they chew something inappropriate. Consider offering a Kong or Nylabone to assist in developing healthy chewing habits.

Mouthing:

Puppies explore the world and play using their mouth. This is normal. Let your puppy play with other puppies and they will teach each other restraint (do not wean puppy earlier than 8 weeks). You need to teach them how hard is ok, not to stop mouthing all together. If they ever bite someone, they need to know how soft human skin is. **TEACH THEM "OUCH" WHEN THEY MOUTH TOO HARD.** Tell them how wonderful they are when they mouth a toy instead of your hand.

Why should I join a puppy class?

In today's society, people spend most of their time indoors or outdoors with fenced in yards. This can lead to antisocial behaviors in dogs. We rarely spend time with our neighbors or have good opportunities to socialize our dogs. Most of us live very close to neighbors making excessive barking, running away, aggression and other inappropriate behaviors unacceptable.

Puppy class is an appointment to train and socialize your puppy.

Classes will guide you to train a good canine citizen for today's environment.

Your classmates will provide a support group for the difficult times.

Puppies that go to class generally stay in the home.

Classes are fun and informative.

Do not waste time or energy punishing the puppy. Punishment builds mistrust and rarely is effective. Replace the "bad behavior" with a good behavior (ex: only pet your puppy when all four feet are on the ground rather than constantly pushing them down). Tell your puppy how wonderful he/she is and they will repeat the behaviors to please you.