

New Year, New Puppies!

With the new year rolling in, there are new puppies. You may have recently got a new puppy this holiday season or as a new year gift. The question you ask yourself now is “are you able to handle this?”. As a professional dog trainer and behaviorist for 11 years, every new year is the same. Some people immediately call for a trainer so they are ready to go, some say they can figure it out on their own and some do, but the ones that don’t we get called in for during summer after all the mistakes have been made. This is not an ad to pitch for a dog trainer but a very basic understanding on how to get started with your new puppy.

Puppy Proof Your House: Fully grown adult dogs(2 years of age) have brain level equivalent to a 2 year old child for the rest of their life. So that means your puppy is going through years of growing pains in just 2 years. They explore and get into constant trouble if you are not around to guide them; Keeping the house puppy safe is a big help. Keep plugged electrical wires away from the puppy. Create a safe room or playpen that your pup can play in when your are busy in another room. Make sure to keep all medicines, alcohol, chocolate, and cleaning chemicals out of the puppies reach. Do not leave expensive or valuable items near a puppy, they will most likely destroy them. Do not leave your puppy alone with expensive or valuable objects without toys of their own.

Get A Crate: This part is a huge debate between most people. My professional opinion on this is; Crates help with many behaviors that end up occurring in dogs later on who did not use a crate. Separation Anxiety, potty training, energy control, and stress just to name a few. You cannot leave a puppy alone in your house freely when you are not home, they will grow anxious and destroy things. You also should not take your puppy to work everyday as this creates separation anxiety. You have to have a balance. Once the puppy learns and understand the rules of the house through training and proper confinement. The crate is usually gone by a year and half.

Walk Your Puppy and Train Them: Training to me is key. This is what I do for a living and it works. Even if all you know is sit , down, no and good job; you are already on the right step. I require my clients to work on commands with their pups twice a day for 5-10 mins each time reviewing the commands the puppy knows all through out the house. This helps teach them that commands work in any room you go to. Once you get the okay from your veterinarian walking 20 minutes a day is very helpful to relieving your pups energy. This is an exercise walk, so treat it like such. Walk with out stopping as your puppy needs exercise NOT A LEISURE WALK. Walking every 5 feet and stopping to let your dog smell other dogs and people is not exercise its a leisure walk. You can have one exercise and multiple leisure walks in a day. However, exercise walks are more beneficial to your puppy in lowering energy, creating a relationship, and a bond with the person who does this the most with hem.

Training a puppy is easy once you understand the rules of what is good and bad for the mental development of your puppies. Being prepared or admitting you need help early is great for the success in your new puppies life!

Most of all enjoy spending time playing with them, walking them, and training them. This is the most pinnacle things puppies enjoy rather than the freedom to do as they please. They love to be with their partners, but if their partners let them do as they please they looks for a new partner and it usually spells Trouble in some way. Become their sun and their moon and they will be your earth. Nurture them,

teach them, and most of all respect them too. Happy New Year everyone and have a great time with your puppy!

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