

Williamsfield Veterinary Service

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“PUPPY TALK”

These next few pages will go through my puppy speech I give all new puppy/dog owners. I hope that you can find something helpful in it. I have included the handouts that I give people that have tips for training as well. These are just food for thought training tips. Use as little or as much as you like.

1) I am a strong advocate of crate training. This acts not as a punishment for the pup, but as a proactive and preventive approach to training. The pup should be confined to the room that you are in so that you can watch it like a hawk! The pup should NOT have the run of the house until it has gone at least 4 months without an accident. If you cannot watch the pup 100%, it needs to be given a treat and crated. This method doesn't allow the pup to make a mistake.

THE CRATE:

A. It should be large enough for the pup/dog to stretch out comfortably but not urinate/defecate in one end and lay in the other end.

B. It should be placed in a common area of the house where you are much of the time so that it doesn't feel left out.

C. You can put the water/food dishes in there and leave the door open so the pup can go in and eat/nap at will but if you need to lock the pup in -remove the dishes.

D. Have a favorite blanket in their +/- a toy.

E. ALWAYS give the pup a treat EVERY time the pup goes in its crate (use special treats that the pup really likes.) A moist treat that it only gets when in its crate.

F. NEVER punish the pup in this crate! I like to use a pet taxi type crate for punishment that is in a room by itself with no blankets. A typical time-out should be for 3-5 minutes, then let the pup back out.

2) A pup can only hold its bladder as many hours as it is months old....so if the pup whines in the middle of the night - DO get up and take it out give it a treat, and put it back to bed.

3) If you are home, I recommend taking the pup out every hour, out the same door, and on a leash. SAY THE SAME THING EVERY TIME. "Lets go potty" TAKE THE TREATS WITH YOU! If you have been out for 5 minutes without success, come in and try again very soon. If the pup goes potty, always give excited praise and a treat immediately. Again, I like moist treats. Tiny pieces. When in the POTTY training period give a treat with every successful trip.

4) The pup may be biting - it is learning bite inhibition. How hard can the pup bite us before we stop playing?? They do this with their litter mates. The pups rough house and then someone squeals and runs off - the pup that bit them thinks 'oh, did I bite you too hard? Im sorry, come back, I won't bite so hard next time - I want to play!" If the pup is biting too hard (with force that is inappropriate for an elderly person or an infant), make the pup think they hurt you by saying OUCH and ignore the pup for 20 - 30 seconds, then redirect the pup for what is appropriate to chew on. A chew toy, or better yet, play fetch. If there are 2 things that puppies live for it's the want to play and food!

- 5) *Use lots of treats when training and do several short training sessions per day. The handouts go over teaching sit, fetch, stay, etc.... These things are called 'food reward based training'. Use food/treats to your advantage.*
- 6) *Your pup should be on heartworm prevention every month. I recommend Sentinel. This chewable treat is also a monthly de-wormer for hookworms, roundworms, and whipworms. Sentinel also contains an ingredient called Lufenuron, which is a flea 'birth control' that will not completely protect against flea infestations but will GREATLY reduce your pup's risk of getting an infestation. Sentinel will NOT take care of tapeworms, which they can get from fleas or eating small rodents, but we have dewormer in the office should you ever need that. We encourage YEAR ROUND heartworm prevention.*
- 7) *I also HIGHLY recommend YEAR ROUND flea preventive because we see fleas year round. I strongly encourage the use of NEXGARD. Nexgard is a once a month dose for all dogs in the household. If you have cats - you will need to treat them once a month (we recommend Frontline Plus) in order to prevent infestation. Fleas carry tapeworm, as well as cause FAD, or flea allergy dermatitis, in many dogs. FAD causes a lot of discomfort and can be very expensive to treat.*
- 8) *Your pup should have at least one session of vigorous exercise each day. This is best done in the morning and evening as to tire the pup out before being left in its crate for a period of time. Plenty of exercise helps to prevent the development of behavioral problems.*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the clinic (309)639-2255 or send me an email at williamsfieldveterinaryservice@gmail.com

Enjoy your new puppy!! I hope the things in this puppy pack helps you in some way.

Good luck,

Dr. Janelle