

New Puppy



So you have a new puppy. What do you do? Below are a few things that are recommended. There are many more but this will be a starting point.



1. Do not upon arrival introduce your PON to the whole house. It would be like dropping a child in the middle of a shopping mall. Pick a small cozy area (recommend a crate also) and gradually allow them to explore a little more at a time.
2. Do remember puppies are “babies” and they get tired. Nap time every few hours is a must. It is recommended to take puppy out on lead to go (stand in one place), feed, go back out on lead to finish, play initially for approximately 30 minutes, go back out, take a nap, etc. Play time can grow as pup grows. If pup plays outside first, will do that and come in house and go.
3. Teach your puppy you can handle EVERY part of it--ears, tummy, feet, etc. If you are planning on doing toenails, bathing, etc., start handling right away and make it a pleasant experience. Make sure you are in charge and not the puppy even though he may not like it a first. Be patient and keep it pleasant.
3. Teach your puppy to soft mouth. Place your hands in the mouth and play a little with it. If the pup bites down too hard yell **ouch** and totally ignore it for 15 minutes as the mother would do. Children tend to say ouch if something hurts so that is why you use that word. This teaches the pup not to bite on human flesh.
4. Teach the puppy it is okay to take food and /or toys away from it any time you want. Don't do it as a tease but remember children may do this and your PON has to know that it is okay.
5. When the pup is sleeping, wake it suddenly as if someone had tripped or fallen over it. This way if a young child or adult for that matter accidentally trips over the pup it won't automatically strike back thinking it is being attacked. Just apologize and say sorry, etc.
6. Sit down with your family and make up the rules for the puppy. **ALL** members of the family need to adhere to these rules or proper behavior will not be accomplished. These PONS are smart and will learn very quickly to challenge the weak link. It's also a great family activity.