

HOW TO CHOOSE, LIVE WITH AND TRAIN A PUPPY (3/13/2024 edition®)

By

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INTRODUCTION

This Manual cannot possibly problem solve or answer every question you might have. We are very hopeful it will, however, answer most of your questions. If you have a training issue with your puppy, we highly recommend that you call your breeder first. Your breeder is the most familiar with the genetics in your pup and can oftentimes give you great advice. If they are unable to assist you, please ask your breeder if they mind if you give us a call to allow us to assist you with training issues. You can also consult a behavior specialist. Or even better make an appointment with a training facility at which the instructor has titles on many breeds of dogs where you can join a class or take private lessons.

We are going to talk about "choosing" a pup, then "living with it" and then "training" it. The most critical step you can make is choosing a pup that fits not only your needs, but also the expectations and needs of your family. You need to choose one that can adapt with ease to your environment and lifestyle, and one that can **WITH TRAINING AND CONDITIONING** live up to your competition goals or exercise regime. This is a 50/50 partnership between you and the pup and you must research, commit and follow through on your part to make this partnership viable.

Your pup upon arrival at around 8 weeks of age will immediately assess your family, pick out the pack leader within your family, and probably take charge of its environment from the get-go. It's your job to fairly and to adequately teach this young new addition to your four-footed as well as two-footed family how it fits into the pack order, your environment, and your lifestyle. You are to act as a leader, being fair, clear, loving and concise in your corrections and directions.

CHOOSING YOUR PUP

If choosing to adopt a puppy from rescue, please take the time to do the puppy testing listed in this manual. That testing is feedback on areas that may need work, or exposure, or more understanding, compassion or patience in your potential journey with your pup. If not interested in having or raising a puppy, check out the rescue organizations. They oftentimes have a superb rescued adult in need of a loving home. They can give you feedback on the strengths and weaknesses, maybe even the background on the adult. They have to be approved by the rescue organizations so you can feel comfortable in working with them. The folks doing rescue will often assist you with training and raising a puppy, or teaching that adult addition and you to adapt to each other more quickly, safely, and appropriately. A few rescue organizations are listed at the end of this manual. You can get an ILP, or LEP, as applicable if you wish to compete with your non-registered rescue.

If desiring a registered, purebred puppy, with known information on parentage, I am going to talk to you a bit about the importance of genetics, performance & temperament testing, structure testing, health clearances and your pup's breeder, especially if choosing a four-footed companion for future competition. These six things figure into you making a wise choice in bringing home that new addition. Pick a breeder who: 1) elects to have a lifetime relationship with you, 2) does health clearances on their breeding stock, 3) gives written health guarantees on their pups, 3) is active in the breed's registry, 4) is active in the discipline in which you wish to compete, and 6) who will take the pup back or at a minimum help you re-home it if it doesn't fit into your family.

- ✓ **GENETICS.** Behind each dog are lots of ancestors. These ancestors give us feedback on health, structure, temperament, and capability. By studying the pedigree behind any dog, we can accumulate a lot of useful information. If your puppy is purebred, the breeder of your pup should be giving to you at a minimum a 5-generation pedigree. That pedigree should contain the registered names of ancestors, together with titles earned if applicable, colors, and dentition and health clearances plus health issues (if known). A reputable breeder will furnish you with copies of all health clearances on the sire and dam to your pup, along with a copy of the eye clearance on your pup. Yes, pups should have their eyes cleared some time between the 6th and 8th week by a certified ophthalmologist. There are serious health issues in many breeds, such as: cataracts, dysplasia, epilepsy, hypothyroidism, immune suppression, etc. Without adequate feedback from your breeder, you will not know the genetic health risk you are taking in purchasing your pup. Like most of us, you have a budget. You need to adequately figure into your budget any well care for your pup. Most people only figure in annual boosters or a spay/neuter fee, possibly even a tooth cleaning now and again. Most don't figure in hip replacement, cataract surgery, thyroid treatments, epilepsy treatment, other screenings & well care, training classes, etc. Know what you can afford and commit to both timewise and dollarwise. You are always taking a risk but you can lessen that risk by choosing wisely and getting health guarantees from your breeder. Then you need to take adequate and appropriate well care of your pup. It's wise for you to take the time to join an obedience class to enhance social skills and evolve communication between you and your pup for daily living.
- ✓ **PERFORMANCE & TEMPERAMENT TESTING:** What do you plan to do with your pup? If you plan to compete in obedience, then choose a pup who retrieves, who likes to interact with a human, who has a high drive to please, a good temperament, and one not so soft it cannot take a directional cue (what they consider to be a correctional cue). If

you plan to work stock, then choose a pup with the drive to take on challenges without fear, one assertive enough to be a leader, but one biddable enough to accept that you are its partner, preferably one whose parents worked stock on a ranch or have titled in stock work. If you plan to compete in conformation, choose a pup structurally and physically correct that meets the breed standard, one that self stacks four-square and raises that head up and says "Look at me." If you plan to do search and rescue or scent work, choose the pup that already uses its nose, either by air or by ground, to find things. If you plan to do dock diving, get a pup who likes being in the water. If choosing for agility, choose a pup unafraid of obstacles and solidly turning and moving on its feet. If choosing for rally, dance or trick training, get a pup who likes to be with you and readily loves to learn new things. Then condition and educate yourself so you can keep up with your chosen pup.

- ✓ If you already own one dog and are adding this pup to your family, don't choose the pup that is beating up its littermates. If you have children, choose from a line of dogs that is compatible with children. Educate your children, your children's friends, so that the pup is treated with respect, love, and fairness. Pups need naps, just like children.
- ✓ We have over the years learned a great deal about puppy testing and what rings true and what does not, how to interpret results more effectively. **Our puppy test utilized by us came to be as the result of feedback given to us on pups we have placed based on different tests we have given over the years. We think we now have a pretty accurate puppy test for placing pups in compatible homes.**

Our performance test here in our kennel is given at 7.5 weeks and covers the following:

1) FOLLOWING THE TESTER: The tester walks around and calls the pup; the pup should follow and/or come when called. This indicates a desire to be with a human.

2) RETRIEVING: Retrieving stuffed toys, a small wooden or plastic dumbbell or small leather and/or metal article. (The retrieve indicates the desire to fetch, to bring back, and to interact with the tester on items of differing textures.)

3) TUG-A-WAR: Playing tug-a-war with an item of the tester's choice. Remember to NEVER yank a toy out of a pup's mouth; this is hard on teeth. (This gives us feedback on the dominance of a dog plus their drive to interact.)

4) NOISE SENSITIVITY: We use stuffed animals that sing loudly, or play weird noises on-going, those that possibly shake or move. The tester allows the pup to react and then recoup and measures the time it

takes the pup to be accepting or non-accepting of such a noise. (This tells us if a certain cross or pup has a problem with loud noises. Those that do would obviously not be good candidates for competition venues with loud noises as a distraction or environments in which machinery or other equipment is on-going. Having said this, often you can choose a competitive environment that is quieter – no popping metal roofs, trains going by blowing whistles, planes or helicopters overhead, or mechanical machinery interfering like tractors, mowers, etc. – pups can actually be acclimated to such noises with patience and proper exposure.)

5) CRADLING: The tester holds the puppy like a baby upside down in their arms. If the tester talks to the pup, it should look the tester in the eye. If the tester scratches or rubs the pup's stomach, the pup should remain in the tester's arms comfortably with minimal struggle. (This is a 30 second test, but sometimes can be a longer test as we give a puppy the opportunity to settle. If a pup struggles, shows the whites of its eyes, or screams, odds are this is a very dominant pup and it will be difficult for a beginning dogowner to train and is possibly not the right fit for a person desiring an easy-going competitive partner.)

6) OBSTACLES: We ask our pups to walk on different terrains and over differing obstacles in their path. This tells us how out-going, trusting, and fearless they are of their environment and things they might come across in their daily lives – like logs, wet grass, puddles, ladders on the ground, etc.

7) PUPPY TUNNEL: We ask our pups to go through a tunnel. We toss a piece of bait or a toy into the tunnel and encourage the puppy to go through the tunnel. This tell us how the pup will react to training motivators of food or toys and how trusting they are of us when we ask them to do a specific task or approach a new area. The pups are allowed to freely play around the tunnel and often will go through it on their volition (or even over it and haul it off).

7) SENSE OF SMELL: While the pup is not looking, we take a piece of bait and without making a big mess, track it about 3' across a floor, hiding the bait underneath a box. We place the pup at the beginning of the trail and we then see if the pup drops its nose or raises it nose and follows the track to the box. We then raise the box and give the puppy the treat. (This tells us if a pup has a good shot at being a search and rescue or search and seizure trainee or possibly a competitive tracking partner.)

NOW, HAVING shared our puppy testing with you, I need to clarify that no amount of testing can take the place of what the breeder observes on a daily basis. The breeder should give you feedback on how the pup plus the pup's sire and dam behave with littermates or packmates

and if the pup, sire or dam challenge, are subservient, or readily accepting of human contact. This is invaluable feedback for you to use in choosing your puppy. Your pup mentally should have the drive and temperament to fit into your environment and/or competitive plans, and that of your family. You need to realize that the environment in which you place your pup, the methods you use to train your pup, the pups' human packmates and four-footed packmates, even the training facility you choose, will all effect and shape the personality of your pup. A pup can quit fetching in a home that never plays fetch with the pup. A pup can become dominant in a home that has no pack leader. A pup can become fearful in a home with other dogs that pick on it, children that are allowed to abuse it, humans that scream at it, etc.

REMEMBER: Testing is feedback only. You'll use it to shape, correct, expose, train, house and raise that puppy armed with more knowledge of that pup's strengths and weaknesses so you can be fair. A pup will often change personality based on its environment, its pack family, exposures, health, and your ability to fairly and adequately communicate.

- ✓ **STRUCTURE TESTING:** If you desire to later do flyball, frisbee, cross country skiing/skijoring, work stock, compete in agility, hiking, jogging, or do other things similar, you need to choose a pup that has very sound structure. It is unfair to ask your pup to do things with you and for you that it is not physically capable of doing safely. To ask it to do so can risk permanent injury to your pup. It could even result in your pup's death. It will most undoubtedly result in disappointment to you as the two of you won't be a match in your capabilities. Further it can result in vet bills for a blown cruciate, back injury, toe injury, and even a broken neck or death if you are not fair and appropriate in what you ask your pups to do *after those growth plates close*. Yes! *Let those growth plates close and don't get in a rush for jumping, quick turns, etc.* If you plan to compete in conformation, you'll need a pup that at a minimum has no disqualifications that would negate it competing. Read the breed standard and know what are disqualifications, faults (both minor and major), and learn what is correct and incorrect movement, and most importantly realize that you factor into the promotion of your dog. You'll need to know how to groom, how to properly gait your dog, how to present your dog, and also how to lose without blaming your dog or its breeder. You'll need to keep your dog in mint condition: coat, mental, and physical. Many pups go through gangly periods. Due to their genetics, some pups mature physically at 6 months (but doesn't mean the growth plates are closed), whereas others don't mature until age four and even five years of age. You cannot and should not compare your pup to

someone else's pup. Some pups are quick maturing mentally and others need time to develop, some even up to two years of age. You need to be realistic in your expectations: *In what task you are asking your pup to do and In what discipline you are asking it to compete.* Pups can be tested at 8 weeks for strengths and weaknesses insofar as structure; this test is not a sure bet as the environment and the things you ask a pup to do factor into its physical and mental development.

One needs to remember that environment and exposure can wreak havoc on the best structure. Allowing your pup to jump, twist and turn repeatedly, reside in too small a crate, constantly pace or climb the fence in a dog run, etc. can adversely affect the structure of your pup, even resulting in permanent damage.

If you never trim the nails on your puppy, the pup cannot walk correctly. Bones can be affected as the pup walks crooked on broken nails. Nails should be trimmed a minimum of every two weeks. You can use a nail clipper or a dremmel. Trim the hair on the bottom of the pads. Also, trim the hair around the privates. This alleviates deposits sticking in the coat. Trim excess hair around the ears to alleviate knots. And brush that puppy. It may not need to be brushed to remove much hair or dirt at this young age, but it needs conditioned to being brushed. And choose an appropriate brush, one that is adequate and fair to the coat. You'll probably need more than one style – I like several brushes plus a wide comb so I always have on hand the one appropriate. I get my pups used to blow dryers at an early age. I have an adult who rolls in grass, picking up all kinds of debris, and that dryer comes in handy for alleviating him bringing in debris into my house. Coats change throughout the seasons and throughout the lifetime of the dog, plus if a dog is altered, or in heat, or had a litter of pups. Watch hot dirt, cement, and paved lots – never walk or house your pup on any terrain that is too hot to hold your hand on for 60 seconds.

Growth plates close at different times in the pup's first two years of life. It's your job to police your pup's environment just as you would your child's environment and keep it safe and appropriate for the age level and structural development of your pup.

It is also your responsibility to feed a good grade of dog food, compatible to your dog's needs physically and mentally. Physically means its muscle mass, weight maintenance, energy level necessities, and its coat condition. We recommend and feed dog foods where meat is the first ingredient (not by products or meal). Grains are fine in dog food but choose what works for your dog – we prefer oats or rice as the grain in our dog food. We have friends who feed raw diets. Be sure the meat has been in the freezer and then remove it to feed it, otherwise you'll risk

your pup getting worms (trust me; you'll see them and you'll need the vet to advise you on what wormer to use).

We give a puppy vitamin, which includes some ester c. We provide fresh, clean water daily.

If a pup refuses their food, there may be something wrong with that bag of food so trust your pup's instinct. Smell the bag to see if there is mold or the dog food smells stale. Look on line to see if there is a recall of that dog food. Your pup can be allergic to certain ingredients and has no way other than refusal or illness to let you know. You may have to take your pup to the vet to discuss and discover the most appropriate foods or additives. Store dog food in its package in a bin. That package protects the dog food. Do not store the dog food in a hot garage or building. You can add water to dog food, soaking it and thereby giving your pup more hydration.

- ✓ **HEALTH CLEARANCES:** A responsible breeder will have at a minimum done the following health clearances: 1) hip clearance and 2) eye clearance. They should have in hand a certificate indicating a passable hip rating from either the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals or PennHip. They should have an eye clearance issued by a certified ophthalmologist that is current within one year of the breeding on sires & dams eight years and under. They should additionally provide you with an eye clearance on the pup and have done one on every pup in the litter. Doing only your pup doesn't give you or them adequate feedback on the genetics of your pup should you use it in your breeding program. You need feedback on its siblings plus, plus its five-generation family background and even oftentimes those behind that five-generation. Know if your pup is the result of a linebreeding or outcross. You can ask the breeding coefficient. This is invaluable feedback for knowing which traits both physically and mentally were bred towards or away from in the genetic tree of your pup by your breeder. Other clearances that are valuable to you in choosing your pup are: clearances on 1) thyroid on sire or dam, 2) elbows for dysplasia, 3) MDR1 which discloses if your pup might be allergic to certain drugs, an anesthesia, or flea/tick protections, and 4) DNA certification evidencing parentage (this last one is now pretty standard for most breeders). Personally, I think the MDR1 is one of the most important tests. A pup that has two parents who are MDR1 normal/normal will also be normal/normal. These feedbacks are invaluable to your vet. If the sire or dam were not tested, then get the MDR1 test on your pup. Info on that is at the end of this manual.
- ✓ **YOUR PUP'S BREEDER:** If you are lucky enough to get a breeder that takes an interest in you and your pup, relish that breeder. In order for a breeder to enhance their breeding program, they seek feedback. A

breeder should be willing to answer any and all your questions or refer you to someone who can do so. They should house all their dogs in a safe, loving, caring environment and follow up on all pups from their kennel on a regular basis. They should constantly educate themselves and their buyers, as practical, on an on-going basis. They should adhere to the code of ethics of their breed registry, do health clearances on their breeding stock, and advise buyers of any health issues that come up in a sire or dam or their offspring. They should take back or help place unwanted pups or adults from their kennel. In our opinion, dams should not be bred back-to-back more than once, nor should they be bred over eight years of age, nor should they be bred under two years of age. Know the age of the sire and dam to your pup and how many litters they have put on the ground. Sires should be bred wisely and to those dams that compliment them insofar as structure, temperament and capability. The breeder should be able to explain to you why they crossed a certain sire to a certain dam. The breeder should do something with their dogs other than just breed them, i.e., competition, search & rescue, assisted living therapy, ranch work, etc. They should have adequate housing, proper well care, and do the required recordkeeping to keep themselves in good standing with their breed registry, their city, county and state. A breeder should provide you with: a) buy/sell contract, b) pedigree on your pup, c) registration papers as applicable, d) proof of health clearances on sire and dam, e) copy of a pup's eye clearance (many breeders don't clear a pup's eyes) so you may not get this one, and f) furnish you with the shot/worming record for the pup while in their care. Please remember that just as your eyes significantly change throughout your lifetime, so will your pup's eyes. So have a professional check your pup's eyes if they exhibit sight issues and certainly if you plan to breed that pup after it turns age two. A breeder should answer your questions about the sire, dam and pup's littermates and discuss with you your plans for housing and well care of the pup.

- ✓ When researching your pup, take the time to research its breeder also. **Remember your breeder cannot guarantee you a perfect pup anymore than you can guarantee the breeder you are a perfect person, trainer and dogowner.**

You are now armed with lots of information. Be advised that the breeder of your pup will also arm themselves with lots of information to be sure you are the "right home" for the pup. Many breeders have questionnaires for you to answer. Others simply ask you pertinent questions to ascertain that you will give a safe, loving environment to the pup they have bred. Some will visit your home prior to placing a pup with you; they'll interview your entire family. Be prepared to honestly

answer all their questions so that they can do their part to ensure both you and your pup have a "happy everafter." Be thankful the breeder is responsible and caring. Your relationship with the breeder is of paramount importance. You both need to stay in touch for the lifetime of your dog. The feedback you give to the breeder on your pup is invaluable in their breeding program. They should be informed of health issues or temperament issues or training issues timely so they can assist you. You need to be realistic in your expectations. You need to be honest with the breeder about issues where compromise is not acceptable. ***If you are unhappy with your pup, return it to the breeder so it can be placed in a more appropriate home and environment. If you are unable to do this, then ask the breeder to work with you in finding a new home. If you are unable to do this, then ask the rescue organizations to assist you in finding a suitable home.*** You have taken on the responsibility of adding a new life to your family. If this new addition doesn't fit in, you need to be fair to the pup in placing it appropriately and timely with another family more suited to its needs. ***If you have done nothing to train this pup and are placing it, take responsibility for shortchanging this pup in quickly obtaining a new home. Well-adjusted pups are easier to re-home than those with issues or those who have not had adequate training or well care.***

LIVING WITH A PUP

"Consistency and patience trains dogs." This is a quote my husband uses regularly in his stockdog clinics and camps. I concur wholeheartedly.

Your life is about to be invaded. You have some work to do to get ready. It is yours and your family's responsibility to help the pup adjust and fit in happily and safely with its new family and environment. This is the formative period, when a bond is formed, when a relationship is developed, and when rules are established. It's critical you take this period in your puppy's life seriously and that you take the time to make it a positive start in their life.

The food treat used for rewarding a pup is most commonly called "cookie." I take a small piece of bait, say the word "cookie", and hold it above my pup's head and let the pup raise its head and take the bait. The reason I want the pup raising that head is because I want it looking up at me. Eventually I will be the best reward, not the bait (well, let's hope!). If you drop food on the ground, the pup spends all its time sniffing the ground for more treats. If you feed a treat that falls apart, this will happen also. Choose your cookie treat wisely. You can make a treat, use string cheese (watch the salt in cheese – lunch meat is also too high in

salt), or purchase treats (be sure they are small and soft). I can break in half most small treats so-as not to ruin my pup's appetite. Too many treats can cause tummy upset or diarrhea. I don't like preservatives, wheat or corn in my dog's treats. Some dogs react to such things so I start at the get-go giving my pups a healthy plus affordable treat. I learn which are their favorite and which they are not interested in. I periodically use string cheese as a treat (Mozzarella is the lowest in salt and thus the safest).

I incorporate toys into training from the get go – soft, long, safe tug toys (not the ones that are ropes that get stringy, as strings ingested could cause a vet visit), small squeaky toys or stuff toys for fetch or catch, a holey ball that I've attached a thick string to so I can swing it or toss it, etc. You don't want your pup only working for bait.

You must train your puppy to do one thing at a time. Don't multitrain until the pup is a bit older. The pup needs to focus on the task at hand. You can train different things throughout the day. So spread out what you are asking the pup to learn.

Say the pup's name, when it looks up, say "want your cookie?" and Feed. The pup will quickly learn its name and if hearing its name from you will be trusting and happy. Never use the pup's name as a curse word. If you are teaching your pup to come when called, say your pup's name and come. Squat down and look approachable and happy. Then when it comes, say "want your cookie?" and Feed. Eventually the "want your cookie" will go away but you'll continue to reward your pup for looking at and coming to you. You must be a fun, safe human for them to listen to and to want to come to.

ALWAYS quit when the pup is doing something correctly. You can do training sessions several times a day. Spread them out and your pup will enjoy learning and you'll not feel overwhelmed at all you have to teach your young pup. Pup's attention spans are very small so it's important that each session with you be short enough to keep their attention but long enough to accomplish your goal of teaching your pup a certain behavior. Quit when you and the pup are successful. Don't nag! Each pup will differ and you'll have to experiment to know how much your pup can learn before it finds a subject boring or tiring.

The biggest concerns we hear are potty-training issues, mouthing, chewing things up, and not coming when called. Human babies are not pottytrained in one day; it takes time. Human babies don't quit trying to put things in their mouths simply because you've decided they should not do so. Same with puppies. You need to exercise patience and you need to be consistent in the ground rules you set for your pup. At the same time, don't set your pup up to error. Potty the puppy timely, don't give it water right before bedtime, don't leave out your favorite shoes for it to chew up, and don't call the pup when the pup is so distracted the odds are it won't hear you. And don't let your pup have run of the house until it is potty-trained. This means utilizing a puppy gate or portapen and "you" being timely in

letting the pup outside to do its deeds. Pups have to go often so be prepared. Stress and excitement can both trigger leaking. So potty a pup before playing with it and then after playing with it. Before training and after training. Before getting in the crate in the car to go somewhere and after returning. After eating and after drinking. Eventually that bladder will mature and settle on a routine. If you say “good potty” the pup will learn the “potty” word and as an adult will probably go on cue. If you say “potty outside” and then take the pup out to potty, the pup will learn the word “outside.” The vocabulary for a pup is as large as you make it but you must be consistent in your choice of words.

Let's talk about how to get through the next two weeks of your new family addition's life:

A. THINGS TO HAVE ON HAND. Some items to purchase prior to the pup's arrival are:

1) Crate. There are wire crates, mesh crates, and solid crates – plus portapens. Your pup will probably eat a mesh crate and can climb out of a portapen without a cover on the top.

SIZE & CONTENTS OF A CRATE: Crates should house a pup comfortably but not be so large so-as to serve as a potty area for the puppy. Many folks like to put in doggy beds, stuffed toys, chew bones, etc. You need to be aware that your pup will probably demolish the bed and chew up the toys and possibly swallow part of the chew bone. We like to use no bedding for starting out our pups in crate training. We provide a metal water dish, which is securely wired to the crate door - this alleviates the pup turning the water dish over or eating or chewing on a plastic water dish. We provide a chew toy that is puppy safe (one that will not break apart and one that we observe on-going for wear and tear so we can toss it timely). We'll add in a fleece frisbee (not a stuffed fleece toy) that the pup can snuggle up to, chew on or lie near. But be aware if the pup eats the fleece, it could result in an impaction – every pup will differ in what they eat, destroy, or treasure. Pups have been known to rip out those squeakers from toys and swallow the squeaker. These type toys should be played with when you can supervise your pup. If possible, its nice if this fleece has the smells of its littermates or of you in lieu thereof.

You can utilize a pee pad if using a portapen. Some will train quickly to the pee pad and then refuse to pee outside. So then you'll be moving that pee pad outside and eventually and hopefully tossing it. And then there are those pups who simply destroy the pad with great glee and fail using it altogether.

2) Collar, Flexi Lead & Leash. We put a buckle collar on our pups, a lightweight one, not too wide. We allow them to get used to the collar prior to beginning leash breaking. We like the collar to fit loosely enough that if the pup catches it, it will come off but not so loose the pup can get it

caught in their mouth. We don't want a collar that can get caught in the crate wires, or water dish, or fencing, or heating vents. We like our phone number and the pup's name or our kennel name to be on the collar for identification purposes. After a period of 48 hours, we attach a flexi-lead to the pup's collar and allow the pup to go anywhere it pleases. We are simply on the other end of the flexi-lead. After three days of this, we attach a leash to the collar. We'll talk later about how we leash-break our puppies. Our leash is light weight and about 6' long by the way and pups drag it around at first.

3) Toys and training items. You need toys for your pup that are too large to swallow, those with no parts that can be chewed off and swallowed. We like to put together a toy box and place it at one location in the room in which the pup is allowed to run freely. In our toy box, we have squeaky toys, fleece toys, chew bones, tug toys, and a ball – we like TUFF toys.

B. READYING YOUR HOUSE: You must puppy proof or not complain. Your pup will eat anything and everything it finds. It's your job to teach your pup what it can or cannot chew and we'll talk about how to do this later. If you leave valuable items within your pup's reach without your pup having been trained, it is your fault if the items are demolished or damaged. We like babygates. We like to partition off a section of the house so that the pup doesn't have free run of the entire house. Doing so makes potty training, leave it, and observation of the pup so much more pleasurable and doable.

C. READYING YOUR YARD: Your fertilizer can make your pup sick. It's not only your pup getting into the bag that makes it sick, it's your pup walking on a freshly fertilized lawn. A dog ingests chemicals via eating, via smell and through the pads of their feet. Therefore, any chemicals you use to alleviate or kill weeds or bugs, fertilizers you use to enhance plant growth, and bark or rock you use to enhance appearance are items that may impair your dog's health or even cause its demise. Educate yourself about the products you use in your yard.

We like a fenced play area for pups – safe fencing, preferably covered pen unless we are supervising, proper bedding if leaving the pup in a yard, protection from elements (wind, dirt, snow, mud, rain, and even the sun), etc.. A pup can easily wander off, be stolen, get run over, dig out and escape, climb over and escape, be picked up by a bird or coyote even in the yard, sneak into livestock, eat sticks or rocks, ... Check your fencing and yard to be sure it's adequate and safe for your pup's needs. Some pups dig, others climb, and many jump. We do not advocate that you tie your pup to a post or tree. Many a pup has wrapped itself up to injure permanently their growth plates or die of dehydration. That pup also is at risk for intruding dogs to attack it. Some pups have been attacked by ants, bees, ticks, and even snakes, even been covered in fleas. Mosquitoes cause heart worm. Know your yard. Know what protections you need for your pup.

D. READING YOUR FAMILY: This pup will become a pack member. Its pack is you and your entire family plus any others (birds, cats, other dogs, fish, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, etc.) that reside with you. It is important the human pack family work as a unit to welcome the pup. The family should coordinate training words and methodologies so that the pup is not getting mixed signals and becoming distrustful or confused. Children should be educated about how to treat a pup. Pups should be observed at all times when children and/or other dog pack members are interacting with the pup. You need to intervene timely and correct any misbehavior as it occurs so all pack members know who is the alpha (you) and all pack members are respectful of one another. You need to protect your young pup from venturing into corrals where it could be injured by livestock. Or running out a door into traffic where it could get ran over. Please understand that crating or penning your pup is not cruel; it's often lifesaving. Your entire family should be consistent, wise and fair in knowing what is right and wrong to keep your pup safe.

E. BUYING DOG DISHES: If your pup is to be an inside and outside dog, you'll need two water dishes and one feed dish. Don't be lead astray by the cutely designed plastic dishes - your pup will destroy these, possibly ingest part of them and create a whole new hole in your wallet at the vet's. Pups frequently play in water. I recommend that you tie securely the outside water dish to a fence or post so that it cannot be turned over. Many a pup has died of dehydration from lack of water. Water freezes quickly or heats up in metal dishes. The water dish should be a material that if gnawed doesn't break off and get ingested. It should be regularly cleaned and even disinfected. Water left out in the sunshine accrues algae build up but the sunshine does kill germs whereas if the water dish is situated in the shade, it grows bacteria quicker. If you use bug sprays on your children, bug sprays on your dog, bug sprays in your yard, then be aware the spray can drift into the dog water and contaminate it. In the house, I recommend a water dish that cannot be turned over. Otherwise, you'll be cleaning your floor often. Put the water dish in a location that if the pup plays in the water dish, it won't be problematic. Most pups outgrow the need to splash in the water dish as they grow older so be patient during this stage.

F. DOGGY PANTS FOR MALES/FEMALES: If visiting the inlaws, take doggy pants with you and put them on your pup while it is in the house. This will alleviate accidents occurring and the pup losing its popularity. You can put these on pups that have weak bladders also. Many pups' bladders will leak for the first year of their life anytime they are excited or nervous. These pants come in handy for pups that have been isolated in a kitchen or washroom (floors that are easily mopped) and are now joining the family in the livingroom (one with carpet). You can slip on the pants and not worry about any accidents the pup might have until you are certain the pup has reliably graduated potty training. You'll be surprised the amount of spousal arguing that can be avoided by simply taking

measures to alleviate problems rather than risking incurring them. Also, if your pup is altered (spayed or neutered), sometimes a bladder will leak. Talk to your vet; there are meds for this – don't get mad at your dog as it's not anything your dog can control.

G, GROOMING SUPPLIES: Soft dog brush, rake, comb, & nail clippers of your choice. You'll need to brush your pup with the soft brush at first, getting it used to being groomed, handled and fussed over. Then as it ages and as applicable, use the rake to pull out dead undercoat, get tangles out of pants and remove knots from behind the ears. Get your pup used to having its feet handled right away. While holding it, massage the feet. Trim the puppy nails weekly if possible, at a minimum bi-weekly. Never cut past the quick. You'll need a doggy shampoo safe for use on a puppy. Later you'll even brush your puppy's teeth, using a doggy toothbrush and doggy toothpaste. If showing, get your puppy used to the grooming table. Place it on the table, feed treats, groom it and teach it to stack.

F. VETERINARIAN ON CALL: Pick your veterinarian. Seek one that handles your pup with love and patience. Find one familiar with your breed of dog. Choose one that will take the time to answer your questions and concerns. Choose one respectful of your breeder's advice. Please know that one of the calls most received by vets is the one that says, "My pup is running a fever." Be advised that when puppies are teething, they can frequently run a fever, get diarrhea, and just not feel well. They will loose those puppy teeth and you need to be sure your toddler doesn't eat the teeth☺ Pups can run a fever when teething. They can get diarrhea. Get a vet's opinion if a pup's teeth are going crooked or puppy teeth not leaving and being replaced properly.

Your pup will need an annual well check plus applicable boosters, flea and tick protection, and worming. Some Australian Shepherds have severe reaction to products containing ivermectin. I recommend you avoid those products. Talk to your breeder and know what products and/or vaccines or medicines have adversely affected those dogs in your pup's pedigree. Have your vet note those products and/or vaccines or medicines in your dog's folder. Upon receiving or picking up your pup, you can have your pup evaluated by your vet, schedule upcoming boosters and well care, discuss your vet's recommendations for worming and flea and tick protection versus your breeder's recommendations. Ask your vet what you should watch out for insofar as diseases in your pup so you can timely seek help should you observe any of these signs. Check your pup's stools regularly for parasites and seek immediate attention from your vet for the applicable wormer for your pup. You can call your breeder and discuss anything recommended by your vet that you found questionable or contrary to the breeder's advice. You can schedule the neutering or spaying of your pet at the age you, the breeder, and the vet concur is the best time frame for all involved. Neutering or spaying your pup will not cause your pup to be less than it can be insofar as energy, personality and capability; that's an old wive's tail. Nuetering or spaying too young can sometimes

affect your dog's adult height, causing it to be taller. Neutering and spaying can oftentimes positively affect hormonal swings, moodiness, roaming, assertiveness, and nervousness. Shedding is much less on spayed females. Talk to the breeder about the best age to neuter or spay your pup. If you alter, be ready to be home with your pup, supervise it, and exercise it appropriately so recovery goes smoothly and safely.

G. RESOURCES: Purchase or go to your local library and check out books on your breed of dog. Read many books on the raising and caring of a puppy or adult so that you are armed with many methods of training methodologies and approaches. If you plan to compete, purchase or check out books on the discipline in which you wish to participate. Research training facilities and instructors in your area. Visit a class prior and observe to see if the facility and instructor are a good fit for you and your dog. Join your dog's breed registry. The registry should have educational information both in pamphlet form and on-line, a magazine chocked full of useful training tips and advice, and a code of ethics for breeders and competitors. Arm yourself with all you can to be a better owner.

H. PUP IDENTIFICATION: I recommend you microchip or tattoo your pup with a permanent identification number. If your pup becomes lost, runs away, or is stolen, this is useful in information for the authorities in getting your pup returned to you. Put ID info on the collar itself. They make collars now that can track your dog's movement. Don't house your dog where it can be easily stolen (people reaching over a fence).

THE FIRST TWO WEEKS WITH YOU

I use the word "AAACK" for misbehavior or stopping an action that causes pain or discomfort. I prefer it over "no." "No" is a word I use for situations in which the pup can become injured or put itself at peril. It's a word that I want the pup to acknowledge immediately and react to instantaneously. If I overuse the word "no", the pup will desensitize itself to the word and it will carry no weight when I need to put it to use. When training the commands of sit, down, stand, etc. I use the word "WHOOPS" for errors. This tells the pup it is wrong but it doesn't transfer to the pup displeasure such as "AAACK" or "No" would do. When learning, one must never be angry at their pup. If you yell at your pup, your pup cannot hear the commands - it is too busy listening to the tone of your voice and worrying. You need to growl at your pup when you are displeased, lower your tone, and use the appropriate lingo. You don't need to have discussions with your pup. Long conversations go in one ear and out the other. Use simple command words. Give the command, expect the command action, assist as applicable, praise and treat. Be sure all family members do the same. If you are happy with your pup and you raise your voice in happiness, your pup will become energized and

might get too excited to realize it did anything correctly. You need to teach in a calm voice, a friendly tone, and a trusting manner so the pup can learn. Don't train when you are stressed, ill or upset. Don't train in an environment that is overstimulating to the pup. You'll need to have the pup's attention.

Your pup can learn many verbal commands and if you change the pitch and volume of these commands, they become confusing to the pup. Thus, watch your tonetic. Females tend to get high pitched in excitement; Males tend to get loud. So you'll have to control your emotions; emotions can impede training and sometimes stop it altogether.

Puppy training starts the day you bring the pup home. Let's talk first about potty training:

A. POTTY TRAINING: You'll need to potty your puppy right after it drinks water, right after it finishes eating, right after it plays, and immediately before placing your pup to bed at nighttime and when it wakes up. Pups oftentimes have to go to the bathroom during the night so don't expect your pup to make it all the way through the night the first week of its life with you. Simply let the pup out and put it right back to bed. If you have a bone you can give it to gnaw on, it'll keep the pup busy till it is ready to fall asleep again. Sometimes the pup simply needs to know you are still around and everything is okay and it will fall back to sleep. Regarding the puppy's bladder, if the kids are walking into your yard from school, or the spouse is returning from work, you'll want to let the pup outside to greet them. Excited pups often piddle upon sight of the ones they love. Please remember that pups being scolded or ones that are nervous or unsure often piddle as well – nervous bladders. You'll need to watch your greeting and correcting voice so-as not to upset your pup, causing it anxiety in trusting taking directions (which are corrections to a pup). You from the get-go are establishing a trust relationship.

Some pup's bladders can take a full year to mature. They will often have accidents because they simply cannot hold it in time to ask out or for you to remember to put them out. These type pups will need an alternative potty area. Many pups have been raised on newspaper and will quickly accept that paper is acceptable upon which to do their business. Putting newspaper right by the door helps them learn that eventually you'd like them to go outside to do their duties. You can move the newspaper outside the door as progress is being made. Some people have put a bell on their doors that the pup can hit. If the pup hits the bell, you treat and then let the pup outside to do its duties. This is positive reinforcement for going to the door to ask out, not to scratch on the door, and not to make a noise like barking or whining. They will certainly at some point in time do some false alarms; they'll want the cookie for ringing the bell more than they will want to go outside. Don't chastise them. Be happy they are learning and continue to reward them. Never be angry if they have an accident on the newspaper

or they just might start hiding their accidents in your house. You'll end up finding some nasty surprises every now and again.

Please realize that bladders mature on different timetables. The water, food additives, and exercise all effect potty needs. Factor these in when planning your pup's potty breaks. When you begin crate training your pup, your goal is to lengthen the time your pup can stay in a crate without the necessity to go outside and potty. Just because a pup is four months of age doesn't mean that because the norm for a four month old pup is to hold its bladder for four hours, you're pup will be capable of doing the same. If your pup can hold it only for three, then schedule potty breaks accordingly. You wouldn't appreciate it if your dog asked you to hold your bladder. It's painful. Doing so can also cause bladder infections also.

If your pup is peeing often or leaking urine, take it to the vet. Your pup may have a bladder infection.

If potty training, please don't give your puppy free run of the entire house. It's best to section off a room for the puppy. As the puppy learns not to piddle in that room, you can another room to the puppy's territory.

Follow your puppy outside and say "potty, potty." When the puppy piddles or does it business, you'll say "good potty." You can even treat the dog at this time. The puppy will soon learn that it is good to do its business outside and you'll have a command word that is useful on trips or at dog shows for getting your dog to relieve itself in an area of your choice.

If you treat for your pup doing its business, the pup will return to you after pottying for the treat. This helps alleviate the enticement of a stool as a substitute for dog food. Upon treating your pup, go over and pooperscoop up any deposit and immediately dispose of it. Leaving stools around your yard is an invitation for pup to develop some very bad habits, those of eating its stools and the stools of its packmates. Running at a pup that eats its stools to stop it from eating its stools will make it eat its stool faster. The pup will eventually start hiding its stools in the bushes as it'll be afraid to do its business where you can see it. Say "leave it" and scoop it up. Leave it will be one of the best commands you ever teach your dog and there are instructions for teaching it in this manual.

B. FEEDING: Pups have differing food requirements insofar as quality and quantity. Ask your breeder what they are feeding your pup and try to stay on the same dog food if at all possible. If you change your pup's dog food, mix in the new dog food with the old for the first week. If you change your pup's dog food the first week, you'll also not know if it's the dog food quantity, stress of a new home, your water, parasites, or the pup's slow digestive maturation that are figuring in into the causation. Thus, I recommend no change in dog food for the first week at a minimum. Some comments on feeding your puppy:

- ❖ Feed at the same time every day. This regulates your puppy's appetite. Doing this even when traveling will raise the probability of your pup not going off its food.

- ❖ Feed your puppy after everyone else, humans and other canine pack members. Your puppy is the lowest in pack order and will understand this pack order feeding rule. Later mix up the order on how you feed. We feed our dogs in the same spots; they know their spot and don't bother the other dogs' food dishes or eating spaces. They never know who will be fed first or who will be fed last. They trust us that they won't be left out. We can feed all our dogs at once without any bothering the other.
- ❖ Do not allow your pup to jump or knock the feed dish out of your hands. Use the command "wait" and if needbe, hold your puppy's collar until your pup can safely wait until you place the feed dish on the floor.
- ❖ If your pup insists on knocking the food dish out of your hand, sit down and begin feeding your pup one or two morsels at a time so your pup learns patience and that "you" are in charge of its food.
- ❖ If your pup is gulping down his food and not chewing anything, add water. Eating food floating in water makes the pup eat slower.
- ❖ Remember while your pup is eating to touch the dish, say good dog. Later you'll add a morsel of food to the dish and say good dog. This is to help the pup understand that you may touch its dish, touch its food and it's a good thing to allow to happen. ***NEVER let your children do this. Children have a habit of putting their faces into much of what they do and they could easily get nipped or bitten.*** Puppy teeth are sharp. If your pup nips or growls or tries to nip your hand, holler "AAACK", pop the pup on the nose with your hand and immediately feed the pup a morsel. If the pup takes it without grabbing it, allow the pup to resume eating. If the pup bites your fingers, holler "AAACK" and remove the food dish and sit and feed one morsel at a time to your pup.
- ❖ After your pup is comfortable with all the above-named procedures, you can add a "wait" command as you set the dish on the floor and an "okay" command to go ahead and eat. This instills good eating manners in your pup and continues to make you the alpha food provider. Remember in the wild, the alpha eats first and then the pack follows in pecking order.

C. SLEEP: Pups need lots of sleep, similar to what is required by babies. You need to provide a nice, quiet spot several times a day for naps. Many families forget that puppies are actually tired because the pups just won't slow down to nap. They are, indeed, similar to children in that we must police their energy expenditure and be certain they rest. Some pups don't like to be separated from their pack family (that's the humans and other canine or animals in the family). By putting your puppy down for a nap in a room alone, you're teaching your pup that separation is temporary, the puppy is safe, and you'll return shortly. You can play a radio or turn on a television to keep your pup company if it becomes distressed. Separation anxiety is something we can alleviate or create;

it's a choice. Leaving your pup or situating your pup by barking packmates will create a barking pup. Same for dog shows. No one likes a dog barking in a crate at dog shows so house and teach your pup safely, fairly and appropriately.

D. CRATE TRAINING: You should immediately begin crate training. If crate training is done correctly, your pup will love its crate, will consider it a safe haven, and will volunteer to go into it and take naps of its own volition. Make the crate comfortable by putting in the fleece or towel, a chew bone, some water, and removing distractions that would make staying in the crate tough for the puppy to do. Many people want the crate right in the middle of the family den where everyone can keep a watchful eye on the pup. This can make the pup desire to be out with the family, become family-dependent (in other words won't stay alone in any room without people), and dependent upon lots of noise to sleep. We teach quiet crate time first and later we add distraction crate time. The first two weeks, however, we want our puppy learning to be both dependent and independent. We want the crate to be a place the pup loves to go.

TEACHING A PUP TO GO INTO A CRATE: We toss a teeny piece of bait into the crate as we say the command "In." The pup normally sees the bait and runs in to get it. Later we'll simply move our hand towards the crate and say "in" and our dogs all go easily into their crates; we obviously don't reward our adults each time they go into a crate.

COMING OUT OF A CRATE: We ask our pups to "wait" before they come out of the crate. Teaching this early-on alleviates a dog knocking the crate door into you or bolting into you and knocking you over. When opening the crate door, say "wait" and crack it. If the pup moves quickly to get out, close the door and repeat "wait." Do not close that door on their toes; you can break one. When the pup hesitates, even if only a second, open that door and say "okay." Eventually the pup will wait longer and longer as you open that crate door to let it out. You'll use the "wait" and "okay" commands a lot in the pup's first six months. Remember to "reward in the crate" for waiting. If you reward for getting out of the crate, your pup will think it is being rewarded for leaving the crate. The pup will stop waiting before exiting the crate.

WHERE A CRATE IS SITUATED: Crates should be placed in a draft free environment, i.e., not near a drafty door, in a hot washroom, under an airconditioner, etc. We like to place ours in a room with less foot traffic and noises so the pup can actually get some rest. We move to noisy areas also.

USE A CRATE FOR TRAVELS: Pups love structure and the comforting smells of home. If you travel, take the pup's crate with you.

USE OF A CRATE FOR SAFETY: Those of you who think it is cool for your dog to ride loose in the back of your pickup, please be aware: 1) pickup beds can be very hot or very cold - they can severely injure the dog's pads; 2) pickup beds can be slick - the dog can slide around and quickly

injure itself; 3) your pup can fall out or jump out and maim or kill itself; 4) your pup is subject to the elements (rain, snow, heat, hail, cold) with no protection, 5) anyone can steal your pup, 6) another dog can jump into the back of the pickup and attack your pup, 7) your pup will be severely injured if you wreck. Put a crate in the back of your pickup, tie it down, put water in it and a blanket or crate pad, and take your pup with you safely to your job site, out to check livestock, etc. Those of you who have tied a pup on a long line inside a stock trailer or in the back of a pickup, know that pups have died climbing up & out and jumping or falling over - they have hung themselves. Those of you who thinks it's cool for your pup to ride loose in your automobile, please know that if you wreck, your pup will run off, possibly get runover, possibly bite someone coming to your aide, or be shot by rescue personnel for protecting you. Put a crate in your automobile or use a pet safety harness.

Hot automobiles kill pups, just like they do babies or children. Don't leave your dog locked in a vehicle without adequate ventilation. Please know that many a dog has died of asphyxiation by sticking their head into a drink cup, potato chip bag, cookie box while they were left in a vehicle to do as they please. Keep your vehicles dog-safe. If it's a hot day, leave your dog at home.

THE CRATE AT A DOG SHOW: Please don't put the puppy's crate by a barking dog, aggressive dog, or scared dog. Your pup will pick up on those dog's behaviors and develop some bad habits. Place your pup in a quiet, safe, draft-free spot and walk your puppy often. The pup will be nervous and, therefore, have to go potty more frequently. The crate should not be placed near loud, boisterous children or adults. This is a formative period for the pup; it is your responsibility to make every adventure a positive one. This is a great opportunity for you to socialize your pup but it's also a great opportunity for your pup to pick up disease. We recommend you don't walk your pups around a show site until they have had at least three boosters. Look around the show site and avoid those dogs that are coughing or indicating any type illness. Don't let your puppy scarf up items from the ground or eat all the treats everyone desires to give them. Carry your own treats and have people feed your dog those food treats; this will alleviate diarrhea from diet changes. Don't let your pup drink out of other dog's water dishes; take it back to drink out of it's own dish.

THE CRATE AT THE VET'S OFFICE: Please take the puppy into the vet's office and keep it in its crate. Many a dog germ or disease has been picked up at the vet's office from the floor or a chair or another dog. Everyone finds a puppy cute and will desire to fuss over, hold, and play with your puppy. Diseases are obviously transmitted by air so your puppy can still pick up a disease easily while in their office. You, however, are

doubling the risk by allowing your pup to walk all over a vet's office and interact with other dogs or cats in the waiting area.

CRATE PROTECTION: Some pups will be protective of their crate. They will growl or back up in their crate when strangers approach. This is their safe haven and they don't appreciate intrusions. Think about a dog in the wild. They certainly are not going to invite strangers into their den. You'll need to let your pup know that it is okay for people to be around its crate. As the pup ages, you'll begin moving the crate to the middle of the livingroom. Have your guests feed the pup a cookie while the pup is in its crate. Your pup will learn to trust strangers around its crate. This will be invaluable to you if you plan to take your dog later to dog shows. Many a dog has barked a warning at passersby or lookilooks around its crate and been labeled "aggressive." Proper training can alleviate this label being given to your dog.

E. USE OF A DOG RUN OR BACK YARD: If you choose to house your pup in a dog run, please be sure it is housed in a safe spot (no ant piles, no hornets nests next door, no capability of digging or climbing out, no possibility of other dogs upsetting the puppy, adequate weather protection, water bucket securely tied to the fence, and very importantly disease free ground. We use a truck bed mat liner in our dog pens. We can mop it and remove disease. If it's cold, we can add fresh, clean straw and sprinkle it with cedar shavings. We can then remove soiled or wet bedding. If a pup is housed on dirt, the dirt can eventually become contaminated by the dog's urine and feces or saturated by inclement weather, even frozen cold by the elements. It's much cheaper and less work to remove bedding than it is to remove and replace dirt. Utilization of gravel in a dog run can result in some pups ingesting rocks. You'll want to be certain that the puppy's dog run is puppy-safe. The mesh wire of your dog run should be sufficiently sized so that the pup cannot stick its head through and get it stuck. There should be no wires that if the pup rubbed up against the fence, it could cut itself. There should be no dogs immediately housed nearby to the puppy that they could pull the pup's foot through and chew it off. Your backyard should get the same check-up. Are the plants poisonous to dogs? Is the bark you use poisonous to dogs? Is the fence adequate to keep your puppy in and other dogs out? Does your gate have a lock so that no person can come in and leave it open for your puppy to wander out? Does your yard have shade? Is there a doghouse in which the pup can rest? Can the pup tear up anything of importance? Pups will chew on anything and everything. Are the toys in the backyard safe ones for your pup? You must check regularly the wear and tear of toys.

Please know that most dogs can be yard protective. It is your responsibility to have guests, neighborhood children, and strangers enter your home via the door not directly in the dog's pathway. Children should not be climbing over fences to get into your yard. Neighbors should not be hanging over

walls to call you to the fence. These are intruders in your dog's eyes. You can place a sign at your fence that says, please use the front door. This protects your dog from intruders and your guests from your dog. Many a dog has bitten a child climbing over a wall or gate to enter their friend's backyard. Be fair to your dog and fair to your neighbors and guests.

If you have neighbors that have dogs and these dogs are fence chasing or harassing your dog, put up a solid wall. Make it tall enough that no dog can climb it and go over. Dogs have jumped up to see what is on the other side to be pulled over into the other dog's yard by a bigger dog and then mauled to their death. True stories and I've heard many of them. Protect your dog from intruders of all kinds and don't let your puppy develop bad habits. Fence chasing and barking are quickly established habits that are indeed hard to break.

F. YOUR PUP'S NAME: Begin right away using your pup's name. Every time you speak to it, say the name and immediately treat with a cookie and make a fuss over the puppy. The pup learns that its name is pleasurable and it is rewarded when it recognizes you are talking to it.

G. COME TO NAME: You can also begin teaching "come" immediately. There are several ways to teach come. Here are a few:

a. Call the pup's name and then say come, and treat immediately. If the pup doesn't come, there are several things you can do:

1. Immediately run the opposite direction of the pup (the pup will more than likely run like crazy to follow you, turn quickly and say the pup's name and come and treat).

2. Put a longline on the puppy. Say the pup's name and command "come" and then reel the pup in and treat and praise, saying "good come." You ONLY want to say the command "come" one time but you can say "good come" as many times as you please.

3. Get you a clicker. Say the pup's name and the word come and click the minute the pup looks at you and again as the pup comes towards you and again upon its arrival, and then treat and praise. Do not click if the pup doesn't look at you. Revert to #1.

4. Our pups are taught before they go to their new homes that 2 pans banged together means dinner. We can bang two pans and the pups come running. We add the word "come" and feed them and they are already conditioned that good things happen when they come to the person who called them. They also learn that loud noises are nothing to fear.

5. If you squat down, reducing your size to the pup, and open both arms, grin and call your pup, they normally readily come to this body language. It's friendly and it's down on their level heightwise, less threatening and more inviting.

6. Do not chase a pup that doesn't want to come to you. Do not say "come" and walk towards the pup. Both of these will cause a pup to go away

from you, not to you. When calling a pup, back up, squat down, or turn your back and start walking away. This body language removes the human pressure evidenced to the pup as being scary or threatening. Now, some pups are just hooligans and will find the game of not coming to you great fun. I recommend a long-line be placed on these pups so you can step on it, reel them in and treat & praise them.

7. Any time you call your pup, it MUST come so DO NOT call your pup when you have no reasonable chance of it coming to you. This is setting "you" up for failure and the "pup" up to win. The alpha roles have then been reversed.

Never, never call your pup to punish it. Never call it in anything but a happy tone. Always have a treat (small piece of microwaved hotdog, piece of string cheese, piece of leftover meat that has no barbecue or onions cooked into it, in other words a special treat that is quickly chewed and swallowed - no hard treats for training, please).

If your pup doesn't come, DO NOT alpha roll it. This is a popular punishment among some folks. If I grab you, throw you on your back, and hold you down, will it a) make you mad, b) cause great fear, or c) make you want to run away. Well, it does the same thing to your pup. It certainly does not make them want to come to you. Treat your young pup as you would a child, with respect, with kindness, and with patience. Be a leader, not an abuser.

H. COLLAR: Put that collar on your pup the minute it comes home and let it adjust to the collar for a couple of days. It will scratch at it, walk funny, whine probably, and if the collar is too loose, it'll eat part of it and might even catch its jaw or paw in it. If it is not a proper fit, you need to understand and be fully aware that the collar can come off partly, getting stuck in the dog's mouth and causing choking and panic. Too tight and it inhibits breathing and comfort both. Many a dog turned over to rescue or the dog pound has had a collar literally imbedded in its neck. You MUST check the collar for proper fit often. You must be around your pup while it is adjusting to the collar. If you cannot be around, then leave the collar off, please. If you have more than one pup, Pup A can chew on Pup B's collar and possibly get its jaw stuck in the collar. This can result in a broken jaw for one pup, choking of the other, and/or death as panic is sure to follow. Young pups, like young children, should be supervised. If you're going somewhere and the pup is home alone, or you're putting the pup down for a nap, or you've blocked off your kitchen and are leaving the pup to run freely with no supervision, remove that collar.

Collar condition your puppy. Grab the collar and give a treat. Do it several times and then have other family members do the same. You are conditioning the dog not to turn and nip when the collar is touched or grabbed. Your puppy will like to have its collar touched. Never ever pick up a pup by the collar and hang it!

Irreparable damage can be done to the pup's neck. Never ever yank on a lead attached to a pup's collar; again, damage can be done to the pup's neck.

I. WALK ON FLEXI: After two days of collar, crate, and feed training, you can attach a flexi or long line to your pup's collar. Let your pup go in any direction it pleases. If it reaches the end of the flexi or collar, say nothing. Don't follow the pup and don't say anything. Just stand there and let the pup self-correct. We like starting our pups on a flexi before a leash. If we're traveling, we use a flexi to potty our dogs. We want them leaving our side and freely going anywhere but certainly not pulling us off our feet. A little tension is fine. That way they can potty easily without pottying right beside us. Some dogs won't potty if right beside you and this method alleviates that fear as they won't be clingy or fearful of doing their business. If I plan to do competitive obedience, I teach my pups to heel off leash to a treat, then later add the collar and leash once they heel beside me happily, with attention, and can do so at least 20 feet. I have never failed to get great heeling with this method.

J. RETRIEVE GAMES: Your pup is now conditioned to the flexi or longline. You can now begin tossing toys or items you wish the pup to retrieve. Many pups will go to an item but not pick it up. Tap the ground two times and immediately toss the toy 2'. Grab the toy before the pup can do so if you have a pup that goes to the toy but won't bring it back. The pup will be annoyed that you are getting the toy and the pup isn't getting any opportunity to sniff it or pick it up. Soon the pup will beat you to the toy. If you hoot and holler when a pup reaches the toy but has not picked up the toy, you'll distract the pup from actually following through. Be quiet; the toy is the first focus and you are the second focus. Some pups won't bring the toy back. If you've made them comfortable with the flexi & longline, you simply reel them in once they pick up the toy. Then the next thing you'll teach them is to tug the toy and then release the toy on command word. Tugging is a game of brawn. You must never loose this game. You must always be the initiator of the game. When the pup is older, you shouldn't allow strangers to play tug with your pup. This is a game only for family members. When you say "give, the pup must release the toy. At first you'll have to GENTLY pry the toy out of the pup's mouth. NEVER yank a toy out; you can damage the mouth or injure teeth. Playing unfairly with the pup can teach it to hate retrieving and hate playing tug. The pup must never nip you or bite you while playing tug or "give." If it nips you, holler loudly "AAACK" and pop the nose with the back of your hand and remove the toy. Then immediately resume play. The pup will learn to play fairly. You can tie a string on the toy and then when you toss it, simply pull the toy back to you. Toys in motion entice dogs to pick them up.

K. LEASH BREAKING: I start this after my pup is comfortable with the flexi lead. I attach a 6' soft, thin, preferably leather lead to my puppy's collar. I then start walking. As I walk, I sometimes say "cookie." I reward with a treat. This teaches my puppy to walk on the leash with the head up, rather than ground

scenting or wandering here and there. I want them to learn to focus on me when on a lead. I walk short distances at first, then remove the lead and go back to the flexi. This teaches my pup to differentiate between the two. If doing puppy conformation, my pups have never failed to move on a lead. All I have to do is say "cookie" and they have their head up and are moving right with me waiting for that treat. It's a nice start to your "watch me" games later and the "beginning heel work." When on lead, the dog should know you are part of the picture at all times.

L. SCENT GAMES: We use the puppy scent test method first. We simply scoot a piece of bait across the floor, then drop it under a syrup lid or cup and then ask the puppy to "find it." We'll later put it under varying items. We'll throw in some left and right turns. We'll do this procedure in varying terrains (grass, dirt, kitchen floor, garage floor) so that the pup develops its keen sense of smell and puts it to work. It's a fun game and most pups really like it. It's a prerequisite to utility and scent work.

M. LEAVE IT: Pups are a bit too young at 10 or 11 weeks of age to learn "leave it." I normally teach that when they are 4 months of age. You can, however, start introducing the word. When they have your shoe, take it and say "leave it" and hand them one of their toys or chewbones. When they are mouthing your hand, say "leave it." When they are bothering one of your other dogs, say "leave it" and give them something else to do. Leave it is a command that is broadly used and should be thoroughly understood by the time the pup is six months of age and the obeying of this command can save your pup's life.

When the pup is four months of age, put some bait on the ground. With your pup on a loose lead, walk it by the bait. When you are close to the bait and the pup has shown interest in eating it, say loudly "LEAVE IT" and walk the opposite direction. Immediately reward the pup with a treat from your hand. Repeat until your pup shows zero interest in the bait on the ground. By rewarding "leave it" you are instilling your pup will adhere the command. Many a "leave it" command has saved a pup from eating or playing with rotten food, bugs, birds, snakes, etc. or harassing the delivery man, or even your guests.

N. QUIET/HUSH: Choose your family's word for "QUIET." Your pup will bark and whine and annoy you to the point of despair sometimes. Shouting loudly "shut up" just doesn't sound very neighborhood friendly. Remember human babies cry and fuss a lot; you need to give your puppy time to figure out it gets more attention for behaving than for misbehaving.

a) Why do pups bark? They are lonely. They are scared. They hear you and wonder what you are doing. They are calling attention to themselves. They are arguing with you as you talk to them. They like the sound of their voice. They are reacting to the environment around them.

b) What to do if your puppy is barking:

1) Think about the last time you pottied your puppy. Your puppy may be telling you it needs to go outside.

2) How long has your puppy been in the crate? Pups under six months of age should not be in a crate for a longer period of time than their age in months, with the exception being nighttime sleep.

If I feel my pup is incorrect to be complaining about being in the crate, this is what I do. I walk over and pop the crate 3 times and say "quiet." Don't say "good dog", just walk off. If you tell your pup "good dog," it may start answering you and the barking begins again.

3) If I feel there is something that caused the pup to bark, then I assure the pup all is well, give the pup a treat, and walk off. If the pup continues to bark, I gently rock the crate and remind the pup to "quiet."

4) Spritzing pups: Many folks do this, spray their pups with lemon water. If my dogs are hot or I'm grooming them, I want them to like me spritzing them with water. I don't want them dodging any spray bottles. Additionally, I don't want any lemon water getting into their eyes or nose. I prefer the gentle rock-the-crate method.

5) Location of crate: If the pup continues to bark, check the location you've chosen. Perhaps you need to choose another spot?

6) Bribes: I've been known to save raw large meat bones for my pups. If they are a nuisance, I'd rather not lose the "be quiet" battle with them. I sometimes give them a chewbone to gnaw on and normally they are asleep shortly thereafter.

7) Noise Cover up: Turn on your radio or tv where the pup is housed. It'll drown out any noises that are disturbing your puppy. Wind up a clock and place it on top the crate, it's a similar noise to that of its mother's heartbbate and it'll comfort the pup.

You need to mix up what you do to quiet your pup. There may be a time when your pup is ill or has diarrhea or a bladder infection and is calling you for assistance. Be fair to your pup in your training. It's a baby and you are its only hope that someone will understand just how hard it is to communicate at this point in time in its life. If your puppy is being a nuisance barker for absolutely no reason, I put the crate where the nuisance barker cannot bother me and let the pup figure out that no amount of screaming will get the pup any attention. The pup will learn to quiet itself in due course. Pups, like some children, seek as much negative attention as they do positive. It's your responsibility to outsmart them so that the positive attention is representing the majority of your time with them.

O. NO BITE. Some pups are just mouthy from the get-go. Mouthing a human is not something you should continue to accept as a behavior. A lot of folks like to wrestle with their pups and encourage this behavior. This is a great way to teach your pup that "nipping, chewing or biting" human skin is allowed. We prefer

to teach our pups not to mouth. We do this by using a "no bite" command. We gently pop the muzzle with the back of our hand when they mouth us, and then pet the top of their head immediately thereafter. We want to punish but not make the puppy afraid of quick hand movements or of hands touching them. Another thing we do when a pup puts their teeth on our hand is grab inside the mouth while it's open and squeeze gently. Pups don't like this. If you squeeze too hard, you can break your puppy's jaw or make it bite its tongue so be careful in the amount of pressure you apply. We use the alternative method on our pups. If they reach up to play with us by biting us, we tell them "no bite" and hand them a tug toy. We're telling them we'll play with you but your teeth must be on something besides us. A puppy can do serious damage quickly. They nip ears, can get a baby's face quickly, and can puncture fingers. It's important when they put teeth on you that you holler loudly "AAACK, no bite" and begin teaching them what is acceptable puppy behavior and what is not. They will soon learn to understand to be careful with human skin.

Please police children when they are playing with dogs. Pups quickly form a bond to your child. They will protect your child on occasions they feel your child is threatened. Children oftentimes play aggressive games or end up in childhood spats. If you are not around to intervene as the packleader, the dog may intervene. If in doubt, put the dog up in an area in which it doesn't have access to the children.

If your pup bites a child, no amount of explanation will suffice for the mother or father of that bitten child. It is your responsibility to at all times protect your pup as much as you protect your kids. I will share a sad story with you which my mother told me. She had an uncle who owned a crossbred dog. They had company that day and the child was playing with his dog. The child screamed in horror and reported the dog had bitten him. Indeed the dog had broken skin and the child required stitches. My uncle put that dog down at the insistence of everyone present. Many years later, that kid told my mother that he had poked that dog with a pencil and he had carried that guilt with him into adulthood. It was his fault totally he had been bitten; his behavior had caused the death of that dog. He felt awful. This is a story that haunts me even today. ***Rarely do dogs bite for no reason; there is usually some provocation that is justified in their canine minds.***

P. NO JUMP/THE OFF COMMAND. Puppies will want to jump on you, bites your pants legs, chew on your shoes, and get on your furniture. Remember those growth plates have not closed, so we want to protect the puppy from injuring itself as it learns to use those back springboard legs of theirs. Begin teaching your puppy "off." If the puppy puts its feet on you to get a cookie treat, you'll say "off" and take your cookie treat hold it away from your body and when the puppy moves off you, feed and praise. Later when your puppy ages and begins jumping on you, you can grab those front feet quickly and squeeze. Say nothing. They don't like the pressure on their toes and will avoid putting them on you. If you squeeze too

hard, you can injure their toes so watch how much pressure you apply. You can interlock your fingers together and then turn them wrongside out and push towards the pup. When the puppy approaches, this is how you'll greet the pup reminding the puppy "off." When the pup has been taught to sit, you can give the alternate command of "sit" following the giving of the "off" command, and your pup will sit. When it does, praise and treat and pet. The pup will learn to show up, sit and wait to be petted.

Q. BODY SLAMMING. Many pups are big time body slammers. They will slam into each other and into you too. You don't have time to grab toes, let alone get a command word out timely. Body slamming can injure the shoulders and sometimes even necks of your dog or the dog who is the recipient of the slam. We use the "leave it" command to teach the dog that body slamming is wrong. The command "leave it" is to leave us alone and leave the other dog alone. If you play nicely, you can play with us or another dog, but if you play incorrectly, you must "leave it."

R. SIT/DOWN/STAND. It's time to introduce your puppy to these very basic obedience commands. We put our puppy on a stand in front of us; we are kneeling down beside it. We hold the bait, something they can continuously chew on directly at their mouth. The pup is sideways directly in front of us with its head pointed to our right. We raise the cookie ever so slightly with our right hand, take our left hand and scoop their rear end to their front feet, saying "sit." They are nibbling on the cookie. We then lower the cookie down a wee bit and put our left hand ever so slightly into their flank and say "stand." They are nibbling on the bait. We then take the bait in our right hand and push it literally into their chest area and down between their front legs. They normally follow the bait and begin to fold back into an accordion down. We say "down" (and tip their rear end if it's still up in the air) and they continue to nibble on the bait in the down position. This is the beginning of teaching the accordion down (a folded back down). We then take the bait and pull it forward ever so slightly, raise it up and say "stand." The pup follows the bait and raises back up into a stand. We repeat this about 4 times. The stand is always in between the sit and the down. It's a constant- reward- method for teaching three things at one time and pups normally catch on quite quickly. If done perfectly, the front toes will never move from the position in which the pup was placed. The pup is learning a tucked competition sit, a pop back stand, and a no-forward-motion down. If this is too confusing, message me on Facebook and I'll do a demo for you.

S. PUPPIES AND FACES. We want our pups to like our faces, to not fear eye contact, and to respect us. We kiss them a lot and never blow into their face. Blowing can often result in face biting. This is something you never want your pup to do. As our pups age, we teach them to give us a kiss. We teach them to give eskimo kisses. It's a nose-to-nose kiss, no licking involved. It's great fun to teach. Later on, because we do competitive obedience, we teach them to take a

piece of bait from our mouth. It's sticking out and they simply remove it from our mouth. They are learning that people's faces are very sensitive and they must be careful in anything they do around a human's face. I once had a small child at a dog show site run up to my dog (he was only 18 months) and grab him by his cheek hairs. I didn't see her coming. She looked up at me and said "Can I pet your dog?" I knew if I overreacted, jumped up, or jumped back, or chastised her, or grabbed my dog, I could cause a face-biting incident. I calmly said "yes" as I ever so smoothly reached for his collar and stroked the top of his head. He allowed her to pet him and was not shook up at the least over this incident. That day this young child, probably 4 years of age, was lucky. I informed her she needed to approach people without touching their dog and ask to pet. I advised her mother also. They promptly walked off and the child stuck her fingers in the portapen of the next person's setup. I immediately advised all those at this show to be aware. There will always be those people who put dogs in harms way and themselves in harms way. I'm certainly more keenly aware of my surroundings after this episode.

We also teach our pups to catch. You can drop food short distances saying "catch." Some pups are quick to catch on and others are what we call "duh duhs☺". For the latter we use marshmallows or cheese balls in the hopes they catch on quicker. They can more easily see and catch these.

THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WITH YOU

A. SOCIALIZATION: Some pups are socialites and others are most certainly not. Most dogs fall somewhere in between. When choosing your pup, please choose appropriate for your needs. You can actually develop some good social skills in your pup by simply teaching your pup some basic good manners. If you have taught your puppy to sit, then when guests come, simply give them some bait and have them ask your puppy to sit. Your puppy will understand this communication because it is familiar to him. Many folks simply want all strangers to feed their pups. I prefer strangers ask my pup to do something to earn the treat. You can take your pup to the feed store, to friend's houses, to the park, wherever you feel the pup might pick up some social skills. Please remember that many a pup has been scared out of its tracks by children running up on them and surprising them at a feed store or in a park. It is your responsibility to rule over all social exposures and interactions and do your best to make them positive ones. If I see a child in a feed store, I can tell that child exactly how I would like it to approach my dog (naturally with the parent's blessing to do so). I can thereby alleviate improper approaches or surprise encounters. If you have a shy pup, ask people to avoid making eye contact with the pup. Have them ignore the pup totally but arm them with food. If the pup goes to them, have hold out the food to the pup without moving their body much and also to not look the puppy directly in the eye. The puppy will learn to trust in time. If you have boisterous friends, remove your

puppy from the area until your puppy understands that some humans are louder than others or more active than others. We had a border collie puppy one time that wouldn't take food of any sort from strangers but if a stranger threw a toy, she'd fetch it right to them. We used toys to aid in her acceptance of strangers. Know what motivates your dog and use it applicably to get the desired behavior and attitude. Remember to exercise patience. You've seen kids that hide behind parents until grade school. Well, I have news, not all dogs simply because you expect it will be accepting of all humans during a set period of time. They will all differ dependent upon genetics, exposure and environment. Be patient as they go through stages in their lifetime and work them through it with love. One of my Aussies named Bree would not allow any strangers to pet her for the first year of her life. I exercised great patience with her; she was born during the Covid period. At age four she won the open obedience dog excellent finals competition; she also merited in obedience and in rally. She end up being very friendly with a busy "leave it" so my friends could periodically get a break from her pestering them.

B. PACK ORDER: Your puppy will readily know who the pack leader is in your household. It better be a human. If not, you are going to have problems throughout the time you own your dog. Puppies that are assertive in nature will need to be put in their place. They must not be allowed on the furniture, to sleep on your bed, to initiate play or to go through doors or gates before you. Puppies that are soft and unsure must never be treated with anything but a soft teaching voice and body language that is non-threatening. Your pup will probably fall somewhere in between these two definitions. Things that adversely effect pack order and might confuse your pup are: discipline of children, fighting between spouses, fits of anger out of frustration over job or broken appliances, death or illness in the family, moving, new neighbors, guests, vacations, boarding, traveling, weather, holidays, lightening/thunder, fireworks, etc. Your pup can quickly read your body language and the smells emitted by change in your personality. Although people think that once a pup reaches six months, it should thoroughly understand a family, it never will because families are ever-evolving. The pup too will continue to learn its entire lifetime, forming opinions, having reactions, and being affected adversely by all things that adversely effect its pack. If you fail to be the leader of the pack, the pup will assume that position. Some of my puppy owners told me that it was recommended to them their two dogs fight it out to see who is top dog. I asked them if they like vet bills? They, of course, said "no." You are the pack leader and all canine dogs within your family should adhere to you being number one. Will those underneath you establish a pecking order, most certainly they will. You, however, will determine how much authority those under you can assert. Dog fighting is one that should never be allowed or tolerated or explained away.

C. NOT TETHERING A PUP TO YOU FOR BONDING PURPOSES. Many people get a long line and tie a pup to them so it will bond.

Everywhere the person goes, so goes the pup. Please remember, however, if you tie them to you and then punish them for doing something remiss, you've taught them that when with you, they get punished. You've also taught them to become what I call "mommified." They don't want to leave your side and become very dependent. I'm all for bonding a puppy but I prefer to make the times I choose for bonding special ones for me and my pup. I choose several times throughout a day to spend with my puppy: Holding it while watching TV, teaching it tricks or obedience commands, taking it for walks, calling it with lots of love and praise and treats, teaching it to fetch and bring something back, playing tug-a-war, grooming it, or simply talking to it while I answer email. I make it a part of my life but not my life totally. My family has told me that I can steal a dog from someone within 24 hours. I love dogs; I let them know it. I don't need to tie a dog to me to bond it.

Dogs like structure. I try to schedule their lives with some structure in it. They expect things to happen at certain times of the day and a routine is established and followed. Their walks, their potty times, their training times, their feeding times, their outside times, their rest times, their chew-a-bone times, etc. We humans have structure in our lives; dogs are no different in that they find comfort in knowing what to expect at any given time. Certainly you can deviate but to establish a bond, build a relationship.

D. FEEDING. We don't have a dog in our kennel that goes off their feed. We feed as close to the same time in the morning and at night as is reasonably doable, EVEN if traveling. This teaches their brain and their stomach to think about food at the same time every day. If a dog sent in to us for training or handling buries its food or refuses to eat its food, we simply put the food all back into the feed dish and set it up on top their crate where they can smell it but not get to it. Skipping a meal will not hurt your dog. They quickly learn to eat when the food is before them or they don't get to eat. It is your responsibility to know when a pup not eating is ill or when a pup not eating is stressed or when a pup not eating is simply being difficult or when the dog food is rancid.

You don't want your pup to be fat or skinny. Feed appropriately and keep your pup in good condition so it can physically and mentally be at its best. Pups are fed last. They are the bottom of the pack order as a new member in the family. This is how it would be in the wild. They will learn to wait their turn for their food. Feeding them from the table or your lap will only entice them to misbehave or to expect food each and every time you are eating. It can also cause them to prefer table food to their dog food. You set the parameters for acceptable behaviors or unacceptable behaviors in puppyhood. Teach them to "leave" plates of food alone/not steal food off a plate. Teach them not to cabinet scarf. Teach them not to beg constantly by giving them a place to go lie down while you eat.

E. SIT/STAND/DOWN. You've taught these collectively. Now, you'll begin teaching these singularly. Sit is always the easiest one to teach. Pups have to look up at you to get their food and in doing so often sit so they can look up

from a more comfortable position. Remember to give your command words one time, then help them execute the command if applicable, and then praise and treat. A good time to start incorporating commands is at feeding time. Make them earn their food by doing either sit or down and then remind them to wait for the command/release word "okay" to eat. You can start asking them to sit, to down, and to stand for longer periods of time. You'll work 12 seconds into 30 seconds as applicable to your puppy's learning curve. You can add "wait." You can begin "stay" commands. Wait means something is going to happen. I tell a pup "sit" and then "wait" and "come" simply pausing between words about 10 seconds at first, then gradually increasing the time between commands. Stay means don't move; I'm coming to reward you. So, if I say sit and then stay, I'll reward the puppy for staying in the sit. This too is worked from 10 seconds into 30 seconds. It all takes time and it will all come in handy for every day life plus later on competition. I'll repeat the wait and stay commands, calling the pup on the wait commands and returning to the pup on the stay commands until the pup thoroughly understands the difference in the wait and stay commands.

F. TWIST. Puppies are left pawed or right pawed. We like to teach them to use their leads (similarly to how a horse would use theirs). We have them in front of us on a sit. We take our bait and put it to their mouth and make a circular motion that the pup can follow. They will turn completely around and face you again. You can teach them "twist right" or "twist left." If we plan to do stock, the pup is ahead of the game in taking both directional cues because it has learned to take both leads. If we do rally, the pup can spin right or spin left on command. If we teach them a go out for utility obedience, we can tell them to twist once they reach the go-out spot. They will turn and sit. Plus it's just fun – twists can be done in place or in motion! If we plan to do agility, the pup is comfortable taking either lead to take a jump. Puppies love doing this and often end up offering the behavior. I had a shy/reserved pup and I had all our visitors to the ranch ask this pup to twist left or right. My pup loved this icebreaker and the guests did also. She found it quite comforting to know our guests liked doing her favorite tricks with her.

G. GET-IT/BRING IT/GIVE IT: As the puppy ages, you'll begin giving more commands to your retrieve games. I ask my puppy to wait, then toss and say "get it", and when the pup picks it up, I say "bring it." Upon arrival I say "give it." "It" is a word I use often in retrieve. If throwing a dumbbell over a jump, I'll say "jump it." My dog knows "it" means bring back something to me; don't come back empty mouthed☺ If you are having problems in getting your puppy to retrieve, watch for items your pup will pickup of its own volition. Normally these are houseshoes, socks, underwear, etc. Use these as motivators to get your dog to retrieve. Don't chastise your pup when picking these up; you'll be teaching it never pick anything up if its weak on the retrieve. You'll simply say "bring it" and then reward the dog with a cookie and lots of praise. Our dogs

frequently greet us at the door with our shoe, our glove, or our hat. They never tear these up but they know we are ecstatic for them to bring us something. They do often greet us with toys as well, but more often than not with some personal item of ours. If your pup won't motivate to retrieve, tease the pup. Then toss and your item and quickly pick up the item before the pup can get to it. Make it a fun game and make the item appear to be something that you treasure and the pup should desire to have or to take from you. Pups like games of excitement and interaction and fetch should always be fun so that later on should you pursue an obedience title or to do assisted living therapy, the pup will enjoy learning and interacting with you in new fetch games. Therapy dogs pick up remotes, keys, gloves, hats – retrieve is an asset for sure.

H. GO TO. Put a piece of food about 3' away from your puppy. Have someone hold the pup while you do this. Then return to your puppy, hold your arm and hand parallel to the pup's eyes and directly towards the food item and say "go get it." The pup will be learning to go a specific direction and that if it does so, a reward is waiting for it. You'll increase the distance only if the pup is able to go straight to the item, not deviating in its tracks left or right. In time, you can teach your pup to go to a spot and lie down, to go out and take directional jumping cues, to retrieve a glove of your choice in utility, to go back to the house, to go to another person, etc., all by simply teaching your pup to mark and to go a specific direction to a specific cue spot.

I. FIND IT. If you've played the scent games with your pup, you can then add finding items to the game. Hide the pup's toy or ball and then say "find it." When the pup does find it, make a big fuss over the pup's success. We like to hide a leather glove with a treat inside it. If the pup finds it, we take the treat out and reward the pup. This can be used for beginning tracking work later. The downside is once in a while the pup chooses to destroy one of our leather gloves that we use for doing chores. When teaching my older dogs to retrieve the dumbbell, I often toss it where they cannot see, like around the corner of our fireplace wall. I want them to sniff it out if thrown in tall grass, or go to it if tossed under a gate, etc. I want them to be able to find it with their eyes and their nose both.

J. A FEW TRICKS

a) **SHAKE:** Young pups love to shake and are often handing you their paw without asking for it. If they do, simply gently shake it, saying "good shake" and reward them with a treat. If they don't offer their paw, then simply pick it up. Reward for them allowing you to pick up their paw. Then hold your hand out and when they put the paw in it, reward them. Then hold your hand out and when they put their paw in it, shake their paw while saying "good shake" and reward with a treat. You can teach them to shake with either paw by saying "other paw." Switch your hands and it's a nice cue to them to switch their paws.

b. **HIGH FIVE:** You can raise your hand to high five your pup. Simply pick up their paw and have it touch your palm. This is super easy to teach with a clicker. The minute the pup raises its paw, click and reward. The minute the paw touches your hand, click and reward. The pup will soon be offering high-fives on a regular basis. I owned a bitch that was shy. She'd trained just about all my friends to feed her cookies or she wouldn't let them pet her. I told my friends that they could feed her no more treats. They had to tell her "high five." She immediately raised that paw and high-fived them. It was a language she understood and a trick for which she'd been rewarded. This way she earned her treat and the people were in charge, not her. It wasn't long before she was giving my friends high fives for no treat, just their praise.

c. **CRAWL:** You can teach your young pup to crawl by saying the pup's name and command "crawl." Simply keep moving the food right in front of your dog's nose on the ground while your dog is laying down and the pup should begin crawling. When the dog is down already, it's easier to teach them to crawl. If you try this with them standing, it's much harder. Don't go too far at first.

d. **REAR END AWARENESS:** If you can get your pup to put its front feet on a small rubber pail, fairly flat one, turned upside down, then simply move the bait a bit right or left until the pup moves their rearend such that the pup remains 180 degrees from you. Eventually you'll be able to get your pup to go all the way around never moving its feet off the tub but moving instead it's rear legs. Then later you stand right beside your pup and move right or left and the pup will position its hind legs the same distance so both of you are moving around that circle in perfect heel position. This will help with pivots later on.

e. **BACKING:** While standing, I ask my pup to back one step by stepping towards and into the pup. I feed if they move back. I can wiggle my fingers and say back to my dog, and she'll back up to catch a toy or a treat. If teaching back for the purposes of rally, if my pup knows how to heel, I simply remind my pup to heel back while lined up in heel position with the pup against the wall or a fence or gait. Later I'll ask for that back in front and also in heel position. Backing up while penning stock or if doctoring stock, or going through a gate or doorway, or moving out of the way is super handy. It's also fun in rally masters competition.

UH OH, MY PUP IS A HOOLI

A. DIGGING. Most dogs love to dig; your pup will be no exception. If you have a yard you desire to protect, don't give your puppy free run of the entire

yard without supervision. That way if you are supervising the puppy play and the pup begins to dig, you can holler "AAACK, no dig." Promptly give the pup something else to do. Otherwise the pup will look at you, acknowledge he heard you, and go right back to digging. You want to do alternate training: stop their brain from thinking one thing and teach it to think to do another. Fertilizer is an enticement to dig. Giving your puppy bones is an enticement to dig and bury them. Puppies will also hoard their toys. They'll dig and bury them. On hot days the ground is cooler if a pup digs a hole in which to lie down. If you have a particular spot that you don't want your puppy to dig, fence it, baracade it, or put some horrible smelling stuff down that will deter your pup from entering that area. I have tried putting pepper in a hole dug by a pup to have them come right back and dig the pepper out, while sneezing the entire time. I've found it much easier to police digging. If I cannot police it, then I find it easier to place them in a local that if they dig, it won't hurt anything.

B. DESTRUCTION: Pups can be very destructive. They chew up rugs, shoes, gnaw on table legs, rip the upholstery of chairs or couches, scratch on doors or cupboards, and the destruction list goes on. Once again, I say "police" your pup. Teach them the appropriate and inappropriate things upon which they can chew. If I catch my pup with my shoe, I say "leave it" and promptly give them one of their toys or a chew bone. If I catch my pup gnawing on a table leg, I holler "AAACK, leave it" and promptly pick them up and remove them from that area and give them something else to do. **In other words, you must a) stop the action, b) give the corrective command, c) and most importantly remove the temptation by giving them something else to think about.** At the same time, you are teaching them "their toys" and "your toys." They will in time understand. We have dogs that we can leave in the house all day and they never disturb anything. We have others that are totally untrustworthy. The latter are the ones that get crated or put in their dog run where "trouble" is not a temptation for them or a reason for us to pull out our wallets for repairs that could have been easily avoided. We police the untrustworthy and reward those who are trustworthy with more privileges. I had a four year old stud dog we brought in one time. He was housebroken. I bought a house plant and he was estatic to see I'd purchased a tree for him to hose down every time he needed to go potty. Dogs can be quite amusing if you'll take the time to figure out what they are thinking at the time they commit what we perceive to be a crime. It's our job to out-smart and out-wit them but foremost understand what they were thinking.

Plants can be poisonous. If your pup knocks over one of your plants and then eats some of the leaves, it is your responsibility to know if that plant will be their demise. If you plan to have a full time house dog or part time house dog, then design your house to fit both your needs. Same for your yard; many outside plants are poisonous. Take the time to train your puppy to be safe in its environment and make your environment safe for the puppy.

C. CLIMBING: Many pup will climb. Some will climb straight up a 6' fence or even solid wall. Others will climb up the back of your couch. Young pups climbing can injure those cruciate ligaments; they can fall and injure just about anything. They can certainly damage their feet or your furniture. Many people want pups to be self-assured and to climb. Most of us, however, want them to do it within reason. Lower the cover to your portapen to alleviate the pup climbing very high. Better yet, start with a low height to begin with so the pup never learns to climb up the fence. Teach your pup to ONLY get on furniture with your permission. It must never get up of its own volition unless you absolutely don't care anymore.

CONCLUSION

I always recommend puppy classes. It's a great time for all involved. There is nothing cuter than a room full of puppies and their proud owners. Your puppy will enjoy the social interaction, learn to travel to and from the lesson site, appreciate other breeds of dogs and their owners, and to exercise patience between puppy exercises and activities. If you don't like how the instructor is running the class, drop the class and try another instructor.

It is important to educate yourself. Read your registry's magazine, books about your breed, and check out books from the library on puppy training and raising. You will quickly discern that opinions on training and raising a puppy differ greatly from person to person, as due training techniques, acceptances or non-acceptances of certain behaviors, and also learn there is a huge diversity in the approaches to problem-solving. There are on-line classes for your every need – just read the credentials of the instructors such that you feel comfortable following their directives and trusting their instincts and experience. Arm yourself with as much knowledge as you can so that your bag of tricks is very large, including in it many methods to problem solve or to mold certain behaviors in your puppy and in your soon-to-be adult over its lifetime. ***Beware of quick fixes. Neutering or spaying are not substitutes for training. Drugs are not substitutes for training. Discipline is not a substitute for training.*** I do much more than I have given you to do with your pup. My pups are my buds and my competition partners so training is progressive and aimed at competition. I've armed you with information and a good start in a partnership to hopefully net you and your puppy a lifelong mutual and loving relationship.

Your puppy will love you despite all your many faults and shortcomings, when you are too busy to pay attention to it, or inept in your communication skills, or late in meeting its needs. You need to exercise the same patience, forgiveness and understanding in building your side of the relationship with your puppy. It

takes both of you to shape the relationship into a lifetime of love, trust and happiness. It is well worth the effort, trust me☺



SUPERVISE WITH PATIENCE, LOVE, COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING.



Legends Australian Shepherds is a kennel owned by Steve & Anne Shope. The kennel is Hall of Fame with the United States Australian Shepherd Association, the AKC affiliate home for the breed. With the Australian Shepherd Association of America, Inc., their kennel is Hall of Fame Excellent plus a Stockdog Kennel of Excellence. The Shopes were awarded the Ernie Hartnagle Memorial Award for their preservation and service of and to the Australian Shepherd Breed. Both are judges, instructors and clinicians.

The following links are for reference and educational purposes.

<http://www.asca.org> (Home registry for the Australian Shepherd – offering conformation, rally, obedience, agility, scent work, dock diving and stock work – magazine is the AUSSIE TIMES)

<http://www.australianshepherdassociation.org> (American Kennel Club of America, Inc. affiliate organization for the Australian Shepherd for competition in AKC events – magazine is the JOURNAL)

<http://www.akc.org>
The American Kennel Club

<https://asca.org/aussies/about-aussies/the-australian-shepherd/>
Go here for links to all the information you need on the Australian Shepherd

<https://www.ashgi.org/>
Go here to learn about the health of the Australian Shepherd

<https://australianshepherds.org/programs/usasa-health-genetics-program/>
Go here to learn the testing recommended for the Australian Shepherd and how you can test your dog

<https://www.aussierescue.org/>
Aussie Rescue Help Line

<https://www.akc.org/akc-rescue-network/>
American Kennel Club breed rescue information



Cradle during litter development