
PUPPY RAISING GUIDE

A collection of resources for new owners. Click on Highlighted Blue-Text to open the Resource in your browser or related application.

Establishing Early Habits

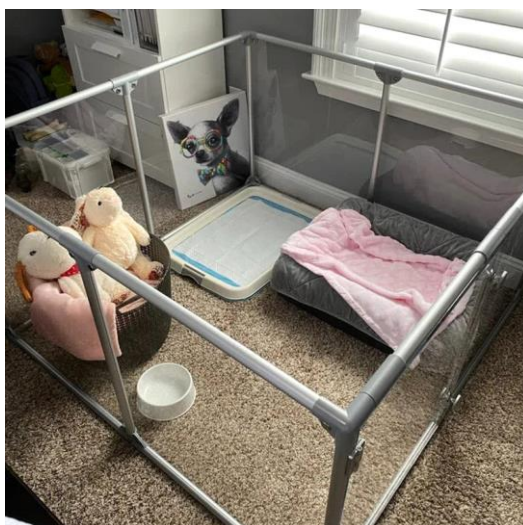
We want our puppy to have a consistent routine to establish good habits as soon as they come home! The video below will describe the basics of establishing a daily routine for your puppy- which includes potty training, energy regulation, and building non-destructive in-door behavior.

- [INTRODUCTION VIDEO: Puppy Daily Schedule](#)

We also want our puppy to feel safe and comfortable doing the following:

- Traveling.
- Spending time alone for an extended period of time.
- Spending time in new environments *with new people*.
- Being handled by a veterinarian or Groomer.
- Meeting New People & Dogs.

In this guide is a list of Helpful Video Tips and Tools that will allow you to create a comfortable life, both inside and outside your home, with your new puppy!



1. CREATING A PUPPY SPACE

2. Building a Comfortable and Healthy Experience With “Alone-Time”

- [Setting Up a Puppy Space \(VIDEO\)](#)

- [Leaving Your Puppy Alone Safety Tips](#)
- Playing Ambient “Dog T.V.”
 1. [DOG TV EPISODE 1](#)
 2. [DOG TV EPISODE 2](#)
 3. [DOG TV EPISODE 3](#)
 4. How to setup a BlueTooth Speaker for your puppy’s “habitat”. ([WINDOWS TUTORIAL](#)) ([MACBOOK TUTORIAL](#))
- Playpen Recommendations

1. <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Toddleroo-by-North-States-Superyard-Explorer/452096586>
- Enrichment Toys and Puzzles
 1. [How to Stuff a Kong Toy](#)
 2. [Other Dog Enrichment Brain Toys](#)
 - [Puppy Camera Monitor with Voice and Treat Dispenser](#)

3. TRAVELING & SOCIALIZATION



- [Puppy Socialization Introduction](#)
- [Socialization Exposure Checklist](#)

You don't want your dog excitedly engaging with things on this checklist. Instead, you want to expose them to the things on this list in a manner so that they're able to calmly and safely be around them, while not necessarily interacting with them.

- Traveling is made much easier and more comfortable with these things....
 1. Dog booster seats
 2. Soft Kennel Carriers
 3. Puppy Shoulder Slings
 4. Dog seat belts

You can take your puppy to a variety of Stores for (human) socialization and environment desensitization. Here is a list of dog-friendly businesses & retailers.

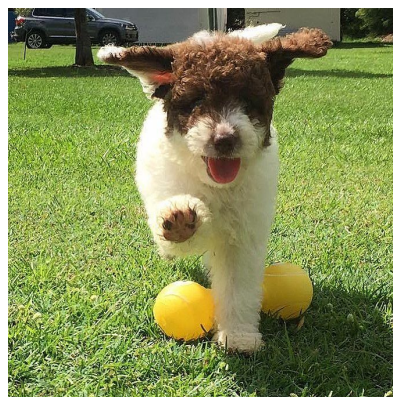
5. Craft stores (Johann's, Michaels, Hobby Lobby)
6. Some Public Transport (RTD Lite Rail)
7. Clothing Retail stores
8. Hardware Stores (Lowe's, Home Depot, Harbor Freight)

*** **AVOID BUSY DOG PARKS**, instead join meetup groups on Meetup.com or Facebook Groups. For more controlled and less busy off-leash fun, take your puppy to a fenced Baseball Field at a public park. Be cautious while your puppy is young and small. It's not uncommon to see puppies being bullied at the Dog Park, forcibly flipped by bigger dogs, or aggressively sniffed by impolite/untrained dogs.

*** **Socializing and traveling is EXHAUSTING** for a dog. Be sure to not OVER STIMULATE or unintentionally STRESS your puppy out, by taking them to meet TOO MANY new dogs, NEW people, or NEW environments, TOO frequently. Excessive lip licking and yawning are common signs of stress. Puppies need time to decompress and recharge, just like us. Some puppies will be more tolerate and social than others.

[Take the time to understand and pin point your puppy's personality with the Volhard Temperament Test.](#)

4. HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Generally speaking, Hypoglycemia is mostly a danger to toy breed puppies (those under 15 lbs).

1. **HYPOGLYCEMIA**– Very Small_Puppies have not fully developed their ability to regulate their blood glucose (sugar) levels yet and do not have the energy stores developed at this young age as adult dogs do. **Hypoglycemia** is also known as low blood sugar. Common symptoms of hypoglycemia include: Low Energy, Little to no appetite, Lethargy, Overly hot (or cold) body temperature, Vomiting, Diarrhea.

- a. [VIDEO: Recognizing, Preventing and Treating a Blood Sugar Crash](#)

In order to avoid hypoglycemia make sure you puppy is on a proper, monitored feeding schedule – especially for the first two weeks in your home.

In addition to the kibble they have been eating at the breeder, many puppies will be drawn to wet foods and treats and those are a great way to make sure your puppy is eating. Always have

water out where your puppy can easily drink it and in the first 2 weeks keep dry food available throughout the day.

Other steps you can take to prevent low blood sugar are keeping household stress levels low, limiting play time, and making sure your puppy isn't alone. Just like us, puppies take comfort in knowing their family is nearby.

As you puppy grows, hypoglycemia is less likely to occur. However, it never hurts to always be aware of your puppy's eating – and pooping – schedules. Changes to these can be the first signs of something that is wrong with your puppy and that they need your attention.

2. [What age should I spay and neuter?](#)

- a. [AKC Breed Sterilization Study](#)

3. Use a Soft Walking Harnesses and NOT A COLLAR when walking on leash to prevent Tracheas Collapse!!

4. Cleaning Ears

- a. If your puppy is shaking their head to one side, scratching the ear in discomfort, and the inner ear smells, they likely have an ear infection. This is common and happens when water gets into the ear canal. This ear medication is the best I have found for treating ear infections.
- b. [Zymox Ear Solution](#)
- c. PRO TIP: Cover your puppy's ears when bathing to prevent water entering the ear canal.

5. Dental Care

- a. It's important to start caring for your dog's teeth and gums early on. Not only does this get your dog used to having their teeth cleaned as a puppy, but it also makes continued care much easier throughout their lives. Most importantly, proper dental care prevents tartar and plaque from building up in the first place.
 - b. If the tartar and plaque are already there (1-2 years of age), regular dental care can slow down its progression towards disease, but only professional cleaning will get rid of it. This procedure requires your dog to go under anesthesia for their teeth to be professionally scaled and polished. If left untreated, dental disease often results in painful, infected teeth that then need to be removed to prevent the infection from spreading throughout your dog.
 - c. Dental Hygiene Chews - In addition to regular tooth brushing, dental hygiene chews and treats can help your dog's mouth stay healthy. Some Dental Chews are edible (such as bully sticks or greenies), and some are not edible, but still just as effective to prevent plaque buildup such as Nylabones or Benabones.
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7. Small Objects Can Pose a BIG Risk for Extra Small Breeds:



- a. Your tiny puppy is lower to the ground, they can fit in more tight spaces such as under the bed, under the coffee-table, behind the couch, etc. They will find tiny objects that you may miss when cleaning up in day-to-day life. Don't panic! That could make your puppy swallow the item they have in their mouth or run away and leave it elsewhere to find later. Instead, supervise as much as you can, and tidy up daily. Train your puppy everyday- these two commands are the most important!!!
- b. **Teach your puppy the "Leave It" Command: [VIDEO](#)**
- c. **Teach your puppy the "Drop It" Command: [VIDEO](#)**
- d. If you puppy MIGHT have swallowed a foreign object, watch for changes in mood and energy, coupled with these symptoms:
 1. **Vomiting.**
 2. **Loss of appetite.**
 3. **Weakness.**
 4. **Nausea.**
 5. **Diarrhea.**
 6. **Straining or unable to poop.**

8. TOXIC FOODS FOR DOGS:

- a. **Artificial sweetener (Xylitol)**

Common in chewing gum and drinks, diet and sugar-free products (including some peanut butters so always check the label before using this as a treat) can contain an artificial sweetener called Xylitol which causes an insulin release in our bodies. However, if your dog digests one of these sweetened foods they can go into hypoglycaemia which is linked to liver failure and blood clotting disorders.
- b. **Cooked bones**

Giving your dog a raw uncooked bone to chew on is great, but avoid cooked bones at all cost. These can easily splinter and in large quantities cause constipation or at worst, a perforation of the gut which can be fatal.
- c. **Grapes and raisins**

Raisins are in many of the foods that we love to eat such as cakes, biscuits and cereals so it's not just the fruit form we should be concerned with. The active ingredient which

causes the toxin is unknown, however both grapes and raisins may cause severe liver damage and kidney failure.

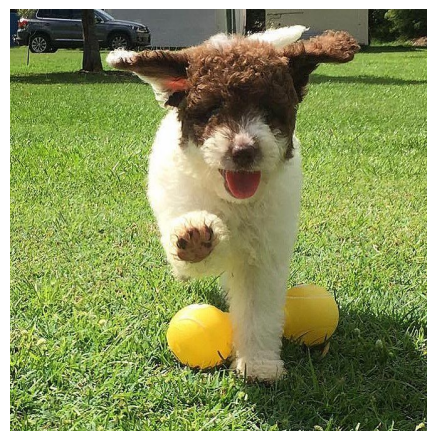
d. **Chocolate**

Chocolate contains a stimulant called theobromine (dark chocolate has the highest content of this) which is toxic to dogs and can cause kidney failure.

e. **Avocado**

Avocado plants contain a substance called Persin which is in its leaves, fruit and seed and can cause vomiting and diarrhea in dogs.

5. BASIC TRAINING & COMMON PROBLEMS



- **BASIC OBEDIENCE**

- **Handle your puppy.** This means, touch her feet when she's relaxed. Touch her ears, the inside of them. Touch her mouth, open it, put your hands in it. Brush her teeth. Clean out her ears. Do her nails once a week (seriously). Bathe her in just water every week or two. Just get her used to all of the things you will want to do to her as an adult. Having a dog who hates being bathed/hates having their nails done/hates having their mouths touched is really a pain in the rear. Only you can desensitize your dog to these things. A well-handled puppy is a trainable, confident, and happy dog for years to come!
- [Teaching a Puppy to Come when Called](#)
- [Top tips for puppy exercise and burn off excess energy](#)
- [Leash Training](#)
- [Teach your puppy the "Leave It" Command](#)

- [How To Train Your Dog To Leave EVERYTHING Alone \(ADVANCED\)](#)
- [Teach your puppy the “Drop It” Command \(advanced\)](#)
- [Teach your puppy to Not to Bark](#)
- [Teach your puppy to Not Jump Up](#)
- [Teach your puppy not to Mouth](#)
- [Managing Your Dog's Chase Behaviors](#)

POTTY TRAINING

- Potty Training Apps to Track, Manage, and Remind
 - [IPHONE APPLICATION](#)
 - [ANDROID](#)
 - **Use an Enzymatic cleaner for potty accidents.** We like [Odoban](#). These cleaning products that use enzymes in their formulas to help break down stains, and eliminate odors (even the urine odors which are undetectable to our noses, but your puppy can smell an which would lead them to urinating in the same place, if not cleaned properly!)
1. **Proactively take them out:** the general rule is that however many months old your puppy is is how long they can hold it. Does that mean every 4 month old puppy can hold their bladder or bowels for 4 hours? No, but that time span of one hour per month of age should be your goal.
 - *Times to take them out:* after eating, drinking, sleeping, and in the middle of play. The physiology of dogs means that 15-60 minutes after they eat, drink, or immediately after waking they gotta go! Additionally, puppies tend to be very distracted during playtime, so interrupting play about every 10-20 minutes to take them out is a good idea to set them up for success in not having accidents in the house. The same idea applies to going potty in the middle of the night for small/toy breeds and very young puppies; if they sleep all night, they may wake up and not be able to make it to the door before they just HAVE to go, so taking them out in the middle of the night will help set them up for success.
 - *If your puppy is not indicating to you in an obvious manner, try bell training them.* Bell training uses a bell hung from or by the door the puppy consistently uses to go outside; use a small amount of something tasty and dog safe (such as peanut butter or tuna juice) on the bell so the dog will use it's muzzle/tongue to ring it every time you take them out. This will gradually create an association with ringing the bell and wanting/needing to go outside; consider that a bell is easier to hear than a softly whining puppy. ;)

2. **Scheduled feeding:** Feeding your puppy measured amounts on a schedule creates a schedule for potty times. Generally speaking, puppies 3-5 months of age should eat at least 3 times daily (4 for small breeds) to accommodate small tummies and required nutritional intake for growth, while puppies 6-adulthood should eat twice daily. This allows you to structure/anticipate your puppy's potty needs, monitor their appetite, and better regulate their caloric intake to set them up for a healthy body condition life-long.

3. **Consistently treat immediately after peeing/pooping:** We all know it sucks to housebreak puppies in winter when you live in cold climates, but when you reward a dog for anything they think it's for the last thing they did. This means that if you wait until your puppy comes inside to reward them, they think they're getting treats and praise for coming inside rather than pottying outside. Instead, gear up and go outside with them with treats in your pocket; when they finish doing even just one part of their business make it the greatest thing in the world: confetti, fireworks, treats, praise, the whole nine yards. The more they associate praise and treats with going outside, the fewer accidents you'll have on your hands.

4. **Do NOT punish them for accidents in the home:** Punishment weakens the bond between you and your dog, which is detrimental to training. They won't understand why you're upset that they had to relieve themselves, and it won't teach them not to go somewhere. In fact, you're more likely to create a dog that potties in areas where it's hard to find for fear of being punished. Instead, if you catch them in the act, simply clap your hands and/or say, "AH! AH! AH!" in a deep/loud voice (without actually yelling) to startle them into stopping and hurry them outside, then give treats and praise when they finish their business.

5. **Constant supervision:** Puppies do not inherently know how to, "behave," as we want them to, this constant supervision is a must, especially during potty training. Tethering is a great technique for this; simply put your puppy's harness and leash on, then attach the leash to your belt loop or waist, NOT a piece of furniture. The point of tethering is for you to be able to monitor your puppy and feel if they start tugging towards the door and to keep them out of trouble in general.

6. **Crate training is your friend:**
it's a wonderful tool for potty training as well as giving your pet a secure place to go when they feel they need a safe space as well as to keep your pet safe from potential dangers in the home when they cannot be supervised. The crate should be large enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around, and lay down comfortably and that's it. A crate that is too large will create an environment where they can potty in one corner and sleep in another; additionally, putting their food and water in the crate will also discourage eliminating in the crate (you don't want to potty where you eat and sleep, right?)

Crate Training

Video resources [Click on titles to watch!]

- [Bedtime Crate Training](#)
- [Daily Schedule Crate & Potty Training](#)
- [10 Hacks for Crate Training a Puppy](#)
- [Stop a Puppy from Crying in the Crate](#)

Common Problems and Solutions

- [Stop puppy crying in crate](#)
- [Biting/Nipping](#)
- [Chewing Furniture](#)
- [Teaching a “Quiet” command for Alert Barking](#)
- [Nervous Puppies and Confidence Building](#)