



## Helpful Hints for Your New Puppy

### CONGRATULATIONS!

You are the proud owner of a very special puppy. Just like a new baby, there is work to be done so your lifestyle isn't totally disrupted (and it will be disrupted to some degree). You must remember this is a puppy that will be fully grown in a few months, so you only have a short while to establish your ground rules. If you don't work daily with this puppy, you may end up with an ill-mannered adult dog. If given lots of love, and trained and handled properly, your dog will provide years of enjoyment. YOU are the adult- PUPPY is the child- YOU are the boss, don't forget this! Puppies are very lively, intelligent curious dogs by nature. You will be surprised how quickly they learn if taught with consistency and firmness. Below are some guidelines that will assist you in the upcoming months.

### VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH CARE

You will need to consult your veterinarian for his/her recommended future vaccination schedule. Please treat your puppy as if it has had no shots, at least until after the next booster if given by your Veterinarian. Please refrain from taking the puppy to the Pet Store, park, groomer, etc. until absolutely necessary. Parvo and distemper are airborne diseases and puppies that have not had their shots are very susceptible to being infected, possibly resulting in death.

### FEEDING

Dry puppy food is recommended, one of high quality with the appropriate combination of protein, fat, vitamins, etc. for a new puppy. These ingredients are essential in order to maintain a healthy pet with a nice shiny coat, and strong teeth and bones. Also give some wet food too

Always remember that Chicken formulas will be the easiest on your puppy's stomach, so try to find that. Make beef or lamb your last choice. I recommend that you keep your puppy on this same food, but if you choose to switch to another food, do it only after puppy is settled in and has adjusted to his/her new home and is stress free. Do not switch food all at once! This must be done slowly (over a 5-7 day period) or your puppy could get diarrhoea. Start slowly by mixing 1/3 of the new food with 2/3 of the old food for a few days, then 2/3 of new food with 1/3 of the old food for a couple of days, gradually work up to 100% of new food.

## UPSET STOMACH

Puppies will get into things that will upset their stomach. Any kind of stress can also cause a loose stool. If your puppy is vomiting and/or has diarrhoea, it is VERY IMPORTANT that it be stopped as soon as possible- Consult your Veterinarian IMMEDIATELY! You should not let this condition go unattended, as it can easily result in dehydration and can be life threatening to your puppy within a very short period of time. Make sure you have no poisonous plants that your puppy can chew on. Be cautious of any plant that produces a white, milky substance when it is cut or you snap off a leaf. These can cause the puppy to become very ill and if he/she has ingested enough, even die. Watch your puppy outside, he's very curious and can get into everything.

## LOVE

Most importantly, give lots of love and praise. This new baby really wants to make you proud of it and a little love goes a very long way. Remember, a dog's love is always unconditional. Don't take advantage! Give your baby all the love he/she deserves.

## House Training

Buy a crate and during the first few weeks, keep your puppy in it whenever you are not playing, holding or watching him explore his new surroundings. Spend as much time as you can with your new pet, but when you can't watch him, crating him can prevent mistakes from occurring. In addition to providing the safe, secure refuge your dog needs and wants, crates are critical to house training because as den animals, dogs are naturally inclined not to soil their bed. The most important thing learned by house training dogs in a crate is that they can control their urge to eliminate until the proper time and situation.

Establish a schedule and don't deviate from it. The "when" and "how" you house train needs to be consistent so make sure all family members follow the same guidelines. Pick a soiling spot in your yard and take your puppy there on a lead when it is time to eliminate. The odour from previous visits to this spot will stimulate the urge to defecate and/or urinate. Many new owners confuse their puppy by using different words for the same command. In the housebreaking process, it is a good idea to use the same word like "outside" every time you take the puppy out to eliminate. Consistent use of a word with an activity will help to build a level of communication between you and your pup. Later, while you are watching television and notice your pup staring at you, you can say the word "outside" and your pup will go to the door.

Be patient. Dogs may urinate or defecate more than once in an outing, and not always right away. Don't distract your pup from the job at hand. This is a business trip, not a social time.

Praise them for their success when the job is done, but don't overdo it. Just patting them across their shoulders a few times will do the trick. In a dog's language, that means more than constant rubbing across the head or repeating "Good Dog". Some people prefer to use a consistent phrase to encourage the pup to eliminate, such as "Go Potty". The pup soon learns this is a signal to eliminate, which is very useful when traveling or when time is short.

Don't mix business with pleasure. When your pup has finished, take him back inside, even just for a minute or two. When you come back inside, spend some time with your pup. You know there is little

chance the pup will have to eliminate for a while so play with him and have a good time. The more time you spend with the pup, the better. Remember, they are still young and need to act like a pup, developing and learning about their new situation and environment. When you're finished, take one more trip outside and then place the pup back in its cage or crate. After every meal and playtime, remember to take them outside before placing them back in the crate.

The key to house training is you. Spend as much time with your puppy as possible during the first two to three weeks your puppy is home. Consistent, patient, praise when appropriate, and be willing- for however long it takes- to invest the time and energy necessary to make this important training time a success. The effort you put forth now will be well worth it for the lifetime of your pet.

Establishing a schedule is vital. Dogs are creatures of habit; they like to eat, sleep and relieve themselves on a regular schedule. Establishing and maintaining a schedule is easy to do and gets easier as your puppy grows.

Pay attention to your dog's behaviour so you can develop a schedule that works for both of you. First learn when your dog naturally defecate- in the morning, at night, 30 minutes after eating, etc. Look at your schedule and determine what compromises need to be made to make this workable for everyone.

If you catch your puppy in the act of having an accident, tell him "NO!" forcefully and pick him up and take him outside. If you don't catch him, simply clean up the mess and scold yourself for not being available. Do not scold the puppy.

### Crate Training: The Marvellous Crate

Any wild canine will secure a small snugly fitting space to call its own. This space represents security to the dog. If it is in its den, it cannot be attacked or bothered, so it is able to relax fully. This instinctive desire for a secure den is the basis of the psychology behind using a crate as a training aid. Once the pet owner has overcome his own prejudice against "caging a pet" and has accepted the sound reasoning behind crate training, he and his dog can begin to enjoy the benefits of the marvellous crate.

To accustom your puppy to its new crate, prop open the door and allow the pup to explore the confines of the crate. Placing food or a favourite object inside will encourage it to step in. When the dog is comfortable, close the door and keep it confined for about 5 or 10 min. When you let the pup out, do it unceremoniously. Releasing the puppy should not be a major production.

Each time you put the dog in the crate, increase the time it is confined. Eventually the puppy can be confined for up to several hours at a time. If the crate also serves as the puppy's bed, it can be left crated throughout the night. Don't overuse the crate though. Both you and your puppy should think of it as a safe haven, not as a prison.

Many dogs will learn to go directly to their crates when they are ready to call it a day. Often, the use of the crate will convince a restless dog to stop howling at the moon or barking at every little sound, allowing their owners to sleep through the night undisturbed.

Many dogs receive their meals in their crates. Finicky eaters are made to concentrate on the food that is offered and, as a result, overcome their eating problems. For the owners of more than one dog, the crate serves as a way to regulate the food intake of each dog. If dogs in the same household have different diets, crate feeding is almost essential. It can also make mealtimes less

Stressful if you have a dominant dog that tries to keep the others in the household away from the food bowls.

Housebreaking is made easier when the wise owner relies on the help of the crate. Until the dog is dependably housetrained, it should not be given the opportunity to make a mistake. A healthy dog normally will not soil its den (the place where it sleeps). If the crate is the right size for your dog, allowing just enough room to stand up and turn around, it will not soil its crate. If you purchase a crate for a puppy based on the size of the mature dog, you may need to block off one end to keep the puppy from sleeping in one corner and using the other for elimination.

Any time you cannot keep a close watch on the puppy, kindly place it back in its crate. When the dog eliminates at the proper time, reward it. With the assistance of a crate, house training can be almost painless for you and your puppy.

The crate is a safety seat for a traveling dog. You may know that shipping a dog requires a crate, but did you realize that a crate in your car, serves as a seatbelt would to protect your dog in the event of an accident? A dog thrown out of the car through a windshield has little chance of surviving. Also, in the event you or a passenger need medical care during an accident, a crate will keep the dog from "protecting" or "guarding" you from paramedics.

If you need to ship your dog by air, the task will be much easier if the dog is already accustomed to its crate. A crate-trained dog is relaxed and less likely to need sedation for traveling. Avoiding sedatives removes one of the major risks of air travel for dogs, and your dog will be alert and happy when it lands.

When you travel and have to leave your dog behind, the caretaker will have a much easier time caring for a crate-trained dog and she might appreciate being able to confine the dog for rest periods. Your dog will also enjoy being able to take its crate (and a little bit of home) with it if it must spend time in a strange place.

No untrained dog should be given the run of the house while its owner is away. This is not only foolhardy from the standpoint of protecting your belongings, but also from the standpoint of intervals to exercise and taking care of business.

If your dog becomes ill or needs surgery, confinement in a crate means better care for your dog. It reinforces consistency in training. It helps the dog feel more secure. It makes having strangers in the house less hectic. It makes travel safe and more comfortable. It makes bringing up a puppy as easy as can be. Once you have experienced the benefits of crate-training your dog, you will question how you ever lived without "THE MARVELOUS CRATE".

## Chew Control and Training

Puppies chew on whatever they can get their mouths on for any number of reasons: they're bored, they have a lot of energy, they're teething, or they're just curious. Dogs learn through their mouths. It's their tool; it's how they receive a great deal of information. They are naturally inclined to use their mouths whenever they can. Fortunately, most destructive chewing behaviour can be prevented or controlled. To prevent problem chewing and to direct your pup's natural inclination to chew towards appropriate objects, follow these simple guidelines:

Puppy-proof the area. If possible, remove all items your puppy can chew on, including socks, shoes, furniture, plants, etc. Tape over electrical outlets and make sure electrical cords are out of reach. Always confine your puppy in a crate or puppy-proofed area when you are away. Because puppies learn with their mouth, giving your teething puppy free rein in the house is asking for trouble. Keep them confined; you don't want them to go to school on your expensive living room furniture. Closely supervise your uncartered pup. Not unlike caring for a toddler, you should always be aware of where your uncartered pup is and what he is doing. Give your puppy a chew toy. The sole focus of your dog's chewing should be directed toward items you select. There are a wide range of safe long-lasting chew toys that are made especially for teething puppies that will keep them occupied and content for hours. Before you leave, add your scent to your dog's toy. Rub the bone between your hands and give it to your pup as you leave. Make departures low-key to avoid causing separation anxiety, which is often expressed through non-stop barking, whining or destructive chewing. Correct chewing of inappropriate objects. If you catch your pup in the act of chewing anything but his chew toy, remove the object and replace it with an acceptable chew toy. If your pup then chews on the new toy, praise him. You always want to reinforce desired behaviour with praise. Teach your pup to ignore non-toy objects if he consistently chews on the wrong things. Place tempting objects on the floor along with your pups chew toy and pretend not to pay any attention to him. If (and usually when) he starts to put his mouth over one of the forbidden objects, correct him with a firm "NO" and point out his bone. Once he learns he can only have the toy when you're in the room, it's time to leave the room for short intervals. If he chews on forbidden objects after you leave the room, your quick return will catch him in the act – the only time when corrective action should be taken. Again, give him the bone and praise if it is accepted. If he is chewing forbidden objects, but you don't catch him, he should be crated when unsupervised until he learns what is and is not acceptable to chew on. The obvious purpose of this training is to prepare your puppy for the day when he can be trusted to be alone in the house and not confined. Give your puppy plenty of exercise to relieve boredom and burn off energy- significant factors contributing to destructive chewing.

## Critical Periods in a Dog's Life

### 0 to 7 Weeks

**Socialization** Puppy is with mother and litter mates. During this period, puppy learns about social interaction, plan, and inhibiting aggression from mother and litter mates. Puppies must stay with their mother and litter mates during this critical period if possible. Puppies learn the most important lesson in their lives – they learn to accept discipline.

## 7 to 12 Weeks

**Human Socialization Period** The puppy now has the brain waves of an adult dog, but his attention span is short. This period is when the most rapid learning occurs. Learning at this age is permanent so this is a perfect time to start training. Also this is the ideal time to introduce the puppy to things that will play an important part in his life. Introduce the puppy to different people, places, animals, and sounds in a positive, non-threatening way.

## 8 to 11 Weeks

**Fear Imprint Period** Avoid frightening the puppy during this period. Any traumatic, frightening or painful experience will have a more lasting effect on the puppy than if it occurred at any other time in its life.

## 13 to 16 Weeks

**Seniority Classification Period** Puppy cuts teeth and apron strings! Puppy begins testing who is going to be pack leader. You must discourage any and all biting because such biting can be a sign of dominance. It is important that you are a strong and consistent leader. If formal training is planned, this is the time to begin. Such training will help you establish your leadership.

## 4 to 8 Months

**Flight Instinct Period** Puppy may wander and ignore you. It is very important that you keep the puppy on a leash at this time. The way you handle the puppy at this time determines if the puppy will come to you when called. At about 4-1/2 months, the puppy loses his milk teeth and get his adult teeth. That's when puppy begins serious chewing. A dog's teeth don't set in his jaw until between 6 and 10 months. During this time, the puppy has a physical need to exercise his mouth by chewing.

## 6 to 14 Months

**Second Fear Imprint Period** Dog again shows fear of new situations and even familiar situations. Dog may be reluctant to approach someone or something new. It is important that you are patient and act very matter of fact in these situations. Never force the dog to face the situation. Do not pet the frightened puppy or talk in soothing tones. The puppy will interpret such responses as praise for being frightened. Training will help improve the dog's confidence.

## 1 to 4 Years

**Maturity Period** You may encounter increased aggression and renewed testing for dominance. Continue to train your dog during this period.

## Exercising your Puppy

Providing puppies with the opportunity to exercise is a very important aspect of their care. Apart from providing various health benefits, exercising may also provide a good opportunity for your puppy to socialise with other puppies and dogs which is vital for their behavioural development.

### On the lead:

Whilst on the lead you should walk your puppy at a walking pace. It is also advisable to take your puppy for short walks only. If your puppy sits down or lies down during their walk it is important to allow them some time to rest and to wait until they choose to start walking again. If they appear too tired to continue on, it is advisable to stop the walk and head home.

Avoiding over-exercising and over-exertion is especially important whilst your puppy is growing. Over-exercising puppies can adversely impact upon their musculoskeletal development and this is of particular concern in large and giant breed puppies.

### Off the lead (running freely):

When a puppy is off-lead in a safe environment such as your backyard or a designated dog park they may be allowed to run freely. In this situation they are generally able to regulate their own pace and the amount of exercise they receive because when they get tired, they can choose to sit down or lie down and rest before getting up again. When off the lead, it is important to avoid excessive ball or Frisbee throwing and catching which may over-exercise your pup.

You should avoid forced exercise such as:

Jogging or running with puppies

Excessive Frisbee or ball throwing and catching

Running a puppy alongside a bicycle

Fast paced walks

Very long walks

Dogs should not be exercised immediately before or after eating as it can cause problems such as bloat, particularly in deep-chested dogs.

Please check with your vet when your puppy can safely go to the park in relation to their vaccination status.

# **FREE RANGE POOCHES NZ**

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