

10 Ways to Learn to Live Happily with Your New Family Puppy

YOUR NEW PUPPY IS FURRY, CUDDLY, AND FULL OF JOY—BUT LOTS OF WORK. Living happily with this bundle of fun can be one of the best or one of the worst times for both of you. The following 10 guidelines can be used to make raising your puppy a delightful adventure and a great learning experience for all.

1 Use a crate for housebreaking your puppy and during the chewing phase. Under no circumstances use the crate as punishment or as a convenience when the puppy is left alone all day. Dogs have traditionally been social animals and lived in packs. They would establish leadership, claim territory and seek out a den as a snug place to sleep. I have found that the best way to get a puppy to accept the crate as his/her safe place is to feed them there.

2 Never physically abuse your puppy. Most puppy errors are owner errors, as with children they must be taught manners with firmness. Punishment must fit the crime. Remember praise for jobs well done.

3 If you have more than one child let each child share in the responsibility. All children regardless of the age are capable of doing some chore involved with the care of the puppy. A preschooler can help feed, a teen can help take the puppy for walks or in housebreaking.

4 Brush and groom your pup regularly. This helps remove dead hair and in the longer coated breeds prevents tangles and knots. Brushing your pup regularly allows you to check for unusual lumps, scratches etc. Also if you are going to be showing your pup, it makes grooming for the show much easier. Regular grooming is important for the health of the puppy as well as making it look good.

Do not overstress your new pup. Like any baby, the puppy has limited stamina. Physical and emotional stress can cause minor to severe health problems for your pup, as well as contributing to an unacceptable temperament. Maintain a constant schedule for your pup. Make sure that the pup is fed on a regular schedule and always has lots of fresh water and a quiet place to rest. The puppy will be an important, very active member of your family.

Puppies also need special time each and every day. You can play with him, take him for a walk, groom him, and teach him tricks. Etc.

Ensure that your pup is fed a complete and balanced diet. Growing puppies have a high energy and nutrient requirement. Feeding a balanced diet will ensure that the puppies' bones, teeth etc all grow properly. It is not advisable to feed a puppy scraps from the table, you are teaching the puppy that begging is an acceptable form of behavior

The amount of exercise that a dog requires is determined by what breed you have. Sporting and working dogs are usually strong and muscular and energetic. Sprinted runs and brisk walks should be done often. Smaller breeds may be taken for regular walks. In some of the flat nosed breed's extreme cold or heat can be harmful.

Have your pup vaccinated. The pup should have come to you with its first shots. It is necessary to complete the whole program of vaccinations to ensure that the pup is protected. Your vet can provide you with the information.

Take your pup to the vet at least once a year, this is to ensure that your pup has up to date vaccinations to keep it protected from canine illness. If your pup has any known health problems, take it for check-ups more often.

Give your pup lots of affection. Touch him, play with him, talk to him, etc. This promotes a healthy home atmosphere for your family and your puppy.

With planning and patience a puppy can make family life fun. In addition, your children can learn responsibility, decision-making, and risking failure, which are all important leadership skills