

## **About Taking Your Puppy Home**

Your puppy is leaving, not only his/her brothers and sisters, but also the security of the Kennel environment. This move often results a little crying the first night at his/her new home especially if the kennel has not already introduced their puppies to crate (individual bedroom facilities) prior to your getting your puppy.

Do not baby him/her in this regard, simply but firmly tell him/her “NO” “Quiet” and stick to your guns. Even at this tender age, they are very aware of when they get their own way and if they do, you are doomed. Once the “little tyke” gets his own way, he will expect it (no DEMAND it) all the time.

It is much easier to start with good habits and to correct bad habits! The things that are non-negotiable that you do not find acceptable must be unacceptable from day one and you MUST ensure that the puppy understands this from the tone of your voice.

Your puppy has not been out in the real world yet, and should not be out in the real world until after the third set of shots at 16 weeks. The “Kennel Cough” vaccine can be given at this time also.

This is also a good time to locate an Obedience Class that will assist you in learning to train your dog and probably more importantly teach you the skills you need to develop a good working relationship with your dog.

Remember that one week of our time is about one month in dog time. What you do or do not teach your puppy in the coming weeks will become very evident in the next year.

Remember that all dogs do not start out as the valued family member, they become that way based on what you teach them. They do start out as pack animals and you had better be the alpha member of the pack or they will quickly take over that position. If this begins to happen, seek help immediately.

If your puppy is potentially a dog that the Kennel wants to keep an eye on, then you are at an advantage, the kennel will be taking this puppy and giving it additional training and socialization on the weekends of the shows. This is an invaluable resource that may open to you.

Remember also that the kennel you buy your dog from should be there to answer your questions and concerns as you need help. They should not expect perfection, just the best you can do.