



Should we get a *PUPPY*
(Or a *STUFFED TOY?*)

If you want to train your dog then this is the book for you. It starts with you, helps you select the right puppy and then give it the right education to become a good dog, the sort of dog your friends talk about, not the sort of dog that keeps your friends away.

1. Should I get a puppy or a stuffed toy?

Advice on getting a puppy, what breed, maybe an older dog would do

So you want a puppy. Why? Do you think a puppy would be good for the kids? What about the kids – would they be good for a puppy? If you have young children and a young puppy which you are trying to toilet train, and stop chewing, it may not be a pleasant experience. The kids scream because the puppy has stolen their favourite toy, or maybe it's tugging at their slippers. While you are feeding the kids the puppy is weeing in the bedroom? If you haven't bought this book yet then don't, and forget about getting a puppy in the meantime. So you've already bought this book - don't you wish you' just bought another Board Game or a new bike?

You don't have kids? Do you work all day, and when you get home at night do you like to watch the TV or go out to the Restaurant or go to the pub? Forget about getting a dog – don't bother buying this book - get a new pair of car seta covers instead.

What if you really DO want a dog? You have time to spend with the dog. Your kids are old enough to be able to explain what to do when puppies steal their toys or chew their slippers without creating World War 2. You think of taking the dog for walks and even the idea of having to do it in the rain and cold doesn't put you off? You realise a dog could live to 15 years, and you can only think of the wonderful times you'll have? Then read on...

Puppies need a great deal of time and patience.

Puppies need company. They are very social creatures, and do not do well when left for long periods by themselves. Such isolation can lead to common problems such as barking and digging and other destructive behaviour.

Puppies need guidance. They need to find out how to behave in your family and in the wider world.



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What will puppies give you in return?

- Puppies make you smile
- Puppies make you laugh
- Puppies give you a reason to walk in the rain
- Puppies give you a reason to act like a kid
- Puppies give you something to look after.
- Puppies wag their tails
- Puppies are pleased to see you.
- Puppies won't argue or nag.
- Puppies will do silly things to please you.
- They even say that dogs will help make you live longer.

How do you choose the right sort of puppy for you?

Consider the following:

- The size of your section and the availability of exercise areas nearby
- Your activity level
- Presence of young children in your family
- Your financial state
- Allergies to hair
- The purpose for which the dog is bred

Consider an active breed (working family) if you are an active person. Eg. Collies.
Consider an aggressive breed if you do not have small children (Terriers, Guarding breeds)
Consider a small less active breed if you do not have a large section and are not very active yourself. Eg. Cavalier King Charles.
Reconsider those dogs which need regular grooming such as poodles, OESD if you don't have much money.
Carefully select reconsider those dogs which have known health problems eg. Skin, eyes, ears such as Sharpei if you don't have much money.

Like people, some puppies are very confident outward going types whereas others are more reserved. The puppy that bounds up to you and tugs on your shoelace is an entirely



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different sort to the one which hides in the corner of the room and needs to be sweet-talked out. The second puppy could suit an elderly couple; the first one would enjoy life in a busy older family.

2. What puppies do puppies do best?

Toilet training, pre-school/socialisation. Chewing/Jumping up.

TOILET TRAINING.

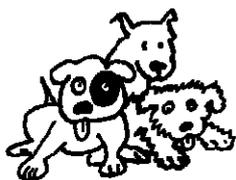
Remember that a young puppy has no bladder control when born, and little at eight weeks of age, but it will develop quickly over the next few months. Given that humans of 6 months are still in nappies, dogs aren't doing too badly! The primary rule of thumb is not to trust them, and to make every effort to ensure they toilet in the **right** place.

Dos for Toilet training.

1. Choose a spot outdoors for your dog to go to the toilet.
2. Praise your dog when it goes to the spot.
3. Use food, verbal praise or physical praise (pat) when your dog gets it right.
4. Use a special word such as "toilet" or "busy" etc.
5. Take your puppy to the spot after it has - woken up, eaten, been playing, or if it runs around sniffing in corners or running in circles.
6. Give your dog plenty of opportunity to go to the toilet before leaving it indoors.
7. Let your pup walk to the door, so it learns to go to the door when it needs to go to the toilet.
8. Be patient, keep your eyes open, be aware of your dog's behaviour, and praise it when appropriate.

Don'ts for toilet training.

9. Don't smack your puppy for going to the toilet in the wrong place.
10. Don't rub your puppy's nose in its urine or excreta. We would never rub a baby's nose in its nappies contents!
12. Don't leave your puppy indoors unattended for long periods.
13. Don't believe that a puppy soils the carpet to get back at you!

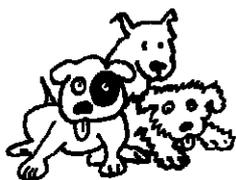


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HOUSE TRAINING A PUPPY.

1. Set your clock to 1 hour. When it rings take your pup outside to its spot. Stay there for about five minutes. If it urinates praise it, and go inside and set you alarm for 1 hour again.
 2. If your pup does not go to the toilet keep taking it out at ten minute intervals until it does, then praise it and set your clock for 1 hour. You will soon work out your individual puppy's rhythm and be able to take it outside when it needs to empty its bladder.
 3. When you are unable to supervise it for long periods leave it in a safe part of the garden, or small area in the house e.g. cage, playpen etc. Dogs are unlikely to soil their sleeping area, so it will move around crying if it needs to go out.
 4. At Night time. The Puppy's bladder cannot hold on all night. Toilet the puppy before you go to bed, and put the puppy in its play pen close to your bed. When it wants to go in the middle of the night you will hear it moving around and then can get up and toilet it.
- * Newspaper training is popular but teaches the puppy to toilet indoors. It may also be difficult to transfer the concept of going on the paper to going on the grass outside. It is also difficult to train the puppy if you are unable to supervise it all day during these early weeks, as obviously it cannot hold on all day. Clean up any accidents thoroughly and deodorise the area so there is no smell of urine left so the puppy won't be tempted to use it again. Do not use ammonia based products as they smell like urine.

When walking your dog, always pick up any faeces it deposits. Carry a plastic bag.



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3. Making a good dog out of a mad puppy.

Rules, Training sit, come, down, heel.

GUIDELINES –some sensible rules.

Life is full of rules, and it should be no different for the dog in your household. Dogs developed from pack animals and originally lived in groups with a definite social structure or hierarchy. Each dog had its place, from the top dog down to the subordinates and puppies. Each dog learnt how to interact with others and there were few fights. Dogs respond well to living in a human family environment. But, in order for the dog to live in harmony with all the members of the family, it is important that the dog recognise its place in the household. Rules help establish this.

Learning how to behave. Dogs have no unbuild knowledge on how to behave in a family. They must be taught the right way to behave. We should do this by rewarding good behaviour, ignoring unwanted behaviour, and interrupting bad behaviour that cannot be ignored. Train your dog. Create good rules that the whole family follows. Consistency is very important.

SLEEPING GUIDELINES

- A dog should have its **own bed/mat** inside and outside which it is trained to use.
- Dogs should stay off furniture and people's beds.
- A cage or restricted area helps in toilet training.

EATING GUIDELINES.

- Dogs should be fed at set times, **after** the people have eaten.
- Uneaten food should be put away after about 5 minutes for the next meal, not left out.
- Leftovers can be saved to use in training or meals.
- Bones should be fed only if dogs do not get possessive over them
- Dogs should lie on mat or go outside when people are eating.
- Teach your dog to wait until its food bowl is put on the ground.

TRAINING and GOOD MANNERS

- Train the sit, sit stay, down, down stay, come
- Teach your dog to come to you - don't chase it.
- Teach your dog good manners – when visitors arrive, while its lead is being put on, going through doors, down stairs.
- Dogs should follow people through doorways, gates etc, **NOT** push past



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GUIDELINES for GAMES

- **Good games** to play include: scenting , hide and seek, retrieving
- Be aware that games such as tug of war, play fighting and chasing encourage dogs to be aggressive and employ prey chase/kill instincts. Such games should be avoided in homes with young children.
- When playing with your dog on the floor, don't allow it to stand over top of you. This especially applies to children.
- Toys belong to YOU and as such you should keep some of them for special games or places. They will be more fun for your dog and last longer too!

HANDLING and GROOMING.

- Handle your dog regularly.
- Ensure your dog will stand still while you groom it , check its eyes, ears, feet, nails etc
- Get dog used to being handled by others from a young age.

EXERCISE.

- Dogs should get at least ½ - 1 hour exercise daily, preferably off lead. This will reduce problems associated with boredom such as wandering, excessive barking, digging holes and other destructive behaviour.

4. I have a good dog so what do I do now?

Training

Trick training.

Agility

Fun and Games.

Start with a good Puppy pre-school class, follow that up with at least 2 terms of dog training. A weekly dog training lesson is a great way to meet people and other dogs in a controlled area, and is tremendous fun and important for your puppy.