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Bringing Your Puppy Home

Use the information in this section to prepare your home and family for life with your new puppy.

The Supplies You Need

Before you bring your puppy home, be sure you have the following supplies:

1. Premium pet food to get your new puppy off to a good start.
2. Stainless steel, non-tip food and water bowls.
3. Identification tags with your puppy's name, your name, phone number and your veterinarian's name and phone number. A collar and a leather or nylon 6-foot leash that's 1/2 - 3/4 inches wide (consider using a "breakaway" collar with plastic clips that will unsnap in case your puppy gets hung up on something).
4. A home and travel crate that's airline approved and will accommodate your puppy's adult size. This crate will serve as your puppy's new "den" at home, when traveling or riding to the veterinarian's office. His scent in the crate will provide comfort and a sense of security during these stressful times.
5. Stain remover for accidental soiling.
6. Brushes and combs suited to your puppy's coat; ask your veterinarian or breeder about an appropriate brush or comb for your dog.
7. Dog shampoo, toothbrush and paste.
8. High-quality, safe chew toys to ease teething.
9. Flea, tick and parasite controls.
10. Nail clippers.
11. Treats

Helpful Hints

- Use stainless steel, non-tip food bowls, which won't break or absorb odors.
- Toys with parts that squeak or whistle can be dangerous if swallowed.
- For a comfortable collar fit, allow for two-fingers of space between the collar and your dog's neck; consider using an adjustable collar.

Making a Home Safe

To make your home safe for your new puppy, eliminate potential hazards around the house and pay attention to the following items:

- Keep breakable objects out of reach.
- Deny access to electrical cords by hiding or covering them; make outlets safe with plastic outlet plugs.
- Safely store household chemicals.
- Keep the following house and garden plants out of reach: poinsettias, azaleas, rhododendrons, dumb cane, Japanese yew, oleander and English ivy among others.

- In the garage, be sure engine lubricants and other poisonous chemicals (especially antifreeze) are safely stored.
- If you own a pool or hot tub, check the cover or the surrounding fence to be sure they're in good condition.
- If you provide your puppy with an outdoor kennel, place it in an area that provides sun and shelter in the pen; be sure the kennel is large enough to comfortably accommodate your puppy's adult size.

The First Days at Home

The ideal time to bring home a new puppy is when the house is quiet. Discourage friends from stopping by and don't allow overnight guests. First establish a daily routine and follow these steps:

Step 1: Before bringing him in the house, take him to the area in your yard that will serve as his "bathroom" and spend a few minutes there. If he goes, praise him. If not, proceed into the house but be sure to take him to this spot each time he needs to use the bathroom.

Step 2: Take him to the room that accommodates your crate—this restricted area will serve as his new "den" for several days. Put bedding and chew toys in the crate, leave the door open and line the area outside of the crate with newspaper, in case of an accident. Let him investigate the crate and the room. If he chews or urinates on his bedding, permanently remove it from the crate.

Step 3: Observe and interact with your puppy while he's acclimating to his new den. This will help forge a sense of pack and establish you as the pack leader.

Special Puppy Concerns

Don't treat a puppy as young as 6 to 12-weeks old like an adult dog. Treat him the same way you would your own infant: with patience, constant supervision and a gentle touch. The way you interact with your puppy at this age is critical to his socialization. Use these tips:

- Don't bring home a puppy while you're on vacation so you can spend a lot of time with him. Instead, acclimate him to your normal, daily routine.
- Supervise your puppy at all times and interact with him regularly.
- Be alert for signs (sniffing and circling) that he has to go to the bathroom, then take him outside immediately.
- A young puppy has no bladder control and will need to urinate immediately after eating, drinking, sleeping or playing. At night, he will need to relieve himself at least every three hours.
- Don't punish an accident. Never push his nose in the waste or scold him. He won't understand, and may learn to go to the bathroom when you're out of sight.
- Praise your puppy every time he goes to the bathroom outside.
- Feed your puppy a formula designed for puppies. Like a baby, he needs nutritious, highly digestible food.

Meeting Resident Pets

Keep resident pets separated from your new puppy for a few days. After your new puppy is used to his new den area, put an expandable pet gate in the doorway or put your puppy in his crate. Give your resident pet access to the area. Let pets smell and touch each other through the crate or pet gate. Do this several times over the next few days. After that, give the resident pet access to the den area with your new puppy out of his crate. Supervise their meeting and go back to through-the-gate/crate meetings if trouble arises.



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Spaying and Neutering

Spaying or neutering your new puppy is the right thing to do if you're not planning on breeding. For most pet owners, the expense, time and expertise involved in breeding dogs responsibly is beyond their reach. Here are some advantages to having your puppy spayed or neutered:

- For females, there is no mess to deal with during their 21-day heat cycles, which occur every six months—the heat cycle begins in females sometime after six months of age.
- Spaying a female before her first heat cycle will reduce the chance of mammary tumors or uterine diseases.
- Neutered males tend to be less aggressive than unneutered males.
- With a neutered male, the urge to mark territory may lessen.
- A neutered male is less likely to want to roam in search of potential mates.

When to spay or neuter

Dogs should be spayed or neutered by the time they are six months old. Both operations are performed under anesthesia and may require an overnight stay at the veterinarian's office. Recovery time is quick, with most dogs resuming normal activity in a few days. Spaying (for females) consists of an ovario-hysterectomy. Neutering involves the removal of the testicles.

When you bring your puppy to the veterinarian's office for his first thorough examination, have the doctor explain the operation in detail and set up a time to have the procedure done.

**INSERT YOUR
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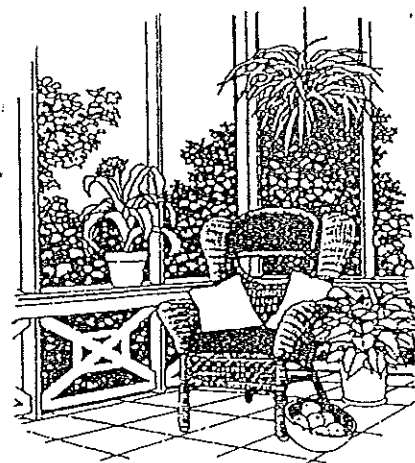
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WATCH THOSE PLANTS

In Your Home and Yard

House plants can be both beautiful and useful. However, quite a few of them can cause severe discomfort, illness and even death if ingested. In some instances, contact should be avoided as well.

This isn't to say that you shouldn't continue to enjoy your plants. However, you should be careful to keep this out of reach of the children and pets. And, with safety for everyone in mind, you may want to pass along these examples to friends and relatives who have children or pets in their homes.



AFRICAN VIOLET (<i>Saintpaulia spp.</i>)	Leaves and stems are poisonous.	IRIS (<i>Iris</i>)	Can cause gastroenteritis.
AZALEA (<i>Azalea</i>)	Contains andromedo toxin. May cause severe gastrointestinal irritation and nervous symptoms.	OLEANDER (<i>Nerium oleander</i>)	Very poisonous, one leaf can be fatal.
CALADIUM (<i>Caladium</i>)	Can cause severe irritation of mouth and tongue.	PEPEROMIA (<i>Peperomia obtusifolia</i>)	Leaves are poisonous.
CENTURY PLANT (<i>Agave</i>)	Saponins in the root can be fatal.	PETUNIA (<i>Petunia</i>)	Contains poisonous alkaloids.
CHRYSANTHEMUM (<i>Chrysanthemum</i>)	Contains rotenone and can cause severe dermatitis.	PHILODENDRON (<i>Philodendron spp.</i>)	Calcium oxalate crystals in juice cause symptoms similar to Dumbcane (<i>Dieffenbachia</i>).
DAFFODIL (<i>Daffodil</i>)	Alkaloids in bulbs can cause severe gastroenteritis and may be fatal.	POINSETTIA (<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>)	Milky juice can cause irritation of mucous membrane.
DUMBCANE (<i>Dieffenbachia</i>)	Juice causes severe burning of mouth and throat. If swelling causes closure of glottis, death can result if untreated.	PRAYER PLANT (<i>Maranta</i>)	Ingestion of leaves can poison.
ELEPHANT'S EAR (<i>Colocasia</i>)	Can cause severe irritation of mouth and tongue.	PRIMROSE (<i>Primula</i>)	Can cause severe dermatitis.
ENGLISH IVY (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	Berries and leaves can cause labored respiration, purgation and coma.	REX BEGONIA (<i>Rex Begonia</i>)	Purgative and emetic.
EUCALYPTUS (<i>Eucalyptus</i>)	Can cause cyanide poisoning.	RUBBER PLANT (<i>Ficus</i>)	Severe dermatitis and irritation of mucous membrane can be caused by irritant latex.
FOUR O'CLOCK (<i>Mirabilis</i>)	Ingestion of roots or seed can cause gastroenteritis.	SAGO PALM (<i>Cycas</i>)	Causes ataxia in hind limbs and hepatitis.
HELIOTROPE (<i>Heliotrope spp.</i>)	Leaves contains a poisonous alkaloids.	WORMWOOD (<i>Artemisia</i>)	Contains toxic oils which cause brain damage.
HYDRANGEA (<i>Hydrangea</i>)	Ingestion can result in gastroenteritis and bloody diarrhea.		

(Note: This information is primarily derived from a more comprehensive body of work by Dr. Robert L. Inakins, Professor of Anatomy in the school of veterinary medicine at Tuskegee Institute.)

CRATE TRAINING

by Liz Palika

Adding a puppy to the household can be a wonderful experience, but the relationship can sour before it even begins if the puppy is ruining carpets and chewing up furniture. There is, however, a training tool that will enable you to train your new companion and avoid disaster — a crate.

Two types of crates are available. The first type is often made of heavy molded plastic or fiberglass and was originally used by airplanes to transport animals. Plastic crates usually come in two parts, top and bottom, and are easy to disassemble and clean. Wire crates, which provide good ventilation, are also available, but they do not provide privacy and seclusion puppies need when they retreat to their crates for naps. However, a cover can be placed over a wire crate at times when privacy is more important than air circulation.

It's important that you, the new puppy owner, understand that the crate is *not* a cage or jail. A crate is your puppy's own space; its bed or den, its place to hide special toys or bones and a refuge in times of stress.

Puppies like to sleep in small, close spaces. That's why they curl up under the bed or under a chair, or crawl under the deck porch. A crate allows you to use this instinct as a training tool.

Begin by choosing a crate size to suite your dog. The crate should be large enough for the puppy to stand up, stretch, turn around and lie down comfortably — with a little growing room. Don't get a crate that would fit an adult St. Bernard for a springer pup. If the crate is too large, the pup can relieve itself in a far corner and still have a clean bed. Remember, the purpose behind using a crate to housetrain a pup is to utilize the pup's instinct to keep its bed clean.

INTRODUCING THE CRATE

Introduce the pup to the crate by placing a treat inside while the pup is sleeping. Say "(Name), crate!" and urge the puppy inside. Let the pup grab the treat and come back out. Repeat the action a couple of times; later, place the puppy's name inside the crate. Let the puppy eat the treat with the door open, coming and going as it pleases.

When the puppy is comfortable going in and out, toss a treat inside the crate, then

close the door after the pup goes inside. Wait a couple of minutes, then open the door. Gradually increase the time until the puppy is comfortable with the door being closed.

If your puppy throws a temper tantrum when you close the door, *do not* let the pup out until it is quiet. If you let the pup out when it screams, it will have learned temper tantrums work. Instead, tell the pup, "No! Quiet!" in a sharp tone of voice.

Put the crate in your bedroom at night so the puppy can feel your presence and be reassured that you are near. It is eight hours that the puppy can be near you, even though you are sleeping. If the pup is restless, you will be able to hear it and take it outside. If the puppy decides it wants to play, just reach over, tap the crate and say, "No! Quiet."

During the day, place the crate near people, in the family room or kitchen. Let your pup see and hear the normal sights and sounds of the household.

HOUSETRAINING

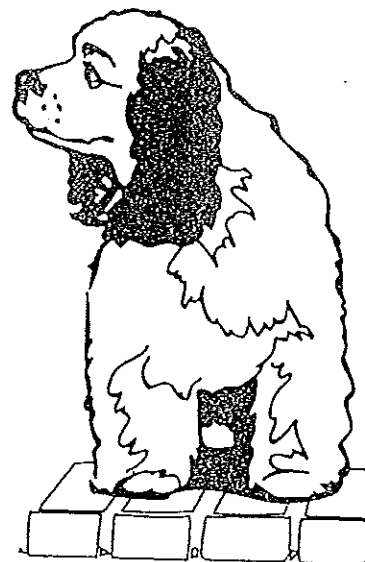
When housetraining a puppy, set up a schedule for the puppy's meals, playtime, crate time and trips outside, follow it closely. The puppy should be taken outside to eliminate after waking up from a nap, after eating, after playtime and about every three hours in between.

If you are working dog owner, don't plan on leaving the puppy alone in its crate from 9 am to 6 pm. That is entirely too long for the puppy to be crated without a chance to eliminate and play. Confine the puppy with its crate to an easy-to-clean area, such as the kitchen, bathroom or laundry room, or hire a neighbor to come play with the puppy and take it outside.

PREVENTING PROBLEMS

Puppies don't intentionally get into trouble. It's just that our belongings are so alluring, at least in a puppy's eyes. After all, a couch cushion that has been slightly chewed is a lot of fun when it's shaken and the stuffing goes flying everywhere! Leather shoes and rawhide chews are very similar to many puppies; in fact, the shoes probably smell more attractive.

Many of the destructive things puppies do can be prevented by using a crate. The puppy cannot destroy your \$100 leather shoes if the pup is crated when not supervised. The puppy cannot trash the sofa



cushions, scatter the garbage or pull down the drapes if it is confined when you are at work.

By preventing these problems, you will establish good habits. The puppy learns to chew on the toys you give it, to sleep and to be quiet, rather than learning to be destructive.

SECURITY

A crate provides the puppy with security away from home. If the dog needs to be boarded, send its crate with it. The dog will be much more secure with its familiar place of refuge.

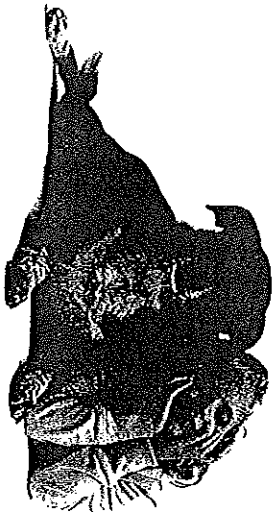
Teaching the pup to ride in the crate in the car may save its life some day. Thousands of dogs are injured or killed annually when they are thrown from cars or trucks. Crating the dog in the car will also prevent it from interfering with the driver.

By bringing a crate when you travel, your dog can be crated in the motel room and you needn't worry about it getting into trouble when you go out to dinner.

AS AN ADULT

As your dog matures, it can be given more freedom, but if it does make a mistake, crate it again. The dog must prove its reliability by not having accidents in the house and by not getting into trouble. Too much freedom too soon will result in problems.

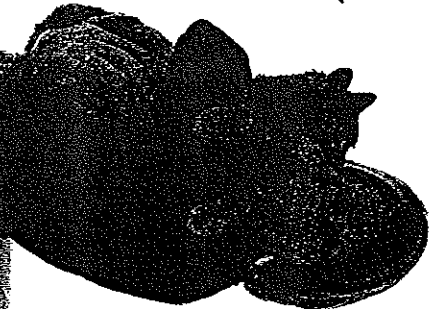
Your dog will still use its crate on its own, even when full grown. Because the crate is your dog's special place, it will retreat there when the family is busy and it needs to sleep. Your dog will go there when it is feeling low or sick. Your dog will hide the bones it wants to keep away from the new baby or puppy in its crate. And again, it's a safe, secure place.



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Research Before You Buy! Is a Siberian In Your Future?

These are the things you need to know, cut and dry:

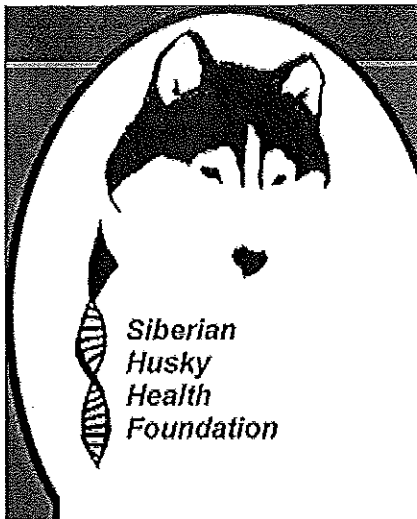
1. Siberians are not trustworthy off lead.
2. Siberians shed profusely twice a year.
3. Siberians have a high prey drive.
4. Siberians are escape artists.
5. Siberians love to dig.
6. Siberians require consistent training and attention.
7. Siberians can have a number of health problems including epilepsy, zinc deficiency, hypo-thyroidism, hip displasia, eye defects, and ectopic ureter. It is important that you purchase a Siberian from a reputable breeder.



Training and Socialization

Siberians should be outgoing and friendly. Proper socialization and training should help to ensure that your puppy or dog learns manners.

Click on the picture at left to view Additional Breed Information!



Siberian Husky Health Foundation

✦✦ JUST FOR PUPPIES

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 Safe Chew Toys for Puppies | Diarrhea in Siberian Puppies | Feeding Guidelines for
 Siberian Puppies | Cost of a Litter | Housetraining 101 | Puppy Evaluation

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FEEDING GUIDELINES FOR SIBERIAN PUPPIES

There are two main schools of thought for feeding puppies. The first school says that puppies need to be fed at specific times and the second school teaches that the food should be left down all day. Both of these ideas will be discussed.

How your puppy was feed prior to coming to your new home mostly depends on how the puppy was housed and raised. Large kennels, pet stores, and puppy mills usually leave the food down all day due to lack of time for individual feedings. The major disadvantage to this type of feeding is obvious – the alpha puppies will eat first, faster, and will growl at the other littermates. This type of behavior can cause puppies to be food aggressive and food protective at later dates. It can also cause a reserved and shy puppy to become fearful of other dogs. The problem to the pet owner is that puppies whom have the food available all day tend to be fussy picky eaters. There also can be a problem in housebreaking. There is a reflex in a puppy that causes a bowel movement after eating a large meal. If the puppy is continually eating smaller meals, this reflex may be diminished and housebreaking may be harder to complete. In the warmer weather, the food has to be protected against insects and flies.

The more popular method of feeding is set meals three times a day until the puppy self weans to two meals a day, usually at about 12 to 16 weeks of age. The puppy will begin to nibble at the afternoon meal and this meal can be discontinued at that time. Set meals make housebreaking easier since the puppy will defecate approximately 3 to 15 minutes after the meal is completed. The food is usually left for no longer than 15 minutes than taken up whether the puppy eats or not. The meal is than offered at a later time.

Siberian puppies should never growl at the owners when the food is taken away, and this problem needs to be corrected immediately if present. The food is continually taken away from the puppy until the puppy is adjusted to the task. The same is to be learned for chew toys and treats. Also, puppies should be taught to sit before any meal or treat is given (ask the breeder if this is acceptable with a show puppy).

The most important growth phase for Siberians is from 2 months through 9 months, so feeding a good quality food is important. Do not feed cheap food. Bargain Brand X should not be in your kitchen – it belongs in the trash. Garbage in equals garbage out. Feeding cheap food is feeding fillers, which will cause a puppy to defecate 3 to 5 times a day, have soft stools, weak bones, and poor coat and structure. Puppies should not have a bowel movement every few hours. If they do, it is either the food or a medical

condition such as parasites.

Siberian puppies do not need canned food especially at 12 weeks of age. They are not Chihuahuas – they are working dogs that need strong teeth and bones. Most breeders wet the dry food with water to cause a softer food for puppies. **SIBERIAN PUPPIES ARE MILK INTOLERANT AFTER 12 WEEKS OF AGE.** Do not give milk in the food and do not select a puppy food with milk as an ingredient. Stay away from feeding them the kitchen sink – they do not need baby food, baby cereal, cottage cheese, yogurt, rice, etc. after 12 weeks of age unless a specific medical condition is being treated.

If you select a name brand dry puppy food, your puppy will grow to the full potential. A few major brands have medium breed puppy food. This is acceptable to feed. Feed the puppy food until the dog reaches 9 months of age or until the dog is neutered at 6 to 9 months of age. At this time, an adult food can be selected. Siberians can be very fussy eaters and do not become upset if your dog does not eat every meal presented. Adult Siberians are notorious for not eating for several days, which absolutely drive their owners insane.

Kathleen Stryeski, DVM

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PUPPY VACCINATION SCHEDULES

The preventative health program for a puppy usually begins between 6 and 9 weeks of age, or the first time that a puppy is brought to the veterinarian. Besides a complete physical exam, the veterinarian will vaccinate the puppy with a combination vaccine called a DHPP or DHPPC. There is much controversy in veterinary medicine concerning which vaccinations to give and the frequency of vaccination, however the protocol for vaccinating a puppy has remained the same except for a few revisions. Your veterinarian will determine which vaccinations are proper for your puppy and the following information is to be used as a guide only.

The first vaccine is usually given at 6 to 8 weeks of age, with a combination of Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus (DHPP). An additional protection against Coronavirus can be added if the virus is present in your area. Leptospirosis was given in the past during the early phase of vaccination, but has lost popularity due to severe vaccine reactions and the lack of the correct serotypes in the vaccine. Also, Leptospirosis is seen rarely in some areas of the country. Some breeders and pet stores separate the Parvovirus and administer it at a different time, usually 2 weeks after the Distemper vaccine. This is acceptable.

The second series of vaccines are given 3 to 4 weeks later for the same combinations as listed above. These vaccines are given every 3 to 4 weeks until the puppy reaches 16 weeks of age, and then the vaccine will be given a year later.

Some veterinarians will include the Leptospirosis vaccine at 16 weeks of age when the puppy is less likely to react to the vaccine. Leptospirosis is still a threat in some areas of the country, and your veterinarian will decide if the vaccination is needed for your puppy.

Rabies is mandated by law and is usually given between 12 and 20 weeks of age depending upon the recommendations at state and local level. Some veterinarians will separate the Rabies from the combination vaccines by 2 weeks. Other veterinarians will give the Rabies together with the DHPP vaccine. The reason for the separation is to reduce the over stimulation of the immune system.

Other puppy vaccines include Bordetella (canine cough) and Lyme disease. The Bordetella can be given by needle (a series of 2 vaccines given 3 weeks apart) or by an intranasal (nasal drops) vaccine. This vaccine is given to puppies exposed to other dogs especially in boarding, grooming, and training

situations. The vaccine has a wide time of administration and may be given anywhere between 8 and 20 weeks of age. Not all puppies require this vaccine and your veterinarian will determine if your puppy is at risk for this disease. There is much controversy concerning the Lyme vaccination. It is only recommended for high-risk dogs in areas of the country with active Lyme disease. The vaccine has been known to cause immune mediated reactions, but may be needed if the puppy has high exposure or does field work. If the vaccine is not given, be sure to use a veterinarian recommended tick control product for your dog. These products have age restrictions so be sure to ask your veterinarian about the age to start usage. The vaccine for Giardia is usually not needed.

The following is a more specific guide to the common vaccinations:

✓ ***Canine Distemper***

- This is a widespread viral disease which carries a high death or mortality rate. The virus is spread through droplet infection from the eyes and nose and from fecal and urine spread. Signs include high fever, nasal and ocular discharge, coughing, pneumonia, diarrhea, vomiting, and neurological symptoms. The disease is easily spread and exposure is considered inevitable during the dog's lifetime.

✓ ***Canine Parvovirus***

- This is a widespread virus that is spread through the feces in the environment. Puppies with this infection have gastrointestinal symptoms including vomiting, dehydration, loss of appetite, and severe diarrhea with or without blood. Most puppies are hospitalized for treatment and the disease carries a moderate mortality rate. This virus can infect the heart muscle.

✓ ***Canine Hepatitis***

- A viral infection caused by an adenovirus present worldwide. This disease infects the liver, eye, nervous tissue, lungs, and kidney. It is commonly spread through the urine and saliva of dogs. Signs include increased thirst, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, corneal opacity (blue eye), and bleeding tendencies. Most symptoms are those associated with hepatitis. This disease carries a moderate mortality risk.

Canine Leptospirosis

- A bacterial infection which is spread through the urine of rodents and other infected wildlife, urine of infected dogs, or contaminated water. It is commonly found in rat urine. The disease infects the liver, kidneys, and intestinal tract causing high fever, kidney damage, jaundice, hemorrhage, pain, and bloody diarrhea. This disease can be transmitted from dog to human. There are multiple strains or serovars of Leptospirosis and not all strains are in certain vaccines. Only your veterinarian can determine if your puppy needs to be vaccinated and which strain of vaccine should be used.

Canine Bordetella or Canine Cough

- This respiratory disease is really a combination of Bordetella (a bacteria) and Parainfluenza (a virus) which are usually combined in a vaccine. This is a very common infection that causes mild to severe respiratory symptoms in the puppy. These different organisms work together in the respiratory tract to cause sneezing, gagging, and

coughing. The cough can be moderate to severe and is described as a dry "honking" cough, especially if the throat area is touched. The disease can progress into bronchopneumonia. It is very commonly spread through contaminated droplets from the mouth or lungs or by direct contact. The disease is very easily spread in grooming shops, kennels, parks, dog shows, or any place where puppies or dogs are grouped together. The vaccine can be given by injection and/or nasal drops.

Canine Coronavirus

- A virus causing mild gastroenteritis with symptoms of diarrhea and vomiting. The puppy may also be lethargic and depressed. The spread is through contaminated feces. This disease is much less severe than Parvovirus and is not found in all areas of the country.

Rabies

- A fatal viral disease that infects all warm-blooded animals. The virus is spread through saliva from an infected animal which is usually spread through a bite wound or scratch. The nervous system is infected producing behavioral changes, changes in co-ordination, viciousness in dogs, paralysis of the muscles of the jaw, and seizures. Rabies is fatal in all animals and humans. Rabies vaccine is mandated by law and the duration of vaccine is regulated by each state.

Lyme Disease

- This vaccine is very controversial and has to be discussed with your veterinarian. It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss the pros and cons of this vaccination.

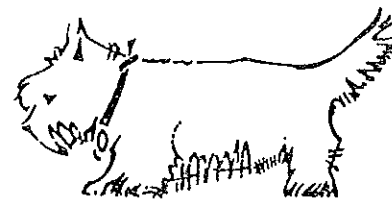
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SOCIALIZATION

Winning The Puppy Over



Regardless of why you acquired a puppy, in order for your pup to develop into an asset instead of a burden, you'll have to win it over—you, not the dog, will have to be the leader.

HOW TO SPOT A DOMINANT DOG.

Dogs that are leaders within their "human packs" bark like crazy when there is any disturbance within their territory. They may growl, nip or bite anyone who disciplines them or forces them to do things. They'll most likely challenge visitors who enter their home, growl when anyone attempts to take things away (especially food or bones), and often mark the inside of the home with urine or stool. Such dominating dogs may only come when called if it's to their advantage, frequently wander away from home, and usually challenge the individual who tries to groom, bathe, or clip their nails. One or more of these behavior patterns may indicate that a dog has taken a leadership role in the household — a dog that has not been properly socialized to his subordinate role in the "human pack."

MOST PUPS ARE "PUSHY."

The process by which a pack animal is transformed into a welcome member of the group is referred to as socialization. With dogs, it begins shortly after the third week and continues throughout early development. Socialization has been occurring for millions of years, but it is only recently that researchers have discovered how it functions.

The normal, healthy puppy is basically a pushy animal. His tendency is to go as far as possible within the social order of the pack. The reason for this is because the pack, in order to survive, must from time to time replace its leaders. Therefore, there must be a leadership pool to draw from when that time comes.

However, most pack members learn to control their "pushy" or dominant behavior because the pack has only *two* leaders — one male and one female. And this is one of the keys to successful puppy rearing — to establish yourself as a pack leader and maintain that position throughout your dog's life. Also, all members of your family should establish a leadership role with the dog. But these relationships are individually arrived at so you cannot establish a leadership role for anyone except yourself.

THE SPOILED DOG.

Many people try to win the puppy over by letting him have his own way. They shower love and affection on him just because he's so cute and cuddly and because they want him to grow up to be their friend. From the studies done on pack behavior, we now know that this is not the way to win the pup over. This kind of treatment only serves to reinforce those pushy behaviors which lead to behavior problems in the home.

PACK SOCIALIZATION.

In the wild, during weaning time, when the young cubs interact socially with the older pack members, the adults grab them around the head or neck and gently, but firmly, drive them to the ground. The cubs soon learn that adults must be greeted with "respect." They approach the adults using a slightly crouching posture, with ears back, tail down and wagging, and they lick the adults' muzzles. This is the sign of respect and affection, not fear, and is called the *subordinate* display. The function is to keep peace and harmony in the pack.

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP.

The following exercises are designed to begin establishing a leader/follower relationship with you as the leader. Once you establish this relationship, you'll not only prevent behavior problems, but also, if you're a good, just leader, your pup will seek you out. He'll want to be with you and he'll treat you with respect and affection — you'll have won him over.

What you are teaching your pup by performing these exercises is that you have control over him physically. The pup doesn't learn about social relationships through some intellectual process. You can't sit him down and discuss how he should conduct himself. He must be reached on a *physical* level. Once he learns to submit to your handling, all other physical handling such as grooming, bathing, nail-clipping and removing of objects from his mouth will be much easier to accomplish. But first he must be shown that you have the power to handle him and that handling doesn't lead to physical harm — he must trust you and all other members of the family, and at the same time be subordinate to everyone.

EXERCISE I — ELEVATION

1. While seated on the floor, pick up the pup with both hands by holding him underneath his shoulder area so that he is facing you.
2. Hold him away from your body at arm's length and look directly into his eyes.
3. If he struggles, follow with a raised voice and quick shake.
4. When he is quiet, talk to him in a soft, pleasant voice.
5. Maintain this position for 30 to 90 seconds (vary time).
6. Repeat this exercise until he no longer struggles.
7. Next time work at a different location in the house, and continue changing locations. When he no longer struggles, have older family members do the same exercise under your supervision.
8. Introduce the exercise in the presence of friends or relative and have them pet the pup when he is quiet.

EXERCISE II — INVERSION

1. While seated on floor, cradle the pup with one hand underneath his head and the other supporting his back so that he is in an inverted position or his back in midair.
2. Hold him away from your body for 30 to 90 seconds and follow the above procedures #3 through #8.

EXERCISE III — STANDING OVER

If you cannot perform the first two exercises due to the size of the dog or other reasons, substitute the following.

1. While the pup is standing, straddle him with one of your legs on either side of his body (facing in the same direction as he is).
2. Place your hands under his chest, just behind the front legs, and lock your fingers together.
3. Lift his front legs off the ground for 30 to 90 seconds (vary time).
4. If he struggles, follow with a raised voice and free one hand to quickly shake him by the neck scruff.
5. When he's quiet, talk to him in a soft, pleasant voice.
6. Repeat Steps #6 through #8 from Exercise I.

EXERCISE IV — SUBORDINATE POSITION

1. Place the pup on his side on the floor. Use one hand to hold him by the neck scruff and with the other, stroke the groin region slowly with light pressure. Talk to him in a soft, pleasant voice *when he's quiet*. If he lifts his back leg up by himself to expose the groin region, you're getting somewhere.
2. Do not allow him to struggle, nip or mouth your hands. If he tries, raise your voice and shake him firmly by the scruff of the neck as his mother would do. Praise him *lavishly* when he stops.
3. When he's quiet, place your fingers around his muzzle and press briefly, but firmly.
4. Repeat Steps #3 through #8 from Exercise I, while he is still on his back on the floor.
5. After he is reliably quiet in that position, begin handling all four paws with moderate pressure. Also start opening the pup's mouth and briefly place your fingers between the teeth. Praise him enthusiastically when he tolerates the handling.

Unfortunately, very young children cannot do these socializing exercises. Until they are older, children should be watched closely when they interact with a puppy. If not controlled, the youngster may begin teasing the dog or treat it roughly. On the other hand, the pup may attempt to dominate the child — an equally undesirable state of affairs. You should always be present when the two are together so things don't get out of hand. (See Behavior Profile #4 on Discipline.)

These exercises should be performed regularly during early development and can be started when you first meet the puppy. Once you are convinced that you and other family members can physically handle the dog with complete confidence, you've achieved your goal.