

## **Starting off on the right foot with your puppy** – Shane Tyler in Confused Dogs Dot Com

[www.PeacefulPups101.com](http://www.PeacefulPups101.com)

Having a puppy can be an exciting thing and while there is a lot of work involved in raising a puppy, there are a lot of advantages in starting off right and preventing behavioral issues from developing. How you handle the first several days can have a huge effect on whether you have a smooth transition or a more difficult one. One of the most important things that you can do is give your puppy time and space to adjust and explore its new home. It's very common to want to just cuddle and reassure your new addition to the family but think about how overwhelming this can be while it's already dealing with the stress of leaving its mother and siblings, so be aware of how much you fuss the puppy. When it comes to your first night with your puppy I like to sleep near his/her bed, so that there's the comfort of not being by itself. Puppies can be a bit fussy the first few nights, but keep in mind if you start fussing it each time it cries it could soon learn that crying gets attention from you and can make it more difficult for your puppy to settle down as it grows. Your main focus during the first few days is to be more of a calm and reassuring presence for your puppy.

When dealing with puppies I always tell people to start as they mean to go on, in other words you don't want to encourage behavior that wouldn't be okay for them to have when they're full grown. For example: a young puppy is often seen as cute when they grab onto your sock or pants and tugging at it, but when you have a full grown dog tugging at your pants it's suddenly not so cute and the owner gets upset which is going to be confusing to the dog because it used to be seen as a game. Another perfect example is when a puppy gets mouthy with people; even if it's meant as play it is never okay for a dog to put teeth on skin as this could have disastrous results when they have the teeth and strength to do real damage. The best way to handle mouthy pups is that when they're younger than 3 months old and they put their teeth on your skin or clothes to give a loud yelp or ouch and walk away. Once they're older than 3 months old they should be old enough to know that biting is not okay and so when they put teeth on your skin or clothes you'll want to give them a time out in a room where they're by themselves. When you put them in time out it's very important that you don't make eye contact with them or say anything to the pup, and you don't have to leave them in there for long just until they settle down before you let them out. When you do let them out make sure again

to not say anything to it such as, "alright, you better behave this time or you'll go back into time-out."

If you have other dogs keep in mind that they may not all be as excited as you by your newest addition, just like how bringing a toddler into a house of adults is going to be met with different levels of excitement. Often times I will let them work it out themselves, as long as they're not getting too rough and hurting the puppy. When I bring a puppy into my home they learn quickly which dogs they can play with, which dogs would rather be left alone, and which ones to go to for comfort and affection.

### **Familiarizing Puppies** – by Gill Tuxworth in Confused Dogs Dot Com

[www.gilltuxworth.com](http://www.gilltuxworth.com)

Before the vaccinations are up to date - you should not really take your dog out to "other doggy areas" but do FAMILIARIZE your puppy with lots of sounds and sights by taking him/her with you in the car ... in your arms... in those 4 weeks as long as you do it calmly and do not force anything on your puppy (e.g. sit in front of a school playground - not in the middle of the children where the pup can hear and see the children rushing around but will not be frightened by them). In this way, you will have allowed your puppy to know that it is safe to be out there with you....and he/she will trust in you to make the right decisions... Once your puppy's vaccinations etc. are up to date and you are ready to venture into the outside world you can take it out for walks but they should not be too long.

### **Toilet Training** - by Carmen Cole in Confused Dogs Dot Com ·

[www.havoc-to-harmony.co.uk](http://www.havoc-to-harmony.co.uk)

Ok so this is one of the most important things that we teach pups and new dog, yes it's the same for older dogs too. I have done this many times not only with my own dogs but with the many dogs I have fostered and rehabilitated before they go off to their 'forever' homes with all the information their new owners need to 'get it right' When I first bring a new dog or puppy home I start by bringing it into the garden, I keep them on lead and let them sniff and familiarize themselves with the surroundings, when they toilet I give lots of warm praise and a tasty treat. So... we've started on a positive note :) do NOT clear this one up, leave it there so the pup can

smell and go back to it. If you like you can designate an area of your garden where the pup is allowed to toilet so you keep it in one place, this is the area you first bring the pup to and keep taking it to until it learns 'this' is where I go.

Using newspaper or puppy pads overnight for young pups is fine but take them away with no fuss in the morning. I don't use pads or newspaper during the day at all and only at night for very young pups, the reason is I don't want to encourage the little one or let them think its ok to do it in the house. During the day, and as often as you can, take your pup over to the place where you want them to toilet and when they do praise them and give a small tasty treat. You can associate a word or phrase with the action of toileting such as 'go wee wee's' Also this is the ONLY time that you should ever approach a pup, but don't do it just before they go or you'll put them off! Pups will want to toilet when they wake up, after a meal etc..., you'll know the signs too that they need to go because they sniff and circle so at those times and when you see the signs take them out.

If your pup does have an 'accident' in the house ... say NOTHING, this is very important because if you acknowledge it they may start to do it for attention or if you make them feel bad about it then it can be the cause of some dogs to start eating their own poo. (to get rid of the evidence) Clean up any accidents with no fuss and preferably out of sight of your pup with a solution of warm water and BIOLOGICAL washing powder (or a cleaning solution with biological enzymes), the chemicals in it break down the enzymes and completely get rid of any smell. Eventually your pup will learn to go outside and for those of you who have taught them to go in a particular area they will go there. Don't rush them, don't get cross and most importantly keep calm... you are the teacher and let's face it, they learn a lot quicker than human babies!

