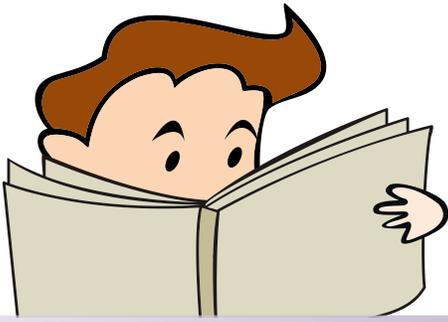




Puppy Primer Series

1/1/2017



STOP Puppies from Biting [www.sportdogtrainigncenter.com]



Puppy's New Life

One of the most frightening things about owning a new puppy is when it starts to bite and attack. We've met people whose puppies are attacking as early as 13 weeks.

The first thing to understand is that the puppy is not being bad. It is doing what mother nature wants it to do – learn to survive. Your puppy thinks it is playing, and if you do not do anything to stop the problem then your puppy will continue this behavior.

Your puppy doesn't come to you a 'clean slate'. It comes with a pre programmed set of survival behaviors. We need to work hard if we want our puppies to become calm, welcomed, members of our households.

The most critical part of your puppy's life is the first 14-15 weeks. This is the time your puppy's brain is growing. When this door closes we can never regain the power to teach our dog behaviors it will need to be calm and friendly.

"But my puppy is so cute," Yes, but this will wear off about 5 months old. Your puppy has a chemical called oxytocin that keeps it 'cute' and happy. This is to protect it from other dogs in the pack, and to keep it from exploring too much of the outside world.

In short – the puppy you have today will NOT be the dog of tomorrow.

YOU WANT A CALM DOG = TRAIN A DOG TO BE CALM

Too many puppy owners focus on what they don't want their puppy to do, and forget what they do want their puppy to do.

If you want your puppy to be calm then you need to reward and reinforce any calm behavior. When you see your puppy laying down quiet, or 'following' you and watching you then praise it.

Set your puppy up for success. Set up times when your puppy will find it easy to be calm, and reward the puppy when it behaves quietly.

I like to set up puzzles for my puppy to solve. I hide treats, and sometimes set up an obstacle course for the puppy to run through.

I also be very careful when I use my puppy's name or the 'come/recall' command. I never use these words when the 'game' or 'fun' is done, or if I am going to give my puppy a time out.

SELF CONTROL

Puppies are born knowing how to hunt, chase, and fight. They don't know that they should be quiet in the house. They don't know they shouldn't treat children like other puppies.

You need to teach these skills, and until your puppy learns he should be in a safe environment. I like to fence off the kitchen. I also use a crate.

In the wild dogs spend most of their day sleeping. Your puppy still has this instinct. Even if your puppy slept all day while you are at work it shouldn't be kept up until your bed time. An 8 week old puppy should have 30-60 minutes of activity with you and then an hour nap.

If your puppy is becoming over Excited or aggressive then
It is time for a nap.



ZOOMIES

3pm or 7pm. Some puppies go crazy at these times. They race around the house in a frantic state. They may become more aggressive. If this sounds like your puppy then please read these articles:

[“My Puppy Has Zoomies Help!” Coping Mechanisms for FRAP](#)

[The Dreaded Dog Zoomies “Why Does My Puppy Get Hyper”](#)

PUPPIES GRADUATE TO - FREEDOM

Punishment is very hard on a puppy’s fragile self-esteem. It is very easy to teach a puppy to fear you.

This is why we make a safe place for puppies. They can only come out of this area when they are with you. When you are done playing with and training them, they go back to their quiet place.

As the puppy learns to be calm, potty outside, and not bite or chew then they may have more freedom. This may take a few weeks, so make sure your quiet place doesn’t put your puppy under foot.

When your puppy becomes excited then quickly pick him/her up and put them in their quiet place. Do not scold or punish them. Your puppy will soon learn that biting ‘ends the game.’

HOW TO STOP PLAY BITING

Puppies bite most often when playing. You can stop a young puppy by yelping ‘ow’. The puppy should jump back startled and look at you. Immediately reward the puppy (I use treats) and start the game again.

It doesn’t matter how many times your puppy bites you do not become frustrated or angry. Yelp and let the puppy back off. When it is quiet, reward the ‘calm behavior.’

MY PUPPY WON’T STOP

If your puppy will not stop biting, and/or jumping on you in play then it is time to wrap your arms around him/her in a big hug and hold them until they calm down. This is different for each dog. Some puppies calm immediately. Some puppies fight you for several minutes.

Do not do an ALPHA Roll. Just wrap your puppy in your arms and hold it firmly.

STILL WON’T STOP? Then it is time for a nap in its crate.



Your Puppy Wants YOU!

OVER AROUSAL

Puppies want to play with you. They need a lot of your time. The more time you invest in your puppy now, the better behavior your puppy will have later.

When you come home from work your puppy will be excited. Do not go to the puppy right away. Give it a few minutes to calm down. Once calm, then reward it with your presence. Keep the greeting calm. It will take some practice but your puppy will learn.

PUPPIES ARE NOT PEOPLE

We love our puppies. We often let them bully us and act crazy because we feel they are having fun, and love us. Treating a puppy like a child can cause permanent behavior problems. If you want the best for your puppy then learn everything you can about dogs care.

FEAR

You can accidentally teach a puppy to fear people by a) forcing it to meet strangers b) striking it with your hand c) not letting it see lots of people (50-100) by 4 months old, and d) letting strangers pet it. Fear in puppies can become aggression as early as 5-9 months old!

Learn everything you can about proper socializing. Meeting people Should be a fun game, Not a scary discipline.

You can find more Helpful articles on Our blog: [Puppy Training](#)

