



NEW PUPPY INFORMATION SHEET

So you are the proud guardian of a lovely new puppy. Bright eyed and completely reliant upon you, there is lots to think about and lots that you must do to give 'Rover' the best start in life. Time invested in your puppy now, will pay dividends later and help avoid unnecessary adult behavioural problems occurring.

Toilet Training

One of the most basic lessons will be to teach your dog to toilet in the area of your choice. In order to be successful remember:

- Keep taking puppy to the same area at regular intervals and reward him for success, both on and off lead.
- Once complete, puppy should be allowed free access to areas within the house that you have approved and puppy proofed.
- If he makes a mistake, interrupt and take him to the toilet area. Do not punish him, instead consider why it happened. It's rarely puppy's fault! Dog crates can help improve the process.

To Crate or Not To Crate – Important Training

Dog crates are very useful and introduced correctly will result in a strong positive attachment to this safe and secure location; 'Rover' will love his crate and happily go there to rest/sleep. Remember:

- Never force your dog into the crate or use it as a punishment.
- Never leave him in it for long periods without toilet breaks.

Leaving Puppy Alone

Leaving a puppy can be a traumatic experience especially if he is used to having people around. It is wise to set him up to be alone for short periods right from the start and gradually increase the duration to avoid anxiety when you go back to work or if you have to leave him. A crate will keep him safe, but you should also leave him something to keep him occupied while you are gone.

Safety

Just like toddlers, puppies will get into mischief if not supervised or left in a safe area. All puppies enjoy chewing but can cause significant damage or injure themselves if not correctly managed. Teach him what is not acceptable to chew and provide alternatives.

Puppy Socialisation

Your puppy must meet lots of dogs and people, and experience many different environments **before 16 weeks old** (critical period) to help avoid adult fear related issues.

Each new experience or meeting should be positive; ensure that your puppy remains calm and relaxed.

Use this checklist to record socialisation successes.

Men / Women / Children Multicultural Backgrounds	
Beards / Glasses / Hats Hoodies / Joggers / Skaters	
Dogs / Bitches / Puppies Sterilised and Intact	
Cars / Bicycles / Motorbikes Tractors / Lorries / Buses	
Wheelchairs / Prams / Canes Shopping Trolleys	
Vets / Policemen / Postmen Crossing Patrol	
Cats / Horses / Cows / Sheep Rabbits / Squirrels / Others	
Alarm / Doorbell / Telephone Vacuum / Brush / Sirens	
Wheeliebins / Lawnmower Garden Tools / Ornaments	
Parks / Woods / Crowds Busy Roads / Quiet Roads	
Other Houses / Pet Shops Carpets / Wooden Floor / Tiles	
Concrete / Long Grass / Mud Wet Grass / Snow / Water	
Toys / Footballs / RC Toys Team Sports	
Handling Your Puppy Ears / Mouth / Paws / Body	
Grooming / Washing Brushing / Clipping Nails	

This list is not exhaustive; the more your puppy experiences the better!!

