

HELPFUL HINTS FOR RAISING A WELL MANNERED PUPPY

1. Attend puppy class and obedience class. Ask questions, take notes, have fun. Puppy class allows your puppy to enjoy normal puppy behavior in an appropriate way. Obedience will continue to build a strong bond between you and your puppy. Do not send your puppy away to school. This deprives you of your opportunity to learn and build your relationship with your dog and it is more costly.
2. Always have your puppy "earn & learn" by having your puppy sit to receive food, treats, affection, etc. This teaches your puppy to sit when requesting something and reinforces your leadership status. Use your puppy's intelligence constructively. This exercise should start the day of arrival into your home. BONUS - puppy learns to be quiet to get your attention.
3. Praise your puppy for doing something that pleases you, even if you didn't ask. For example, good sit, good down. Praise is especially important when your puppy comes to you, setting you up for success on recalls.
4. Challenge yourself and your puppy to learn new tasks and experience new things. Remember, do not praise fear but encourage exploration. Make light of fearful situations. Encourage your puppy to do tasks. Set them up for success.
5. Use soft voice tones with your puppy. This creates a calm learning environment. Remember, your puppy's hearing is much better than yours and raising your voice will only create fear. BONUS - this will help to keep you stay more calm and patient.
6. Be consistent with your task requests. Don't change words on your puppy. You can always expand your puppy's vocabulary but keep things simple.
7. Provide adequate and appropriate outlets for puppy behavior. (toys for chewing & social play) Exercise is probably one of the most important because your new puppy has lots of energy. Appropriate chew toys such as "Buster Cubes", "Kong" toys, Gummabones, some compressed rawhides. Get together with friends made in puppy class. BONUS - a good night's sleep.
8. Always ask your veterinarian any questions you have regarding behavior and health. Remember well-meaning friends may give you incorrect advice.
9. Always treat your puppy with respect. Never let anyone tell you to do something to your new puppy that you feel uncomfortable about. Unfortunately, there are some trainers who feel hanging a dog by the end of a choke collar is acceptable. Dogs do not need a negative to learn. Positive reinforcement is best. BONUS: You won't break your dog's spirit.
10. Watch for small victories. These are so important. Perhaps jumping less frequently or enthusiastically or going in the kennel with less hesitation. BONUS: You will see progress every week when you are consistent and patient.