

# Dog Talk Academy

## **NEW PUPPY**

Puppyhood is a crucial time in a dog's life. This is the time when experiences have a major effect on shaping the dog's future personality. One of the most important aspects of a dog's personality is how he interacts with other animals and people. Give your puppy plenty of opportunity to meet a variety of people during his impressionable, formative weeks. If he is expected to live with other animals, make sure of introducing him to them as soon as possible.

During early puppyhood, it is important to be aware of any signs of shyness or fearfulness. Socialization during puppyhood will go a long way to building up your dog's confidence. Don't delay...the window of opportunity is small. Treating shyness and its consequences in an older dog can be a great challenge.

Dogs are animals and without proper training and guidance, they will behave like animals. They will soil your house, destroy your belongings, bark excessively, dig, fight other dogs and even bite people. The key to preventing unwanted behaviors is teaching your puppy to redirect his instinctual behaviors to outlets that are acceptable in the domestic setting.

**The most important time in your dog's life is right now.** Your dog's behavior is constantly changing. A dog that is well behaved today will not necessarily remain that way forever. Unwanted dog behaviors can always develop and will most likely get worse if not attended to. **Prevention is the best medicine.**

Rewarding your puppy for good behavior is an important aspect of training. The more often the dog is rewarded, the quicker he will learn. Therefore, it is essential that you set up situations repeatedly in order for the dog to get lots of practice at doing the right thing. It is equally important that you always praise your dog for good behavior instead of taking it for granted. It's easy to forget to praise good behavior because it goes unnoticed...but, the very nature of misbehavior gets your attention.

**Praise and reward often to maintain good behaviors.**

Training should be fun for you and your dog. It can enrich your relationship and make living together more enjoyable. A well trained dog is confident and can be allowed greater freedom than an untrained dog.

**The right time to begin dog training is NOW!**

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