

PUPPY PRESCHOOL



Socialisation & body handling have the highest priority at this stage in your puppy's life. Help your puppy grow into a happy and confident adult and prevent future behaviour problems. Our human world can be very overwhelming for a young dog and lots of things can make them fearful. So, it is important to give your dog lots of positive experiences.



<http://www.crosspaws.com.au/resources/puppies/socialisation.pdf>



http://www.crosspaws.com.au/resources/puppies/body_handling.pdf

Managing puppy behaviour

Whenever you can't actively supervise your puppy, place them in confinement such as a playpen, crate or puppy-proof room. If you use a crate, which is the fastest way to get your puppy house-trained, make sure you crate-train your dog first, so they are perfectly comfortable in their crate. It is much easier for your dog to develop the "right" habits, i.e. where to relieve themselves and what to sink their teeth into, with supervision and confinement.



http://www.crosspaws.com.au/resources/puppies/house_training.pdf



http://www.crosspaws.com.au/resources/puppies/crate_training.pdf



http://www.crosspaws.com.au/resources/puppies/puppy_biting.pdf

Prevention of separation anxiety

Practise short absences. Briefly walk out of sight while your puppy is behind a barrier such as a playpen or baby gate. Next, briefly walk into another room, then out the front door. Then leave the home for random short periods and so on.

Leave your dog with toys, including food puzzle toys, for entertainment and enrichment. Ignore mild vocalisations when you practise absences, but do not let your dog become distressed. Enlist the help of dog sitters, friends and family members to keep your puppy's home-alone time short enough, so they stay fully relaxed (use video surveillance to watch for signs of stress).

Never make a fuss when you leave the house or come home. You do not have to ignore your dog entirely but avoid excitement just before you leave and after you return. It can enhance the contrast between your presence and your absence and trigger separation anxiety in dogs who are prone to this problem. Separation anxiety is a serious disorder, so now is the time to prevent it.

Prevention of resource guarding

Approach your dog randomly while they are eating, playing with or chewing on a toy. Calmly take the food/toy away, then pull a super tasty treat (e.g. a piece of roast chicken) out of your pocket (after your approach) and give it to your dog, then give the food/toy back to your dog and then move away again.

Approach your dog randomly while they are resting on a bed, mat or couch or being near a person they are attached to. Touch the bed and/or the dog or touch the person they are with before giving a treat and moving away.

If your dog growls, stops eating or eats faster, watches you out of the corner of their eyes, lifts their lip or does anything of concern, toss the treat and move away immediately. Let us know asap, so we can work on this without delay!

Coming when called

Call "[*your dog's name*] come!" in a happy voice, back away from and prompt your puppy to come to you with happy talk, clapping hands, high pitched sounds, trilling sounds, whistling etc. As your puppy approaches, **praise** them extensively and then **TREAT!!!** This is important behaviour so be generous! Also, call your puppy for good things such as walks, dinner or play. Never call your puppy for something they might not like, especially to reprimand them.

Sit

With a tasty treat in your hand, lure your dog's nose up. Give them the treat as soon as their rear end goes down. If your puppy doesn't sit after a few repeats, start by first rewarding neck craning and then knee bending.

Drop

Ask your dog to sit and give a treat. With a treat in your hand, slowly lure your dog's nose down. If the dog stands up, immediately withdraw the treat and start again from the sit position. Give them the treat as soon as their elbows are near the floor (with rear end also still on the floor!). If your dog doesn't lie down, start by rewarding "nose on the ground for 2 seconds", then 4 seconds, then wrist buckling or elbow bending (<https://vimeo.com/crosspaws/dropfromsit-c>).



http://www.crosspaws.com.au/resources/puppies/training_basics.pdf



Set your dog up for success, be generous with treats and have lots of fun!