

Your New Puppy!

Betty's 14 Step Plan For Management And Training Success!

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Step 1: Finding The Right Breeder And The Right Puppy For Your Family!

To find a reputable breeder go to www.akc.org This is your best resource to find a reputable breeder in your area. Most reputable breeders have web sites and e-mails and they are more than willing to talk to you over the phone or in person. Well bred dogs are housed in houses - not in sheds, garages or barns with no socialization! If the breeder will not allow you to visit the whelping area, look elsewhere for your puppy. If the environment smells foul, look elsewhere for your puppy. If the pups are not well fed, clean and healthy, look elsewhere for your puppy. Reputable breeders love showing off their dogs and their pups. A reputable breeder guarantees the health of their pups and backs this up in writing.

Shop wisely! Don't buy the first cute puppy that you see! A reputable breeder does not indiscriminately breed litters of pups, nor are they willing to indiscriminately sell to anyone! They plan litters. Good breeders usually ask for a deposit on an upcoming litter. You may have to wait 3-4 months for your puppy but it is worth it in the long run. You will get what you pay for in the end.

Step 2: Did you see Sire and Dam?

Did you see and interact with the Sire (dad) and Dam (mom) dogs? Make sure that you are allowed to interact with both the Sire and Dam to get a good understanding of their temperament before you purchase your puppy. If the Sire is not on the premise, ask the location of the Sire and visit him before you buy! Assessing the temperament of both parent dogs is not only a good idea it is a critical before you buy a pup.

If the Sire or the Dam has aggressive temperaments, look elsewhere for your new puppy. DO NOT listen to excuses as to "why" they are acting aggressive, look elsewhere.

Make sure that you are buying your puppy from a reputable breeder! THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!

When you support puppy mills and backyard breeders you literally support the purchase of unhealthy pups - both mentally and physically! Do your homework before you purchase, you will save thousands of dollars in the end. A genetically unsound pup can cost thousands upon thousands of dollars over the animal's lifetime in veterinary bills, training, behavioral modification and possibly drug therapy for emotional disorders.

Step 3: Environmental Conditions - Imperative!

What type of environment or conditions is the litter being housed in? It is vitally important that puppies are housed in homes where they are kept clean, dry, safe and regularly socialized on a daily basis. There should be NO ODORS! If you walk into a home or kennel and the smell turns your stomach, get out of there fast! Remember a responsible and reputable breeder takes pride and joy in breeding dogs. The environment should be spotless! The pups should be well cared for and well adjusted. The Sire and Dam should be friendly to humans. If the Sire is not on the premise, make an appointment to see him and interact with him before you purchase!

Step 4: Start Out On The Right Paw - How Old Is The Pup?

Puppies generally leave their litter and go into their first homes at the age of * 7-8 weeks. This is the very best time to bring a puppy home. Never take a puppy home before the age of 7 weeks! Puppies that stay with their litters too long (14 weeks and over) may develop behavioral issues that you will find very difficult, if not impossible to work with. Puppies that leave their litters before the age of 7 weeks may develop serious behavioral problems also. It makes no sense to take the risk!

Step 5: Understanding "The Sensitive Period" - Critical Information For Your Puppy's Emotional Welfare!

*** Developmentally - between the age of 7-12 weeks of age your puppy is in what is known as the "first fear imprint" period, anything that the puppy perceives as a traumatic experience will have an everlasting effect on his emotional state. It is IMPERATIVE that you do not introduce physical punishment, loud noises or anything that may frighten your puppy during this sensitive time in his life. If you have young children, always supervise them if they are picking up the puppy or playing with the puppy. Never pick your puppy up by his front legs! Support your puppy under his chest and abdomen and lift accordingly. Teach children how to do this correctly and under supervision. NEVER ALLOW YOUNG CHILDREN TO CARRY A PUPPY AROUND THE HOUSE. Never place your pup on furniture, including your bed. If your puppy tries to get down off of furniture he/she may injure himself. Do not force the pup up or down steps at this young age, encourage but do not force. Use food rewards to lure the pup up and down steps. If the pup is hesitant, carry the pup up and down the steps until his confidence builds. Forcing a puppy to do something that he/she is incapable of doing will only increase his/her fear of that situation. Never leave a puppy outdoors unattended. Make sure that you can provide a structural fenced in area for your puppy. Never allow your puppy to run loose on property without a fence! Remember: This is the "Critical Period" anything that the pup perceives as aversive can and will have an everlasting effect on behavior! Call me personally for more advice on early puppy management - 401-841-0857**

Step 6: How Much Should I Pay For A Puppy From A Reputable Breeder?

Expect to pay at least \$1000.00 - \$2000.00 for a healthy AKC registered pup. You get what you pay for! If you really want a healthy pup that is going to give you years and years of enjoyment, save your hard earned money and buy from a reputable breeder. Reputable breeders give you sound contracts in writing and they care about their pups welfare and future homes. They put their heart and souls into their breeding programs and most will never regain the amount of money that they have put forth into their professional breeding programs.

Step 7: What Breed Should I Purchase?

Buy an environmentally functional dog. What type of environment do you have for that new pup? Do you live in an apartment? Is it small, tight and cramped? If so, don't think about a Border Collie! Think more in the lines of a small dog under 20 pounds. Do you have a large house with a really big fenced in yard? Then think Border Collie! Make sure that you buy a pup that will thrive, both physically and emotionally in the environment in which you have to offer. Remember: Genes + Environment = Behavior. If you want a well behaved dog you must provide the proper home for that particular breed. Never, never buy a dog because it's cute or interesting or because your friend has one. Do your homework and make sure that you will be able to commit to this dog for the next 16 or 17 years. Small dogs have a longer life span than large breed dogs. If you choose a long haired dog, understand that this dog will have to go to the groomers every 4-6 weeks and make sure that you will be able to afford that also. If your long haired dog lives to be 16 years old, taking into consideration that he will be groomed

every 4-6 weeks for the rest of his life, your estimated cost over the next 16 years will be roughly \$11,000.00 (depending upon your geographical location) Think ahead. I was a professional groomer for over 16 years and I specialized in long haired breeds. I cannot tell you how many terribly matted coats I groomed and clipped over those 16 years. A dog with a matted, knotted and dirty coat is miserable and in pain. If you cannot commit to the breeds grooming needs, do not purchase the dog! If anyone in your house has allergies, acquire a hypoallergenic breed. If you want an active dog, you better be an active person! If you are a couch potato, get an inactive breed of dog. The www.akc.org site will navigate you through this process.

Step 8: Child Safety - 1st And Foremost!!

It is vitally important to put your children FIRST when making your breed selection. Talk to your children and have them browse the many different breeds of dogs that are known to be good with children. The American Kennel Club www.akc.org has great resources on their home page to help you find the right dog for your family.

Step 9: Finally! Picking Out The Perfect Puppy!

- Now that you have done your preliminary homework, it is time to pick out a puppy from that litter! What a fun experience this can be for you and your family! How do you pick the right puppy out? They are all so cute! How about that little guy that seems to be so shy, he sits in the back of the litter and looks so lost and frightened. Your heart strings go out to him and you feel as if you should take him home. Stay away from that pup! Pups that show apprehension towards people will develop into adult dogs that show apprehension towards people and nine times out of ten will become fear aggressive adults. This is not the puppy that you want to purchase! The litter of pups should be excited to see humans, they should want to come forward with their tails wagging, licking your hands and possibly doing a little mouthing. This is all normal puppy behavior. If you are novice at picking out a puppy you should consult with a certified pet dog trainer (CPDT) in your area. Certified Pet Dog Trainers will be more than willing to accompany you to the breeders home and evaluate the puppies in the litter. A certified pet dog trainer understands what to look for and what to stay away from in a litter of puppies. They are worth their weight in gold! A certified pet dog trainer has the ability to "match make" they will find a puppy that fits your personality.

Step 10: Before You Leave The Breeder's Home - Do You Have The Important Documented Paperwork? Read The Contracts!

It is a good idea to bring your new pup home over the weekend so that your entire family will have time to acclimate to the new pup.

Never purchase a puppy unless you visually see documentation, on veterinarian letterhead, that the puppy has been vaccinated! Never purchase before the age of 7-8 weeks of age and buy from an A.K.C. Reputable breeder. Stay away from pups that have aggressive parents. Make absolutely sure to physically see both the Sire and Dam. Reputable breeders generally belong to AKC Breed Clubs <http://www.akc.org/breeds/index.cfm>

Ask the breeder exactly what they are feeding the puppy and keep the puppy on that diet until your veterinarian decides it is time to switch over to another food. Make sure that the breeder gives you a health record and that the puppy has had the recommended vaccinations before you bring him home - Vaccinations are not LEGAL in the state of RI unless they are given by a licensed veterinarian! Check with your state to see whether or not it is permissible for the dog breeder to vaccinate their own litters. If it is, make sure that they supply you with documentation for your records and for your own veterinarian. Make sure that you see

documentation on veterinary letterhead! . Make an appointment with your local veterinarian before you actually bring the puppy home, this will ensure that you get an appointment within the first 72 hours after purchasing your puppy. Read and re-read your puppy "guarantee" BEFORE you leave! Ask the breeder as many questions as you want. They should be able to provide you with an answer to each and every question.

**Step 11: Pull Into Your Driveway, Get Out Of The Car And "Let Him Pee!"
Praise that Puppy!**

Now you have a puppy, what next? After you arrive home and before you bring that new pup into your home, let him pee! Take your puppy out of your vehicle and place the puppy on the lawn and wait! Be patient! He will pee! Just as soon as you see him/her sniff, circle or make the first attempt to potty, praise him or her lavishly. Don't praise after the puppy has eliminated. You must praise "slightly" before the puppy actually goes. If you time it right, your pup will be house trained in no time at all. As soon as the pup eliminates, let him in the house. Excellent, you just had your first potty training session. Your new pup just understood that going potty outside resulted in praise. Set yourself and your puppy up for success, not failure or punishment.

Step 12: Being Prepared For Your New Arrival Before He Actually Comes Home!

There are staple supplies that you should have on hand before your new arrival comes home. Prior to bringing your new puppy home you will need to purchase a few items. These items should be purchased before you acquire your puppy, not on the day that you bring your puppy home. If you are prepared in advance, you will enjoy every minute with your new pup! If you are ill prepared, you will become overwhelmed and stressed. Read on!

You will need a crate of appropriate size. The puppy's crate should have enough room for him to lie down, turn around comfortably, stand up without his back touching the top of the crate and he should be able to lie down and extend his front and back legs entirely. If your crate is too big the puppy may use one end to bathroom and the other to rest. If your crate is too small, your puppy will be uncomfortable and cramped. It is inhumane to use a crate that is not large enough for your puppy. Expect to buy more than one crate over your pup's first year. If you are purchasing a large breed dog, you may need to invest in at least 2 or 3 different size crates in your pup's first year of life. The crate must grow with the pup! Purchasing new equipment is preferable to used equipment! Used equipment may be damaged and cause injury to your puppy.

Check your new crate out thoroughly before you purchase it. Make sure to read the manufacturer's directions and assemble according to directions - this is no different than putting your child's crib together! Safety is first and foremost! If there are two latches on the crate door, make sure that you lock both of the latches, they are there for a reason. If you only latch the top, the puppy may try to escape from the bottom where he will get his paws and/or head caught. This can cause severe injury and/or death! A crate is a safe place for your puppy and also a training tool. Use the crate for "everything" positive! NEVER use a crate to punish your puppy! The crate should signify "everything good" to the pup, both a quiet place and quiet space.

The crate should be in a room where the puppy can see, hear and smell all of his surroundings!

Never place the crate in a room away from your family activities! When you bring your puppy home, he will need plenty of socialization to develop into a normal dog. Placing his crate in another room, garage, basement or laundry room is detrimental to normal development! Allowing a puppy to remain in a crate and whine, whimper and vocalize in isolation will cause emotional disorders! Pups need to be with members of their pack (humans) for proper emotional development.

Place a comfortable snuggly blanket inside the crate with a few chewing devices. I prefer to drape a sheet or table cloth over the sides and back of an all wire crate, leaving only the front of

the crate open. If you are using a Vari Kennel (molded plastic), there is no need to cover it with anything. The purpose of the table cloth or sheet is to give your puppy a more private, quiet area.

Once you have set up your crate, leave the crate door open and toss in a few pieces of puppy kibble or very small pieces of cheese inside while your puppy is standing near the door of the crate and as soon as you see the pup step a paw inside, say "kennel" or "crate" as your puppy walks inside.

Attaching the word

"crate" or "kennel" to the actual "behavior" (walking into the crate) allows him to learn very quickly that going into the crate makes

good things happen. Once you see

the puppy going in and out of the crate by himself, without your encouragement, it's time to begin short "crate door closing" sessions.

Oops! An Accident! What do I do?

Important!: A puppy's sphincter muscles (muscles that control the bladder) are not fully developed until at least 16 weeks of age. Accidents will happen! It is your duty and responsibility to take your puppy out to bathroom every time he wakes up, after he eats and drinks, after he has played, etc. If you cannot monitor (supervise) the puppy, he belongs in his playpen with a wee wee pad! Allowing your puppy to access wall to wall carpeting or any type of carpet for that matter, is only inviting accidents - use baby gates to block access to carpeted rooms. If there is an accident, and there will be, make sure to clean it up with a Pet Odor & Stain Remover and do not allow the puppy to access that area until the area is dry! Pet odor and stain removers can be found at any of your local pet stores or on-line. DO NOT use ammonia to clean up accidents, urine is ammonia based. Cleaning up a soiled area with ammonia will only invite the puppy back to that spot! On non porous surfaces such as tile or linoleum, you can use a solution of Clorox bleach and water in a spray bottle (make sure to mark the bottle as "bleach/water solution" to prevent any family members from accidentally bleaching fabrics or spraying plants!!) Keep all cleaning products safely away from your puppy and young children.

Thank Goodness For Kongs!

Purchase several ["Kong"](#) (this link will take you to a page where you can purchase everything KONG!) chewing devices of appropriate size for your breed of puppy. I advise you to purchase at least 3 Kongs. The Kong is a chewing device that your puppy will learn to love because you will fill the hollow center of the Kong with either softened, warmed puppy food or small amounts of peanut butter or cream cheese. Rinse all three Kongs and fill them up. Place two of the Kongs in the freezer where you will be able to retrieve them in an instant, when you need them. Next step: Take the stuffed Kong and walk over to the pup, let the pup sniff the stuffing and lure the pup to the crate. As soon as the puppy is in front of the crate, toss the Kong to the back of the inside of the crate, the pup should walk right in. DO NOT CLOSE THE DOOR UNTIL THE PUP LIES DOWN. Once you see the pup lie down in the crate, close the door quietly and only for TWO - FIVE MINUTES. Set a timer so that you do not forget to open the door after a 5 minute interval. DO NOT CALL THE PUP OUT OF THE CRATE. Allow the pup to remain in the crate with the KONG if he chooses to, when you open the door. These crate training exercises are done on the weekend because you will NOT put the puppy in the crate and leave the house. The initial association being made here is that no matter if the crate door is open or closed, my pack (human) is still here. The association that you are forming is that "really great things happen" (Kongs) when my crate door is closed. The objective here is to open and close the door without the puppy "reacting" (becoming anxious, fearful or stressed) If the puppy stays in too long with the door closed and he becomes anxious and barks or whines and then you open the door, you are teaching him that the door will open when he becomes stressed! Make sure that you work incrementally and slowly with your "door closing" exercise. NEVER PUNISH A PUPPY FOR WHINING, BARKING OR BEING ANXIOUS IN HIS CRATE. By doing this, you will reinforce

"fear of the crate" and the crate will be of no use to you for training! Never engage in this crate training exercise until your puppy has had the opportunity to bathroom himself and has had a good deal of exercise! Gradually increase the time that the crate door is closed: 5 minutes, 10 minutes, etc...until you see that your puppy is relaxed with the crate door closed. ALWAYS ACT "NEUTRAL" ABOUT CLOSING THE CRATE DOOR. DO NOT FEEL SORRY FOR THE PUPPY OR TALK TO THE PUPPY WHILE HE IS IN THE CRATE.

Going To Work! How Long Is TOO Long?

If you want a well adjusted pup who turns into a well adjusted dog, do not leave your puppy in a crate for no more than 2-3 hours at a time until he is at least 6 months of age. If you have to leave your puppy for a longer period

of time, put him in his puppy play pen with interactive toys such as a buster cube or a treat ball. These devices can be filled with puppy food or treats and they dispense kibble or treats randomly when the puppy rolls the toys. Place a few stuffed Kongs in the play pen, water, wee wee pads and a soft comfortable blanket or doggy bed. Leave a radio on to drown out outside noises - this is called "bark prevention" If the puppy can't hear the outside noises, he generally won't bark at them. Music is soothing to pups, especially classical music. Interview Pet sitters before you need to actually hire them! Make sure that they are licensed to do business in your particular town and that they carry liability insurance (ask to see verification of both!) If your dog bites someone while your pet sitter or dog walker is caring for him and they do not have a valid business with the town/city and they do not have pet liability insurance, it will end up as your liability for all damages sustained.

Teach Your Children Well!

KEEP YOUR CHILDREN AWAY FROM THE CRATE WHILE THE PUPPY IS IN HIS CRATE. YOUR PUPS CRATE SHOULD BE USED FOR QUIET, RELAXING, SLEEPING TIMES. NO ONE SHOULD DISTURB A PUPPY WHEN THE PUPPY IS SLEEPING, WHETHER IN OR OUT OF A CRATE! TEACH YOUR CHILDREN RIGHT AWAY! PUPS NEED A LOT OF REST IN THEIR FIRST 14 WEEKS OF LIFE, JUST LIKE HUMAN BABIES. DISTURBING A RESTING PUPPY MAY AGITATE THE PUP AND CREATE AGGRESSIVE DISPLAYS, JUST LIKE HUMAN BABIES! TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PLAYING AND TEASING A PUPPY. IT IS YOUR JOB AS A PARENT TO ENFORCE THE RULES FOR BOTH PUP AND CHILDREN. PUPS ARE NOT PLAY TOYS. IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR NORMAL DEVELOPMENT (EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY) AND AGGRESSION PREVENTION, TO SUPERVISE AND TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO PROPERLY INTERACT WITH PUPS AND ADULT DOGS. At no time whatsoever should you or your children engage the puppy into any "chase" or "catch me if you can" games. This will only teach the puppy to engage into and reinforce his "predatory" drive. Allowing your children to run away from a puppy and allowing the puppy to chase them only creates excitement which in turn creates nipping and excessive mouthing. The end result usually is punishing the puppy for normal puppy behaviors that family members have elicited in the first place. This will confuse the puppy and deteriorate the human/animal relationship. This is a recipe for disaster. Teach young children how to properly interact with the puppy by purchasing interactive toys that roll on the floor. Teach the pup to bring the toy back to you or the child by clapping your hands while kneeling on the floor at the pups level. Once the pup has brought the toy back in front of you, extend your hand out towards the puppy with a treat, the pup will drop the toy to get the treat and you will be able to toss or roll the toy again for the pup. This is not bribery, this is training! DO NOT TRY TO FORCE THE TOY/OBJECT OUT OF THE PUPS MOUTH. BE PATIENT A FEW MINUTES AND KEEP YOUR HAND STILL WITH THE TREAT EXTENDED. YOUR PUPPY WILL DROP THE TOY TO GET THE TREAT. If he does not drop the toy, he does not get the treat and you walk away and ignore him. Try the exercise again after 5 minutes. THIS IS AN "EXCHANGE" EXERCISE AND IT TEACHES YOUR PUPPY TO BRING OBJECTS TO YOU. FORCING THE ITEM/OBJECT OUT OF THE PUPS MOUTH WILL REINFORCE STEALING

OBJECTS AND KEEPING THEM AWAY FROM YOU! This exercise teaches the puppy to work for you. It is a fabulous way to teach the puppy that you are the leader without using any force whatsoever. **NEVER CHASE A PUPPY TO TRY TO RETRIEVE ANY ITEMS OUT OF HIS/HER MOUTH UNLESS THE PUP HAS SOMETHING THAT YOU KNOW WILL CAUSE HIM INJURY.** Teach all family members to put their belongings away. Prevent conflicts, don't invite them.

Puppy Play Pens and Baby Gates

You will also need to invest in puppy play pens or baby gates. You can purchase puppy playpens at any local Pet Store or on-line. Baby gates can be purchased in the juvenile section of most department stores or on-line. Allowing your puppy to have access to every room in the house unattended or unsupervised before he is house trained will result in excessive accidents and delay house training. Obviously you cannot keep your puppy in a crate for long periods of time, that is neglectful and abusive. Puppy play pens and baby gates give the puppy room to exercise without the worry. Just as you would baby proof a room in your house, do the same for the puppy. Check to make sure that there are no electrical cords that can be chewed and pick up anything off the floors that the puppy may put in his mouth that could make him sick. Puppy play pens are a wonderful training tool for most pups. These playpens, when expanded are approximately 4' by 4'. They are easy to set up and collapse. They come in different heights so that a puppy, depending on his size, will not be able to jump over it. Set up the puppy play pen in an area where the pup will be able to see, smell and hear all the daily activities. Use this puppy playpen as you would a child's playpen. If you have to take a shower, answer phone messages, cook dinner or go into another area of your house to do housework, put the puppy in the puppy playpen with an assortment of his own toys and a Kong from the freezer. I told you those frozen Kongs would come in handy! You may also want to purchase "wee wee pads" and place a few of them inside the playpen. Place a small doggy bed or blanket inside the puppy play pen also. The more inviting and exciting that you make this play pen area, the more the puppy will seek access to it. Encourage your puppy to want to go into the playpen by placing a variety of toys and stuffed Kongs inside the playpen before you actually put the puppy inside the playpen. Allow the puppy to view and sniff all the items that you are tossing into the playpen from the outside of the playpen. He will most likely try to climb in by himself once he sees how inviting it is. Pick the pup up and put him into the play pen and calmly walk away. I love play pen outside in nice weather and know that your puppy is safe and sound puppy play pens because they are so easily set up and collapsed in a minute! They can be easily placed in the back of almost any SUV and taken with you to a friend's house, if need be. You can take the puppy play pen outdoors if you do not have an enclosed backyard.

Make sure that you set the playpen up under a shade tree if you take it outdoors and never, never leave your puppy outside in the playpen unattended! You should also put a bowl of water in the play pen so that the pup has everything required for a length of time. Water deprivation can create serious problems later in a pup's life. Never deprive a growing puppy of water.

Socialization! Socialization! Socialization! (ages 7-16 weeks) Oh and more on potty training.....

What kind of socialization does my puppy really need? Is it absolutely necessary for me to enroll into a puppy kindergarten course? Is it safe for me to introduce my puppy to other pups without fear of him getting sick or picking up contagious diseases? Is it safe for me to take my puppy to a dog park? Can I bring my puppy to a doggy daycare facility at this age? Should I hire a dog walker? HMMMMMMMM?? What should I do?

This is probably the most complicated and confusing area for the new puppy owner. First of all it is vitally important for you to understand that your puppy is in his "sensitive period" new research has indicated that the sensitive period from 7-12 weeks of age actually may extend beyond 12

weeks up to 16 weeks. Remember that ANYTHING, including places, noises, people, animals (including other pups and dogs), that the puppy perceives as frightening or threatening can and WILL have an EVERLASTING effect on your pup's emotional state for the rest of his life! You must weigh the risks and decide whether or not each situation will be of benefit or detriment.

Here are some guidelines to help you decide:

Early socialization should be done on a "graduating scale". Take your puppy outside in the back yard and let the pup explore his/her new surroundings first. As soon as you come home with your new pup you should put the puppy down in an area that you have chosen for elimination. Each and every time that you take the pup outside, physically carry the pup to that location. To remember where that specific location is, place a large rock or some type of visual aid near the elimination spot. Don't pick a spot 10 miles away from your back door or you will have to travel each and every time to that location. Believe me, at 11 o'clock in the evening with the temperature dipping into the teens, you will not want to run to that spot in your PJ's! Pick a spot close to your back door. (If you live in RI, you'll thank me later when it's 20 below 0 and we're in the middle of a Nor Easter with snow blinding your eyes at 11 pm, as you stand there in your robe and slippers just waiting for that little darling to pee!)

Step 12: Attaching The Leash To The Collar For The Very First Time! Do Not Use Force!

Your next step is to attach a very light leash to your pups collar and allow the pup to drag the leash around the yard to get used to it. Pick up the end of the leash after about 5 minutes and place the slightest pressure on the leash and collar and give your puppy a treat if he does not panic. While you are holding the leash and facing the pup, encourage him forward towards your body with a treat lowered to the ground. Walk backwards, facing the puppy and encourage him again to move towards your body, putting the slightest pressure on the leash while you are holding another food treat to the ground. End the exercise on a good note by removing the leash and playing ball with the puppy for a few minutes before you take him indoors. The next time that you go out with the puppy make SURE that you have plenty of very tiny, tempting treats in your pocket (cheese works very well!), attach the leash and allow the pup to begin to explore outside your property. Give a small treat every time your puppy moves forward in a confident manner on the leash. If the puppy stops and shows any signs of fear, stand still and DO NOT TALK TO HIM, LOOK AT HIM OR CODDLE HIM - IF YOU DO, YOU WILL REINFORCE HIS FEAR AND LOWER HIS CONFIDENCE. SIMPLY WAIT UNTIL THE PUPPY BEGINS TO MOVE FORWARD AGAIN AND GIVE HIM A BIT OF CHEESE FOR HIS FORWARD MOVEMENTS. Keep your first walk short and end it on a good note by playing a little ball with him in the backyard before you bring him into the house.

Step 13: When Do I Enroll My Puppy Into School? Shall I Choose A Public Or A Private School For Him? Hmmm.....

Early socialization done on a "graduating scale" will expose your puppy appropriately to his new environment. Allowing the puppy to smell, hear and visually see his new environment in his first week with you is more than enough socialization for week 8 and 9. REMEMBER: YOUR PUPPY IS NOT FULLY VACCINATED YET!!! YOUR PUP WILL NOT BE FULLY VACCINATED UNTIL HE/SHE IS 16 WEEKS OF AGE. In my professional opinion and experience, I would not suggest that you enroll a puppy into any group "puppy classes" at this time. Trainers have different opinions regarding early exposure in puppy kindergarten classes, this is my professional opinion with over 35 years of experience. I honestly believe that the "safest" age to enroll a puppy into puppy classes is at the beginning of their "seniority classification period" - 4 months of age (16 weeks), if you do indeed decide to do it. There is no written law that says that you must enroll your puppy into a puppy kindergarten course. It is not the end of the world if you decide against it. You will have just as many opportunities to socialize your puppy if you use a "graduating scale" of

opportunities. At week 16 your puppy should be fully vaccinated and also have had his rabies vaccine. At this age your puppy will begin to test you to see where he/she fits in your "pack".

This is the best time to enroll into positive reinforcement training classes with your puppy. Be aware that there may be other pups in the class that are bullies. **IT IS YOUR DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO OBSERVE A PUPPY CLASS PRIOR TO ENROLLING WITH YOUR PUPPY. IF THE CLASS STRUCTURE IS INAPPROPRIATE AND PUPS ARE CHASING, BITING AND BULLYING ONE ANOTHER and the instructor (trainer) seems overwhelmed or not in charge of her class, leave immediately! Find a puppy class that is instructed and conducted by a certified trainer only! DO NOT TAKE ANY TRAINERS "WORD" THAT THEY ARE "CERTIFIED" WITHOUT THEM PRODUCING THEIR CERTIFICATIONS TO YOU. IF YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT ASKING THEM TO "VISUALLY" SEE THEIR CREDENTIALS, PLEASE VISIT THESE SITES TO FIND A CERTIFIED TRAINER IN YOUR AREA:** So far, you have invested a great deal of money, time, patience and energy in your new puppy, why take risks at his education?!!

WWW.APDT.COM to find a CPDT (certified pet dog trainers)

WWW.CCPDT.ORG to find a CPDT (certified professional dog trainers)

Increasing Your Pups Social Skills On A "Graduating Scale" - Without A Puppy Kindergarten Class - D.I.Y. Socialization!

It's not that you don't have the money, you simply don't have the time to commit to a once a week puppy course. Don't worry, you can do it yourself. Who wrote the law that you "must" enroll a puppy into a puppy kindergarten course or his world will crumble?!

Now that you have successfully introduced your puppy to the leash, you are on your way to socializing your puppy to the great wide open world. For those of you who live in rural areas, take your puppy into town. Shopping plazas are great places to form positive associations with people.

Everyone loves puppies! People will smile at the sight of a puppy on a leash. They will ask permission to pet the puppy and by all means invite them to do so! Give your puppy a small piece of cheese every time a new person approaches to pet him. Remember you want to form a positive association with each new person that your puppy meets. Try to seek out tall people, short people, large people, tiny people, people with hats, glasses, beards, etc. It is important to expose your pup to as many different looking people as possible. Make sure to include the very young and the very old. Walk around the parking lot so that your puppy can get use to different surfaces under his feet! Take your puppy to the beach and allow him to feel the sand under his feet. Take your puppy to the public park where children are playing at the playground. If a child approaches your puppy make sure that you have the child approach calmly. Allow the child to pet the puppy and give the puppy cheese once again to form a positive association with children. All these socialization exercises *cannot* be met in an early puppy socialization class on a "graduating scale". So far you have introduced your puppy to new sights, sounds and smells without overwhelming or frightening him. Good work!

Warning! Approaching Unknown Dogs On Leash In Public Areas Or On Public Streets!

It is absolutely abnormal for dogs to approach each other head on. If your dog was not on a restricted piece of equipment, (your leash) he would never approach another dog head on. He would however approach loosely from the side and sniff the other dog's rear quarters. He may even opt to not approach at all. Humans have this misconception that dogs need to approach each other on leashes to be social, which is absolutely untrue. If your dog is attacked by another dog

while out for a walk on his leash, it may have an everlasting effect on how he behaves on leash from that point on, when he sees another dog. Dogs that are attacked while walking on a leash become apprehensive of approaching dogs, fear and anxiety builds because they know they cannot escape the leash so therefore they lunge, bark and react aggressively in an attempt to make the other dog go away. Dog owners put their dogs in jeopardy each and every time they "make" their dog greet another dog "head on". A leash reactive dog is not a pleasant dog to walk, they will lunge, bark excessively, twirl around on their leashes and some may even displace their anxiety and fear off of the leash and on to their human's skin.

The rule is, if you don't know the other dog, don't take the chance!

Doggie Parks and Play Groups.....

As for doggy parks and play groups, I have *never* been a fan of *either*. I am however a fan of dog walkers and pet sitters. If you cannot supervise your dog's behavior or the behaviors of other dogs around your dog, you are putting your dog at risk of physical and emotional injury, each and every time you expose your dog to bullying dogs! If you yourself do not have the ability to diagnose "what" behaviors are appropriate social behaviors and "what" behaviors are inappropriate i.e.; fear aggression, dominance, etc., you should not attempt to put your dog in these social situations in the first place. If you allow your dog to bully other dogs or you allow your dog to be bullied by other dogs, you are setting your dog up for serious behavioral issues in the future. I have witnessed very serious injuries and have received "confirmed" reports of canine fatalities (dogs killing other dogs) in dog parks. **Pups should never be exposed to a pack of free running dogs in a dog park!!**
My preference is to have you meet with a couple of friends on neutral territory and allow your dogs to enjoy each other's company in a non-confrontational, non stressful environment for short periods of time.

I have developed exciting constructural socialization programs here at Betty's TLC Dog Training to allow you to socialize your pups and dogs under my supervision to ensure that your puppy grows into a physically and emotionally, well adjusted, adult dog.

Dog parks can present your dog with a variety of contagious illnesses, including but not limited to, intestinal parasites, external parasites, mange, ringworm fungus, parvo virus, kennel cough and much more. Many of these illnesses can be fatal to pups and older dogs. Community animal facilities are any places that house or hold a number of dogs, including shelters, dog parks, kennel environments, etc., whether indoors or outdoors - diseases are obviously more prevalent in these community environments. Where humans are concerned, zoonotic diseases (transmittable from animal to human) must be taken into careful consideration when socializing amongst animals in community areas/facilities. Children, elderly and those with compromised immune systems should be aware of the health implications that can arise from certain transmittable zoonotic diseases. Young children are especially susceptible to ringworm fungus. The soil in dog parks and community sand boxes are breeding grounds for this fungi.

Step 14: Your First Vet Visit - Make Your Pups First Impression A Positive One For Every Visit Thereafter!

Remember to bring small bits of cheese with you to your first veterinary visit - again you want to form a positive association with your veterinarian.

If you have any questions or concerns about your pup- feel free to call me 401-841-0857

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