

Preparing For Your Puppy

In order to prepare your puppy for a well trained, well socialized adult life you must keep it safe from hazards just as you would a child. Before bringing your puppy home there are a few things you should check in your home prior to letting your puppy run loose.

Small objects can become lodged in your puppy causing him/her to choke. Once a day you should check your floor to make sure it is clear of items your vacuum cleaner might miss - such as: rubber bands, stick pins, hair ties, q-tips, and paper clips.

Puppies love to chew on things. Electric wires can mean instant death to puppies. If it's not in use, unplug it or put it up away from your puppies reach. You can buy a pet repellent such as Bitter Apple to spray on the article/cord you do not want the puppy to chew on. (Best if put out of the way, or cover appropriately.) Give your puppy a variety of chew toys and/or hard rubber balls for the puppy to play with. Be sure the toys are made for dogs. Puppy puzzles are great for puppies and for adults alike. It provides adequate brain stimulation needed to help with exercise. This does not replace walking your puppy/dog throughout the day, taking to the dog park, and/or a puppy/doggie daycare. Those are great and fun options to add through your weekly routine.

Garbage cans are another potential source of danger. Most puppies like to filter through the contents. Make sure the lids are on tight.

Some puppies are capable of opening cabinet doors, especially those that are ajar. If you keep bleach, detergent, and/or poisons in these cabinets either move them or put a childproof lock on the cabinet doors.

Keep toilet lids closed, or better yet, keep your bathroom door closed. Some puppies love to get a hold of toilet paper and either shred it or run down the hall with it.

Check your yard, fence and gate and make sure that your puppy can not escape. Always be on the look out for loose dirt around the fence that might be an indication your puppy is trying to dig his/her way out.

Remember, house training takes time. If you need to leave your puppy alone during the day or for any extended period you need to crate train your puppy/dog.

Before bringing your puppy home, select a veterinarian and set up an appointment for a checkup. Your puppy will need to have regular checkups.

A few of your common household plants, shrubs, and trees can be very toxic to your puppy. Make sure you place or remove these poisonous plants. Also check with the plants and seeds they give off in the yard as well. Researching online and/or asking your veterinarian is a great and helpful tool to prevent many health issues that can arise from indoor and outdoor plants, trees, and shrubs.

If you do any gardening, make sure you have all of your supplies locked up or out of reach. Don't forget many puppies are good "climbers" and can get to many things you wouldn't think about... like your kitchen table when you leave a chair pulled out.

As with any medications, please make sure you do not leave any bottles or pills within reach of your puppy.

Your new puppy will bring you a lot of joy and happiness. One of the best ways of showing your love for your puppy is by making sure your home is safe. Remember that your puppy is still a baby and you need to protect it. Crate training is no

different than putting your baby in a playpen. Tough Love is sometimes the safest way to love your puppy.

Keep in mind your puppy/dog will go through a 2 ½ year maturity scale in which they will change in teething, hormones, behaviors, personality, and character. They are learning throughout these stages and you have the biggest impact to teach, train, and instruct.

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We are glad to help you!