



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the spring issue of the News Buoy. The weather has been beautiful (except for our Supported Entry) and water season is just around the corner.

As far as our Supported Entry is concerned, it was *really* disappointing for it to be cancelled two years in a row due to weather events. Our Supported Entry Committee—Dave Wichterman, assisted by Lou Ann James worked really hard to make this a nice event for our members only to have it cancelled again this year due to weather. Going forward, we *have* to have more luck next year! It's almost unbelievable that we have had to cancel two years in a row due to weather and I for one, missed being able to have the event. It's always a thrill to see our beautiful dogs in the ring, puppies and veterans, and to be able to visit with each other and have lunch.

This News Buoy is dedicated to all things puppies and we hope that it will help our new members learn going forward with their new additions and remind those of us who have been doing this for a while, how we got where we are. We all started out at "square one" at some point.

I want to thank our News Buoy editors for working so diligently on providing us with a useful and informative publication. Thanks Shannon and Margaret. This would not be possible without both of your efforts.

Water season will be arriving soon. The club has arranged for practice dates at Codorus State Park and those practice dates are listed on our website. The Water Trial premium will be available on the website soon and my understanding is that entries will open June 25. Thanks to our Water Trial chair, Bob Caruso and our Water Trial secretary, Joan Klingler.

A Nominating Committee has been formed to nominate a slate of officers for the next year. Thank you to Jane McEwen for stepping up to chair this committee.

I hoping you enjoy this issue of the News Buoy.

—Judy Murray

Your First Day at Home with a Puppy

The day you bring your new puppy home is the day you've been waiting for. It's your first day as long-term companions, and you want to begin bonding with your pup immediately. Start off right by staying home, so you can make your puppy feel secure and enjoy every minute of their experience.

Here are some tips to make sure the first day is the best it can be for your puppy, for you, and for your family.

Introducing Puppy to a New Home

Limit your puppy's access. Too many new places, smells, and people at once may confuse them. Instead, let them explore a designated area where you are, too. Then introduce them to the rest of the house, one room at a time.

Choose a potty spot. Start by taking them to the outside area where you want them to eliminate. When they relieve themselves, use a command that you'll stick to, like "go potty," and reward them with a special treat and praise.

continued on page 2



Your First Day at Home with a Puppy

continued from page 1

Introduce the puppy to their new family. If possible, do this one person at a time. Give your dog a chance to meet each of you quietly. Supervise young children. Discourage them from picking up the puppy. Let them hold them in their laps with your help.

Minimize stress and excitement. Don't invite friends and neighbors over to meet the dog yet. That will be important very soon, but should not start on the first day.

Introduce other family pets. Puppies are still developing their communication skills and don't understand the rules set in place by adult dogs. As long as an adult dog's behavior is appropriate when correcting a puppy, it's okay if they growl a little. If the elder dog becomes agitated, separate or redirect the puppy.

Don't interact with dogs outside your home. Because your puppy probably hasn't gotten all of their shots, they shouldn't interact with strange dogs or even walk where other dogs do.

Start enforcing rules. The puppy needs to learn the house rules from the very beginning. Praise good behavior. Set your rules ahead of time and stick to them. For example, where do you want the puppy to sleep? Is the puppy allowed on the furniture? Can the puppy have food scraps from the table?

Make a veterinary appointment. Your vet should give your puppy a checkup in the next few days.

Start a Routine and Stick to It

Structure will help your new canine family member feel secure and understand what's expected of them. Routine makes it easier for everyone, humans included. Create a schedule and stick to it. Keep in mind:

Mealtime: Young puppies eat three times a day. Put your puppy on a regular feeding schedule. What goes in on a regular schedule will come out on a regular schedule.

Potty breaks: Every time your puppy eats, drinks, wakes up, plays, sniffs around the room, provide them with a potty break. Most young puppies have to eliminate at least every 45 minutes when awake.

Pick the puppy up and carry them to the designated potty area. Never punish them for housetraining "mistakes." When they eliminate outside, reward them immediately.

Playtime: Your puppy needs exercise and interaction with you. A word of caution—sustained, strenuous

exercise (like long runs or jumping) is not good for puppies. But playing with toys and with you, mental stimulation with puzzles, and running in the yard are great activities. A tired puppy is a good puppy.

Dreamland: Young puppies sleep a lot. In fact, some will sleep 16 to 18 hours a day. Plan on several nap times during the day. You may need to put a crate in a quiet part of the house so they won't be disturbed. At night, set a puppy bedtime and help them get used to the routine.

Surviving the First Night

Some puppies sleep through the night right from the start. Others may cry for a few nights. And some may not be able to hold their pee and will need a middle of the night trip outside, but this usually ends by age 4–5 months.

For many puppies, evening is the "witching hour." If you anticipate it by initiating play, your dog may use up some energy and settle down. An evening stroll gives them exercise and a chance to take a potty break. Be sure they go to the bathroom right before bed.

Put their crate in your bedroom. Your pup will feel more secure if they have you nearby. Bring home a blanket or stuffed toy that smells like your pup's mother, and keep that in their crate.

A set bedtime makes adjustment and house training easier for everyone. It doesn't matter if it's 8 p.m. or midnight, as long as it becomes a routine. Take your pet to their crate and help them settle down for the night—giving them a small treat when they go in willingly.

If your puppy is not yet able to make it through the night, when they whine, quietly carry them out for a quick, boring potty break. Then put them back in the crate.

If the pup cries, do not put them in your bed unless that is where you want them to sleep. You can put the crate right next to your bed and put your hand inside to reassure them that you're there. A crate is like a den, a place where a puppy won't eliminate.

Building Strong Bonds

With lots of affectionate contact with the family, consistent rules and routine, and rewards for good behavior, your puppy will quickly learn their place in this new "pack." Most importantly, you will establish a bond that will endure throughout their life.

—Excerpted from www.akc.org/expert-advice/puppy-information/first-day-new-puppy/

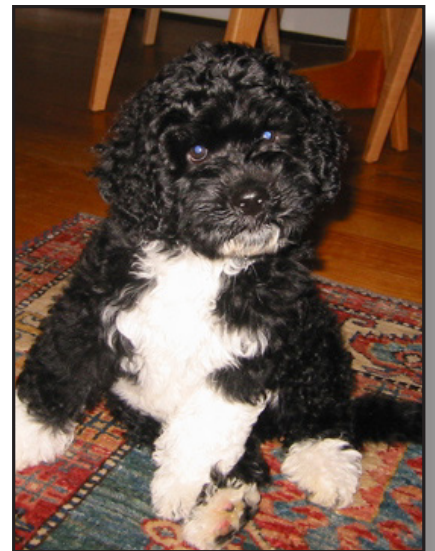
Creating a Schedule

By maintaining a consistent routine, your puppy will be happier and adjust to their new home and family. Below is sample puppy routine – feel free to adapt to suit your household needs.

- **Wake up:** Let your puppy out of the crate to go outside to potty.
- **Breakfast:** Feed your puppy. Leave the food down for no longer than 15 minutes; pick up the bowl and do not give more food until lunch (except for small training treats). Always provide plenty of fresh water.
- **After breakfast:** Back outside to potty and enjoy some playing and training. Go for a brief walk and allow for another potty opportunity.
- **Mid-morning:** Naptime in the crate. Even if you're home during the day, your puppy should spend time in a crate or pen; this will help your puppy learn to be alone when necessary. It is impossible to know what a puppy will get into when you turn away for a moment—the crate provides a safe spot when you cannot directly supervise. If your puppy will be home alone for more hours than he can control his bladder or bowels, you will need to hire a pet sitter to take your puppy outside and provide water.

- **Lunch:** Back outside to potty. Enjoy playing and training. Don't forget another potty break before the afternoon nap!
- **Mid-afternoon:** Naptime in the crate. When your puppy wakes up, it is time to go out to potty and play. If you are home, your puppy can hang out with the family before dinner.
- **Dinner:** If you arrange the puppy's mealtimes around yours, it will become natural to feed him either while you're preparing dinner or while the household is eating. After eating, it is time for another potty break. Before the family sits down to dinner, consider giving your puppy a chew toy to enjoy in his crate.
- **Evening:** Another potty break! Early evening is a good time for playtime with the family before settling down for the night. Take brief walk.
- **Bedtime:** A consistent bedtime routine will make your puppy's house training easier for everyone. Go outside for another potty break right before bedtime in the crate. Dim the lights, and keep the house quiet.
- **Night:** If your puppy needs to get up in the middle of the night, take him out for a quick and boring potty break. Then back to the crate until morning.

—Excerpted from <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/setting-schedules-and-developing-a-routine-for-your-new-puppy/>



Although rare, puppies can be born genetically identical twins.



Puppy Proofing CHECKLIST

Cover and secure garbage cans.

Avoid feeding your puppy from the table.

Keep kitchen counter clean and clear of foods which may entice a counter-surfer.

Protect your puppy from electric shock and burns by elevating all cords or using sturdy cord covers.

Keep purses, diaper bags, backpacks, gym bags out of reach.

Keep medications out of reach. Dispense medication over a sink to catch spills.

Crate train your puppy to provide a quiet, safe space.

Elevate all plants free from your dog's reach.

Pack away poisons - keep antifreeze, household cleaners, mice bait and traps, detergents, glue, and fertilizers out of reach.

Keep your puppy off tall furniture

Have young children sit on floor while holding a young puppy.

Keep battery operated devices out of reach; batteries can cause internal chemical burns if swallowed.

Keep doors, windows, and toilet lids closed.

Put away small objects which can lead to choking: coins, elastic hair bands, paper clips, jewelry, etc.

Sharp objects like knives, scissors, and razors should be kept out of reach.

Shannon Antunes 2023

New Digs!

When tired and overstimulated, dogs naturally prefer to retreat to a quiet and protective "den." A crate is an effective training tool and provides a safe space for your puppy to relax. Introducing your puppy to a crate should not be viewed as cruel. Think of it as providing his own cozy room!

Selecting a Crate

Select a crate large enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around, and lie down.

Make the crate as comfortable as possible. Line with a durable mat and blanket. Add some quiet chew toys.

Cover the crate with a lightweight blanket or sheet to mimic a den environment, but be sure the space is well-ventilated and not too warm.

Use a removable divider so the den can "grow" with your puppy.

A metal crate is a better choice than mesh because it is well ventilated, easier to clean, and less likely to be destroyed by chewing.

Consider keeping one crate in the common area of your home and one in your bedroom.



Introducing the Crate

Begin at naptime while you are home; start with increments of ten minutes and gradually work up to longer periods.

Do not force your puppy into the crate.

Reward your puppy with praise and a tasty treat each time he goes into the crate. Offer food-stuffed toys to keep him occupied.

The first couple days away from the dam and litter will be stressful. Give a blanket to the breeder to keep with the litter before bringing your pup home. The scent of the litter will help ease the transition in a new home.

Keep a crate in your bedroom so your puppy can be near you each night. Your puppy may cry for the first several nights—this is expected as your puppy adjusts to a new home without the litter.

Resist the urge to remove your puppy from the crate with every cry. The behavior is reinforced and your puppy has learned how to get your full attention.



Shopping List

- baby gates
- wire crate with divider
- travel crate
- crate mats
- blankets
- comfortable bed
- Adjustable collar and ID tag
- several leads (6ft)
- stainless steel bowls
- 2qt stainless water pail for crate
- kibble (recommended by breeder)
- training treats & treat pouch
- chew toys
- poop bags / poop scooper
- pet stain remover (ex Nature's Miracle)
- Chew deterrent (ex Bitter Apple)
- toothbrush and dog safe paste
- slicker brush
- greyhound-style butter comb
- nail clippers
- tear-free, gentle puppy shampoo
- dematting/finishing spray
- paper towels, rags

Infographic by Shannon Antunes

Safety Considerations

Never leave a puppy in his crate all day! If you will not be home for an extended period, hire a pet sitter to let your puppy out of the crate. Maintain a consistent schedule for potty breaks, play time, sips of fresh water, meals, and bonding with your family. Remember: if there is an accident in the crate, it is not because your puppy has misbehaved!

General rule of thumb for crating puppies: one hour for every month of your dog's age (e.g., a four-month-old puppy should never be crated more than four hours).

Reference: An Owner's Manual: Crate Training. The American Kennel Club. http://images.akc.org/pdf/ebook/Crate_Training.pdf; P. Leigh. (2015). Crates Are Forever—Not Just for Puppies. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/canine-partners/crates-are-forever-not-just-for-puppies/>; S. Parrets. (2021). What to Look for When Choosing a Crate. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/what-to-look-for-when-choosing-a-dog-crate/>; S. Sharpe. (2021). How to Crate Train Your Dog in Nine Easy Steps. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-crate-train-your-dog-in-9-easy-steps/>;



The scientific term for "zoomies" is frenetic random activity periods (FRAPs). FRAPs are a way for your dog to release energy when very excited and also to alleviate stress.

Preparing Your Puppy for a Trip to the Groomer

One of the most common questions a new puppy owner wants an answer to is “When do I start to get my puppy groomed and what do I need to do to get my puppy ready?”

The answer to these questions begins very early in the life of the dog. A breeder will start grooming puppies as early as one week old. When the puppy’s nails are long and scratching mama’s belly while nursing, a breeder will start cutting the nails. Puppies get their paws rubbed daily to familiarize them with the feeling of being handled. Nails are cut weekly.

At about five weeks old, the breeder will massage the body, feet, ears, and muzzle and open the puppy’s mouth to check the bite. While standing the puppy on a table, the tail is lifted to start acclimating the puppy to touch.

Around six weeks of age, the breeder will begin using a clipper without the blade. Running the clipper on low, the breeder will gently touch the puppy from the head all the way down the body, and over the chest and legs.

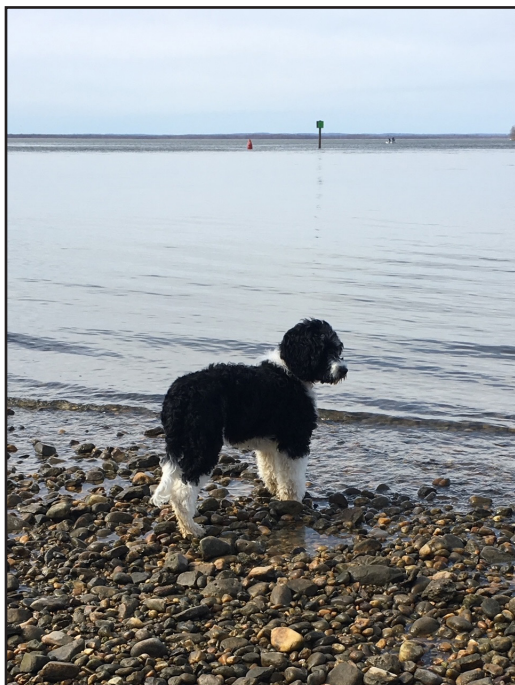
The breeder will do this a couple minutes a day to get the puppy accustomed to the vibration and sound of the clipper. At the same time, brushing is introduced. Brushing begins with only using the back of the brush. Let the puppy get used to the touch and feel of the bristles. This is done for about a week.

At six to seven weeks, the next step is adding the bath and blow dry. Blow drying of the puppy is done on low, taking it really slow, praising the puppy, and trying not to frighten him.



Around this time a breeder starts clipping the bottom of a puppy’s paws, flags the tail, or puts the puppy in a lion cut (as some breeders do). The puppy’s private area is cleaned, the face is trimmed with scissors, and the nails are again cut. This is all done slowly while praising the puppy.

It very important that the breeder massage and touch all areas of the puppy daily.



Dip Your Paws in the Water

Water season is upon us and it’s time to start thinking about water training and getting ready for trialing. We have over 40 open practice dates scheduled at Codorus State Park and will be offering two practice with boats dates soon.

The United Sunshine States PWDC will host the year’s first water trial on Sunday, June 1, 2023 in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. There are another 17 PWDC trials scheduled throughout the year.

The Keystone PWDC will host their water trial on Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17 at Codorus State Park. John Brock will be the Judge on Saturday and Sue Lefebvre will be the Provisional Judge on Sunday. We are always seeking volunteers to help at the trial and it’s a great way to experience what it takes to become involved in water work.

A raffle will be held during lunch on Sunday. Both dog and human items are welcome. Please visit the events page on our website for more details regarding registration and volunteer opportunities.

—Bob Caruso

Now it's the puppy owner's turn to take over . . .

When you bring your puppy home, between eight to ten weeks, you should immediately continue brushing and combing your puppy. You can start by sitting on the floor, holding the puppy on your lap, and brushing for 15 minutes a day, praising and rewarding with treats the entire time. If you blow dry your hair, do so with the puppy nearby and casually blow air on the puppy, praising and giving a treat.

The next step is getting your puppy up on a table. An anti-skid mat prevents the puppy from slipping. As you lift the puppy to the table, say "Up" and "Good Puppy" and give a treat. Once the puppy is on the table, use the command "Stand." When the puppy stands, give a treat.

Keep practicing getting your puppy up on a table and standing. Once the puppy is comfortable, start brushing, massaging, and cutting his nails.

I cannot stress the importance of massaging your puppy every day: rubbing and putting your finger through the paws, massaging the ears, sticking your finger in the ears, opening the mouth to inspect the bite, and placing your fingers in the mouth. Gently lift your puppy's tail—the more you do this, the more the puppy will get use to the touch and feel.

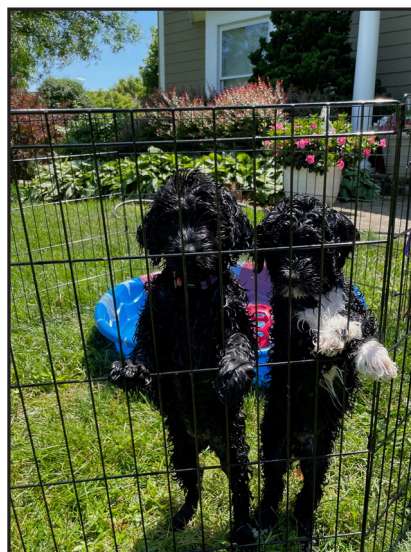
Cutting nails is very important. Do not wait until you take your puppy for the first grooming appointment. If you are uncomfortable cutting nails, use a Dremel and file the nails.

Now, between the efforts of the breeder and owner, the puppy will be ready for the third step: going to the groomer. Puppies need to have three sets of shots before the first appointment. You want to find a reputable groomer who will spend time with your puppy. When calling to schedule, let your groomer know that you want them to take time with your puppy. For the first appointment, the groomer may do nothing more than bathe, blow dry, and brush. This is the time that you want the puppy and the groomer to bond. In some cases, because of all the work you did at home with your puppy, the groomer may be able to do a full groom. It's all about not stressing the puppy out! If the puppy needs more time, make another appointment two weeks out, or wait until the puppy is happy to stand on the table and be groomed.

Grooming Supplies for PWD Owners:

- Andis Slicker Brush
- Andis Steel Comb
- Nail clippers or Dremel for grinding nails
- Wahl Bravura clippers
- Starter Scissors (Hashimoto)

—Barbie Weisman



Teething Timeline



4 weeks

Puppies are weaning from the dam and transitioning to solids. Teeth are erupting.

5-6 weeks

SHARP TEETH ALERT! All baby teeth are in. Puppies are weaning and eating moist, soft foods. Lots of chewing!

12-16 weeks

Baby teeth are shedding, adult teeth are emerging. Lots of biting and nipping. Offer safe chew toys. Be sure to socialize!

6 months

All puppy teeth have fallen out - 42 adult teeth have grown in. Contact vet if any baby teeth are remaining.

Reference: L. Donovan. (2019). A Timeline of Puppy Teething. AKC.org, May 3, 2019
Infographic by Shannon Antunes

Those Shark Teeth!

Long ago, Portuguese Water Dogs were bred to be strong and loyal companions of fisherman and worked with their mouth to carry fishing nets, retrieve lost tackle and broken nets, and send messages from ship to shore or between boats. Portuguese Water Dog puppies are intrinsically mouthy and explore their world through tasting, nipping, chewing, tearing, and carrying objects. It is important to channel nipping behaviors during play into a more acceptable outlet, such as substituting a chew toy. Consistent, positive reinforcement training and a lot of patience will help correct and shape unwanted nipping behaviors.

Establishing Rules

Before 11 weeks, when the puppy nips or bites your hand, make a loud, high pitched “EEEEP!!” sound to alert the puppy that the behavior was painful. This is a similar lesson taught to the litter by the dam and littermates. Provide verbal praise and a treat as the puppy backs off. By 11 weeks, nipping of humans must be stopped!

Training Suggestions

- Redirect your puppy by substituting a chew toy. When your puppy nips your hand while playing, offer a toy instead. If behaviors continue, stop playing and walk away.
- If your puppy is carrying something inappropriate in their mouth, substitute a toy.
- Enroll in an obedience class with a professional—it is great socialization and bonding, too!
- Work on obedience training to teach which chewing targets are off limits.
- Reward your puppy for bringing you the object in his mouth (teach “drop it”).
- Do not chase your dog because biting and nipping will become a dangerous game.



Puppies lose their first set of teeth around 3-1/2 to 4 months of age.

- Be consistent and patient with training. The family should be on same page with training.
- Never hit or punish your dog for nipping! Punishment can escalate the issue and encourages fear or aggression.
- Observe body language and vocalizations. Any signs of aggression, speak to your vet and breeder and consider the assistance of a behaviorist.

Teething

Puppies relieve the pain of teething through chewing. As teething begins, gums become painful and swollen. You may notice small spots of blood on chew toys. Provide plenty of safe and satisfying toys for your Portuguese Water Dog puppy, like durable rubber toys and frozen treats. Avoid bones or toys that chip and splinter, such as sticks or bones that can cause injury and bowel blockage. Avoid rawhide chews because they are poorly digested, can swell in the GI tract, and are sometimes treated with strong chemicals. Plush toys are often ripped open, and puppies can eat stuffing and the squeaker. Always monitor your puppy—if your PWD puppy is out of view, trouble is brewing!

By six months all baby teeth should have fallen out. Consult your vet or a dental specialist with any remaining baby teeth.

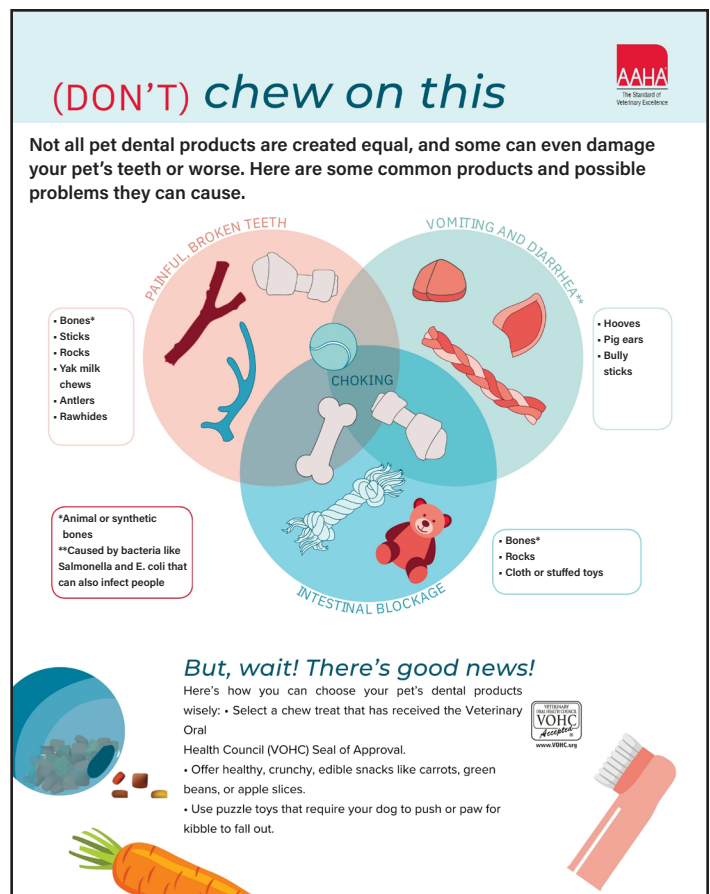
Puppy-Proof the Home

Gate off rooms, wrap cords and keep them out of reach, remove toxic plants from the home, keep poisonous substances in a cabinet out of reach, and keep unsafe foods out of reach.

Caring for Teeth

Establish a dental care routine using gentle handling and dog-friendly toothbrush and enzymatic toothpaste. Do not use human toothpaste, because it contains xylitol which is toxic (and even deadly!) to dogs. Consult a veterinarian dental specialist with any retained puppy teeth or sign of infection.

References: Estaff. (2021). Will the Teething and Nipping Ever End? Tufts University. <https://www.tuftsyourdog.com/dogtrainingandbehavior/will-the-teething-and-nipping-ever-end/>; R. Carter et al. Your Nipping Puppy. UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Clinical Animal Behavior Service. https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk491/files/inline-files/Your_Nipping_Puppy.pdf; H. Myers. (2022). *Puppy Teething and Nipping: A Survival Guide*. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/puppy-teething-and-nipping/>; PWDCA webpage. Puppy Resource Kit: Mouthiness, Biting, & Nipping. https://www.pwdca.org/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpage_menu=8856&pk_association_webpage=18656; Penn Vet Ryan Hospital Behavioral Medicine. Dog Body Language Basics.



A PWD loves to carry something in his mouth. Have a soft toy ready!

Feeding Basics

Puppies have distinct nutritional needs and require high-quality food with appropriate protein, calcium, phosphorus, fat, antioxidants, and omega-3 fatty acids to support rapid growth and development. Proper nutrition is important to achieve healthy growth, lower potential for obesity, enhance immune function, and decrease chances of orthopedic disease.

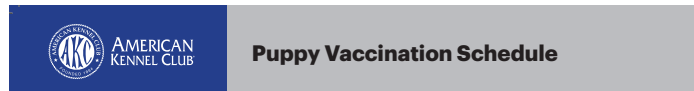
Feeding Considerations for Puppies

- Feed a balanced, commercial diet appropriate for your dog’s health condition and life stage.
- Select a brand based on scientific evidence instead of persuasive marketing.
- Choose a high-quality food labeled for puppies or “all-life stages” because it is formulated to meet the nutritional requirements and contains the appropriate amount of calcium.
- Follow the feeding directions on the label. The directions are guidelines and may need revising based on activity level or body condition.
- Puppies generally eat three times a day until six months of age. At six months, puppies are approximately 75 percent of their adult size and can be fed two meals a day.
- Do not overdo the treats! Treats should not make up more than 10 percent of your dog’s daily caloric intake.
- Calorie estimations for your puppy can be calculated by your vet or on the Pet Nutrition Alliance website.
- Discourage picky habits by being consistent with feedings—measure the same amount of kibble each feeding, feed around the same time each day, and remove the food bowl after 10 to 20 minutes.
- If transitioning to a new diet, proceed slowly to decrease chances of gastrointestinal upset.
- If feeding an alternative diet, such as homemade or raw, consult your vet and a board-certified veterinary nutritionist to review and carefully formulate balanced meals.
- Regular weigh-ins and body condition assessments are the most practical strategies to help keep a growing puppy at an optimal rate.
- Puppies diagnosed with a medical condition may require a therapeutic diet prescribed by a veterinarian.
- Do not provide supplements unless first discussed with your vet.



References: Re-evaluating Your Dog’s Diet, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine; <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/rineycanine-health-center/canine-health-information/re-evaluating-your-dog-s-diet>; K. Williams, et al. Feeding Growing Puppies. VCA Animal Hospitals. <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/feeding-growing-puppies>; L. Freeman (2022). *Growth Guide: Keeping your Puppy on the Right Track*. Petfoodology blog. Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. <https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2022/01/growth-guide-keeping-your-puppy-on-the-right-track/>, <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/puppy-feeding-fundamentals/>, <https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/best-food-for-your-pet/>

AKC Vaccine Schedule: Recommended and Optional



The first thing to know is that there is not just one puppy vaccination schedule for all dogs. Factors such as which part of the country you live in, and your dog’s individual risk factors will come into play. Some dogs do not need every vaccine. This decision is between you and your veterinarian. Always discuss puppy vaccinations at your regularly scheduled appointments.

That said, here is a generally accepted guideline of the puppy vaccination schedule for the first year.



Puppy’s Age	Recommended Vaccinations	Optional Vaccinations
6 – 8 weeks	Distemper, parvovirus	Bordetella
10 – 12 weeks	DHPP (vaccines for distemper, adenovirus [hepatitis], parainfluenza, and parvovirus)	Influenza, Leptospirosis, Bordetella, Lyme disease per lifestyle as recommended by veterinarian
16 – 18 weeks	DHPP, rabies	Influenza, Lyme disease, Leptospirosis, Bordetella per lifestyle
12 – 16 months	DHPP, rabies	Coronavirus, Leptospirosis, Bordetella, Lyme disease
Every 1 – 2 years	DHPP	Influenza, Coronavirus, Leptospirosis, Bordetella, Lyme disease per lifestyle
Every 1 – 3 years	Rabies (as required by law)	none

Excerpt: AKC staff (2022). Your Complete Guide to First-Year Puppy Vaccines. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/puppy-shots-complete-guide/>

Intestinal Parasites

Intestinal parasites are very common in puppies. Parasitic spores or eggs can be transmitted by a few pathways including contaminated soil, water, or food; fecal-oral transmission is another common route. The parasite thrives in the host, feeding and reproducing in the intestine, bloodstream, or other areas within the body. Breeders will routinely deworm the litter and dam, since some parasites are transmitted through nursing. Deworming meds may be prescribed by your vet during the first several checkups. Parasites can cause loose stools, vomiting, dehydration, poor appetite, weight loss, lethargy, and dull coat. Regular fecal exams by the veterinarian can help identify the infection and promptly treat before becoming more serious or life threatening. Some intestinal parasites can also be transmitted to humans, so early detection and careful handling of the puppy's stool is important.

Common Intestinal Parasites in Puppies

- Roundworms
- Hookworms
- Whipworms
- Tapeworms
- Coccidia
- Giardia

Challenges of Giardia and Coccidia

Giardia and Coccidia are single cell protozoa that reproduce and shed spores into the environment through infected feces. The spores survive in watery environments and soil and are transmitted by drinking contaminated water, eating contaminated grass, or from a dog grooming himself after coming in contact with infected feces. Once ingested, the spores thrive in the intestines where they reproduce and continue to repeat the cycle. Giardia and Coccidia can be frustrating to breeders and puppy owners because the spores are difficult to eradicate and can also

spread between dogs. Giardia and coccidia can also "travel" to new locations with help from birds.

Heartworm

Heartworm is the most concerning and most preventable parasite. Mosquitoes transmit the parasite, and since avoiding mosquitoes is nearly impossible in most places, vets recommend regular heartworm preventatives to keep your dog safe. Heartworms grow and multiply within the heart, causing severe lung disease, heart failure, other organ damage, and ultimately leading to death if untreated.

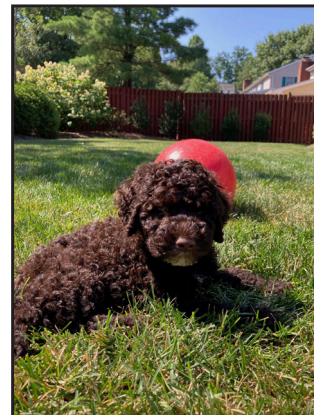
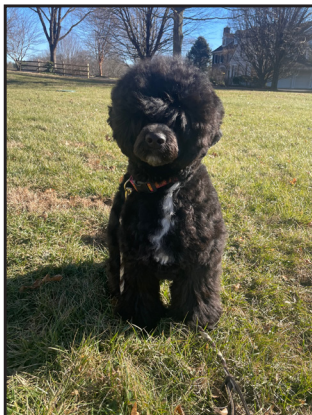
Treatment

Some parasitic infections are asymptomatic. However, some dogs will show symptoms as listed above. If parasites are suspected, take a sample of your dog's stool to the vet office for microscopic examination. After the intestinal parasite is identified, appropriate treatment will be prescribed.

Prevention

- Strict hand hygiene
- Promptly bag and dispose of feces
- Monitor for signs of illness
- Do not let your dog eat animal feces
- Do not let your dog drink standing water

References: A. Cohen. Giardia: Infection, Treatment and Prevention. Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/riney-canine-health-center/health-info/giardia-infection-treatment-and-prevention>; AKC Staff. (2019). Worms in Dogs: Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/worms-in-dogs-prevention-diagnosis-treatment/>; C. Foley. (2017). Giardiasis and Coccidiosis in Puppies. *Whole Dog Journal*. <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/puppies/puppy-health/giardiasis-and-coccidiosis-in-puppies/>; A. Peregrine. (2022). Gastrointestinal Parasites of Dogs. MerckVetManual.com <https://www.merckvetmanual.com/dog-owners/digestive-disorders-of-dogs/gastrointestinal-parasites-of-dogs>; M. Weir, et al. Internal Parasites in Dogs. VCA Animal Hospitals. <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/internal-parasites-in-dogs>.



Canine Bowel Obstruction

Canine bowel obstruction commonly occurs when foreign material is ingested and becomes partially or completely lodged in the intestines. The obstruction prevents food and water from passing through the gastrointestinal tract and can lead to decreased blood flow, malabsorption, and bowel deterioration.

Common objects causing bowel obstruction include ingestion of bones, balls, toys, rocks, orthodontic retainers, corncobs, clothing (underwear, bras, socks), fruit pits, and feminine hygiene products. Linear objects, such as thread, string, yarn, and tampons, are especially dangerous because they cause twisting and telescoping of the bowel. Ingestion of a wire orthodontic retainers can lead to perforations and bleeding in the digestive tract.

Signs of bowel obstruction include loss of appetite, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, bloating, abdominal pain, straining to stool, lethargy, restlessness, and arching of the back.

Seek veterinary care immediately if blockage is suspected. Left untreated, bowel obstruction can cause pain, dehydration, intestinal perforation, and death. The veterinarian will complete a thorough history and exam and may obtain an abdominal x-ray or ultrasound to confirm the presence and location of the foreign object, provide subcutaneous or intravenous fluids, or administer pain and anti-nausea medication. If the foreign material does not pass in the stool, surgery may be required to remove the object. The first 72 hours post-op are the most critical in the recovery process.

Prevention is key! Always monitor your dog while playing with toys or bones. Dispose of any toys that are broken, splintered, or shredded; place harmful objects out of reach; and keep garbage containers sealed at all times. Bowel obstruction surgery

is expensive. The cost depends on extent of the surgery, the duration of the obstruction, length of hospital stay, and general health of your dog. Consider purchasing insurance for your dog—shop around for a policy that meets the health needs of your dog and your budget.



"POTTY POTTY"

Teaching Your Puppy to Potty on Cue

1

Observe your puppy's potty routine and create a schedule. Anticipate potty time after eating, play, or sleep.

2

Walk your puppy on a lead to the same spot every time. Tuck some high value treats in your pocket.

3

Stay in the potty spot until your dog eliminates. Say "potty potty" as your puppy begins urinating. PRAISE with excitement and give a treat.

4

At this point, only say "potty potty" cue as your dog is actually peeing or pooping. Praise after your dog is finished to avoid them stopping too early.

5

Reinforce the association between cue and elimination. As the puppy circles, squats, and starts to pee, say "potty potty." Afterwards, say "good potty!" and give a treat. Practice association for a week or two.

6

Time to potty on command! Walk your dog to the usual spot and say "potty potty." After they eliminate, praise and reward with a treat. Praise every time your puppy goes potty on command.

Consistency is imperative when pairing elimination with a verbal cue ("potty potty") and a reward. Keep treats next to the door and place in your pocket every time you take your dog outdoors to potty. When your puppy fully understands the cue -potty -reward association, they will try to go potty whenever they hear "potty potty."

Always remember to praise and reward!

Adapted from: S. Lowrey. (2022). How to Teach Your Puppy How to Potty on Cue. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/teach-your-dog-to-poop-potty-on-cue/>

Infographic by Shannon Antunes

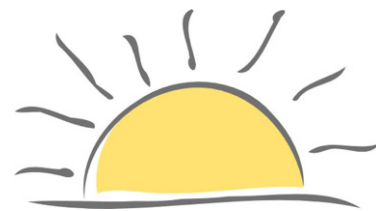
Awake with the Birds

Puppies wake up early for a number of reasons, such as needing to go potty, feeling hungry, or being disturbed by noise or light. By six months old, a puppy has the ability to hold urine for approximately seven hours and should be able to sleep through the night. Before six months, owners should expect that a young puppy will need to wake up early to go potty.

Tips to help improve sleep for your puppy (and you!):

- Provide plenty of exercise after dinner
- No napping in the evening
- Develop a quiet, consistent bedtime routine
- Reduce bedroom stimuli: install room-darkening shades, use white noise machine a safe distance from your puppy, remove crinkle and squeaky toys from the crate
- Choose a crate that is the correct size and allows your dog to stand up and turn around
- Cover the sides of a crate with a sheet or thin blanket, allowing for air circulation
- Feed a high-quality, easy-to-digest diet (less likely to cause fecal urgency)
- Increase the time between dinner and the last potty opportunity
- Remove the water bowl two to three hours before bedtime
- If your puppy cries at dawn, take her out to go potty but keep things quiet and boring; return to crate (no cuddles, no play)
- If your puppy is consistently awakening at night, schedule an appointment with the vet to rule out a medical condition, such as a UTI

References: Miller, P. (2021). My Dog Wakes Up Too Early. *Whole Dog Journal*. <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/behavior/my-dog-wakes-up-too-early/>



“Rule of 7s”

Pat Hastings, a longtime breeder, professional handler, and AKC judge, developed a method in the 1980s to introduce positive and safe puppy socialization through experiences. These exposures are most successful when introduced by 7 weeks of age. By introducing a variety of new situations and experiences, the puppy is thought to be more well-rounded and adjusted.

7 Exposure Ideas for Your Puppy

- 7 different surfaces: carpet, concrete, wood, vinyl, grass, dirt, gravel, wood chips, newspaper
- 7 different objects: balls, soft toys, fuzzy toys, squeaky toys, metal items, wooden items, paper, cardboard items
- 7 different locations: front yard, back yard, basement, kitchen, garage, laundry room, bathroom, crate, kennel
- 7 challenges: enters a box, goes through a tunnel, climbs up and down several steps, crawls over obstacles, plays hide and seek, goes in and out of a doorway with a step
- 7 different food containers: metal, plastic, cardboard, paper, china, pie pan, frying pan
- 7 different feeding locations: crate, yard, kitchen, basement, laundry room, bedroom, x-pen
- Introduced to and played with 7 new people, including children and the elderly



Raising a Puppy with Young Children

Raising a puppy in a home with young children can be a wonderful family experience. Research has noted that puppies can improve physical, social, and emotional well-being in children. Dogs help children stay physically active, provide constant companionship, boost self-confidence, relieve stress, teach responsibility, and are a tremendous source of joy. Research has documented that positive interactions with pets raises serotonin and dopamine levels in humans and improves mood. There are challenges and safety considerations when raising a puppy alongside children. Young children often act like puppies—rolling around on the floor and getting into everything! Children must be taught how to handle, respect, and behave around a puppy. Ultimately, it is the owner’s responsibility to keep both the puppy and children safe.

Tips for Puppy Families

- Adults must provide constant supervision—never leave a child alone with any dog!
- Create positive associations when your puppy is with children; reward with treats, toys, and games.
- Teach children how to call the puppy, reward, and initiate gentle play.
- Find a special treat the puppy loves but ONLY receives from the child. Until you are certain the puppy will not nip, place the treat on the floor.
- Children should use a calm, quiet voice around the puppy.
- Have children sit on the floor to gently handle a puppy while supervised.
- Teach children that dogs can get hurt if not handled gently.
- Never disturb a sleeping dog. Startling during sleep can make a puppy defensive.
- Do not allow a puppy to play or chew on your child’s toys.
- Children should not roll on the floor, be on all fours, or chase the puppy. The puppy will view the child as a littermate, which encourages play biting and lunging.
- Teach your children that the puppy’s crate is off limits.
- Never allow children to touch a dog that is eating or chewing.



Dogs provide subtle “clues” when stressed—before they growl and snap! Learn and understand your puppy’s body language and quickly intervene before the situation worsens.

- Licking of nose or lips
- Panting
- Drooling
- Shaking
- Yawning when not tired
- Paw raising
- Changes in posture (hunches over or shifts weight to hind legs)
- Tail tucking
- Avoidance (puppy is trying to escape from the child)
- Whale Eye (the whites of the eyes appear like a half-moon shape)

References: K. Callahan. (2023). How to Socialize a Puppy. *Whole Dog Journal*. <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/behavior/how-to-socialize-a-puppy/>; D. Flaim. (2019). Teaching Young Children to Respect Dogs. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/teaching-young-children-respect-dogs/>; S. Gibeault. (2021). How to Help Your Dog Love Children. AKC.org. [https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/helping-your-dog-love-children/#:~:text=If%20your%20dog%20doesn't,while%20the%20child%20pets%20them](https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/helping-your-dog-love-children/#:~:text=If%20your%20dog%20doesn't,while%20the%20child%20pets%20them;); P. Miller (2019). Kids and Dogs. *Whole Dog Journal*. <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/training/kids-and-dogs-2/>.



The Eyes Have It

In February, Keystone hosted an eye clinic at Doylestown Animal Medical Clinic. Thank you to all the participants who helped make the event fun and successful! Dr. Aguirre examined 75 dogs, some traveling as far away as Syracuse and Pittsburgh! We are hoping to schedule another clinic in Fall 2023. Volunteers are needed to help the day run smoothly—please contact Barb Weisman (barbie@seaangels.net) if interested in helping at the next eye clinic.



Puppy Socialization

Socialization is the process of safely introducing a young puppy to a variety of new experiences. During the first four months, it is critical to expose puppies to new people, environments, and stimuli and teach them necessary skills to safely and positively interact with their world. A properly socialized puppy is more inclined to become a well-mannered, happy, and confident dog and less likely to exhibit fear, anxiety, or aggression. The more experiences provided, the less bothered a puppy will be throughout life when confronted with new situations. Socialization is fun and encourages bonding with the family.

Three Keys

1. Expose to positive and controlled situations
2. Provide an array of brief encounters
3. Introduce a variety of experiences

Periods of Socialization

0–2 weeks of age: Taste and touch are the only developed senses. Puppies have limited mobility, cannot regulate their own temperature, and are completely dependent on the dam and breeder. At two weeks old, eyes are opening and puppies are beginning to walk. Safe toys with different textures, shapes, sounds, and smells should be added to the whelping box. Gentle, brief handling by a responsible breeder is an early step 3–14 weeks of age—the most critical period in socialization, also referred to as “the sensitive period.”

3–5 weeks: Puppies are vocalizing, exploring their surroundings, and showing interest in people. They are learning important behaviors from the dam and littermates, like social cues and bite inhibition.

5–8 weeks: Puppies are weaning, walking, wagging, starting to bark, eliminating on their own, and nipping with razor-sharp teeth. They are curious and exploring their surroundings, regarding humans, playing with their littermates, practicing nipping behaviors, and starting to show fear. A responsible breeder should begin exposing the litter to new, safe experiences—enriching play opportunities both indoors and outside, meeting and being handled by a variety of people, going on brief car rides, introducing crate training, and exposing the litter to day-to-day household sounds (TV, phone, doorbell, vacuum). A puppy should remain with the dam and littermates until 8–10 weeks old.

8–14 weeks: Puppies are heading to their forever homes and require continued exposure opportunities. New owners should encourage their puppy to explore and introduce the puppy to as many new people, animals, stimuli and environments without causing overstimulation. Provide enrichment activities—take your puppy on car rides, visit dog-friendly stores like Home Depot or Cabela’s. Avoid dog parks and pet stores at this age. The more positive interactions and experiences provided, the less fearful your puppy will become.

14 weeks–12 months: Puppies are becoming more independent and testing boundaries. Once your puppy has received their vaccinations, it is time to head to puppy obedience classes. Positive social interactions should continue throughout life.

Ways to Socialize Your Puppy

1. Exposure to different people, places, sounds, tastes, and textures.
2. Keep things positive and give a lot of praise.
3. Enrichment matters—providing daily mental and physical stimulation fosters a sense of control over the environment and reduces boredom and stress.
4. Practice desensitization by touching your puppy’s feet, ears and teeth. Brush your puppy daily and clean teeth with a soft finger brush.
5. Aim to expose your puppy to a variety of people by four months of age. Sit outdoors at a coffee shop and invite patrons to pet your dog and give a treat or sit on a park bench where people are walking by and children are playing.
6. Do not introduce too many situations too quickly. Introduce one stranger at a time instead of a large group setting; proceed at a pace comfortable for your puppy’s temperament.
7. Enroll in obedience classes with a professional trainer.
8. Expose your puppy to a variety of surfaces (grass, wood, snow, mud, sand, tiles, stairs, linoleum, street, sidewalk).
9. Take your puppy with you to do short errands around town.

Reference: L. Donovan. (2022). Puppy Socialization: Why, When, and How to Do it Right. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/puppy-socialization/>; AKC Staff. (2021). Creativity & Critical Timing Are Key to Puppy Socialization. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/dog-breeding/creativity-and-timing-key-to-puppy-socialization/>; E. Adkins, et. al. UC Davis Veterinary Medicine. <https://healthtopics.sf.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk6721/files/inline-files/Puppy-Socialization.pdf>

Control Unleashed: Creating a Focused and Confident Dog

by Leslie McDevitt

Your backyard training has been going swimmingly. The dog is happily retrieving the bumper directly to your hand and he loves his float line. Then you get to water practice or a water trial and he zones out. Maybe he gets the zoomies. Maybe he wanders off, sniffing the ground. Maybe he freezes in place. Maybe he starts to perform the task and then disengages midway through. You might have found yourself saying “But I know he knows how to do this.” Leslie McDevitt’s invaluable book, *Control Unleashed: Creating a Focused and Confident Dog*, is here to help. I learned of this 2007 book last winter when Martha Ruskai recommended it to the PWD Water Training Tips and Questions group on Facebook.

Control Unleashed is a very practical book that spells out a program for building a dog’s motivation to work in the presence of distractions. Grounded in well-established theories of canine behavior (operant conditioning and the Premack Principle), McDevitt’s lessons are valuable for any dog sport, but they are especially relevant to water work.

In a water trial, a PWD must work off leash and without a food motivator. It is, moreover, an outdoor setting, full of distractions—distractions that go well beyond the usual stuff like other dogs and people. At our trials, dogs have had to ignore geese (and apparently delicious goose droppings), a scary wake of buzzards, a trail-riding group on horseback at water’s edge, and kayakers gliding within feet of the water markers. Once, a snapping turtle whose head peaked above the water serendipitously acted as a secondary marker—a rare case of a distraction serving as a helpful focal point. Then there is the weather: wind, waves, rain, cold, or energy-sapping heat. The shore might be uncomfortably rocky or the lake bottom unpleasantly mucky. For much of the time, the dog must work independently at a considerable distance from the handler. When a PWD swims to shore for the float line, she knows full well that her handler is stuck out there on the boat with no way to stop her from going in quest of a dead fish whose scent is beckoning.

In short, a water trial presents a more demanding environment than an obedience or agility trial. One method that handlers sometimes employ to get around the difficulty of working-at-a-distance is to attach a long line to the dog. The drawback of this tactic is that it does not address the underlying issue, which is the dog’s motivation for the task and confidence in performing it. Motivation can be taught. Team spirit can be built. Once you have a dog who is committed to being your teammate—sans leash—then learning new skills comes pretty easily. As handlers, we tend to focus on skills development. We keep a mental list of the various skills the dog needs to master in order to get that coveted title. But it can be counterproductive to push for skills that are beyond the dog’s level of attention. We need to refocus our attention on developing the dog’s capacity for focused commitment.

Following the exercises in *Control Unleashed* will increase the dog’s willingness to train. As an example, here’s how you play the motivational game “Give Me A Break” (full description on pages 148 to 150):



1. Have a plan for what you want to train before you get your dog out. Keep it simple (sit/down/spin/go to your mat).
2. Use a controlled environment, like a gated area or a small room, with a chair. Move to more challenging environments once the dog knows the game.
3. Count out ten yummy treats and put them in your hand.
4. Ask for a behavior (“sit”) or alternate between behaviors (“sit” then “down”). Use a super-high rate of reinforcement, like ten treats in ten seconds (one treat for each instance of the behavior).
5. Give a verbal dismissal cue (“That’s all for now”), disengage, and go sit in the chair.
6. Allow the dog to do what he wants, sniff around, or whatever.
7. At the end of a one-minute break, re-engage your dog and start another highly rewarding session followed by another break.

During the break, watch to see if the dog re-orient toward you. If she does not, that’s fine; let her have a full minute to herself before you call her for another round of behaviors and treats. If she does re-orient toward you, immediately reward that attention and start the game again. You want the dog to ask to work. Once the dog gets the hang of the game, she will demand to work. When you say “That’s all for now” and turn away, she will follow and fixate on you attentively, pleading “Coach, put me in the game.” Always remember that what we call the dog “working” should be, from the dog’s perspective, playing. As you progress, you can lengthen the training sessions a few seconds at a time. You do not want the dog to disengage before you give the verbal dismissal.

This game is great for taking the pressure off a dog who stresses. Instead of you demanding that the dog keep working while his mind is drifting away, you have a dog who insists that you keep working with him. He is developing and increasing his capacity for sustained focus. Dogs can give us that focus for hours once they discover their love of the shared activity. Beware: a PWD that desires to work the livelong day is not always easy to live with, unless you want to switch careers and become a Portuguese fisherman.

—Reviewed by Diana Schaub

Adolescence: What Happened to Our Puppy?

Around eight months old, puppies enter the complex and challenging developmental stage of adolescence. Similar to human development, canine adolescence is characterized by growth spurts, brain reorganization, and hormone surges. The adolescent puppy begins to test boundaries (and our patience!) as they interact with their environment. They may lack focus, ignore commands, run off to meet other dogs, become curious with strangers, and experience potty training regression. Hormone surges can cause increased excitability and reactions, sparking unwanted behaviors like excessive barking, jumping, scratching, and biting. Sadly, research studies document that the most common age for puppies to be relinquished to shelters or sent back to the breeder is during adolescence when behaviors are more difficult to manage. With patience and positive training approaches, these tricky adolescent behaviors can be shaped and do eventually pass.

Fear Period

Between 8 and 11 weeks old, puppies enter a fear period around the time they transition to a new home. It is important during this stage not to overwhelm the puppy and instead gently introduce new situations. A second fear period, occurring between 6 and 14 months, is labeled the “Fear of New Situation Period” and can take owners by complete surprise. The once confident, engaged, social, and intelligent puppy from yesterday may suddenly become worried and anxious about a particular object, person, or encounter. During fear periods, your puppy is not trying to be defiant or naughty—they are uncertain about the world around them!

Common Adolescent Behaviors

- Ignoring the owner and previously learned commands
- Running off to visit with other dogs
- Being more interested in strangers than their owner
- Training regressions
- Lacking concentration and focus
- More likely to bark and growl

- Very sensitive and cuddly
- Excessive mouthing, rough play, and biting

Considerations During the Second Fear Stage

- Allow your puppy to move away from the frightening stimulus
- Do not make a big deal over what frightens your puppy
- Train through the hormone surges by working on heeling, retrieving, sit-stays, and recall to help focus your puppy and get them back on track
- Keep a list of objects or situations that make your puppy anxious and gently and gradually incorporate those triggers into future training sessions (use rewards!)

Tips for Surviving Adolescence

- Continue to socialize beyond the early puppy stages. Expose your dog to new places, people, dogs, and environments.
- Do not give your puppy too much freedom; set limits.
- Teach “leave it” or “drop it” to help your puppy learn self-control.
- Use a crate to provide a quiet space.
- Hormonal changes are challenging and require patience and guidance.
- Keep a list of things that make your puppy anxious and work on them during training sessions.
- Reinforce training cues and include lots of rewards.
- Keep all social interactions positive.
- Offer stimulating and fun enrichment activities.
- Keep chew toys handy.
- If you are at all concerned with your dog’s behavior, speak to your vet and breeder; consider consulting a behaviorist.

Enrichment

Adolescent dogs are energetic and thrive when provided with enjoyable mental and physical enrichment activities. Consider your dog’s daily routine and create an enrichment plan, considering energy level, interests, and working drive. Work can be more formal, such as attending obedience or performance classes, or focused play activities, like food puzzles, a scent walk, chew toys, hide-and-seek, or trick training.

Research

In 2020, research published by Newcastle University in the United Kingdom compared common human adolescent behaviors with dogs and found similarities. Researchers documented that around eight months old, puppies were

harder to train and behaviors more pronounced in dogs who experienced insecure attachment with owners. The study concluded that disobedience is “a passing phase,” and punishment can worsen behaviors and cause the puppy to pull away emotionally from the owner.

This Too Shall Pass

Adolescence is a challenging and complex stage as dogs try to cope with hormonal changes and navigate life. Your puppy is sorting through a tremendous amount of information in their world and needs reassurance, patience, and guidance. There are no shortcuts through the adolescent stage. The good news: this stage will be over soon!

References: Tucker, N. (2018). Adolescent Dogs: 6 Facts to Know. *Whole Dog Journal*, <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/puppies/adolescent-dogs-6-facts-to-know/>; Long, B. (2016). Your Adolescent Puppy and Changes to Expect, <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/adolescent-puppy-changes/>; Puppy Adolescence: How to Get Through the Teen Years, <https://www.purina.co.uk/articles/dogs/puppy/behaviour/puppy-adolescence>; Asher, L., England, G.C.W., Sommerville, R., Harvey, N.D. (2020). Teenage dogs? Evidence for adolescent-phase conflict behaviour and an association between attachment to humans and pubertal timing in the domestic dog, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7280042/>; Lowrey, S. (2021). Puppy Fear Periods:

Why Is My Puppy Suddenly Afraid?, <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/dont-panic-training-through-and-around-puppy-fear-periods/>; Miller, P. (2021). Angst With Your Adolescent Dog: How to increase the odds that you and your dog survive her trying teenage times with your relationship intact, <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/training/angst-with-your-adolescent-dog/>; Hastings, P. & Rouse, E.A. (2004). Another Piece of the Puzzle: Puppy Development, *Dogfolk Enterprises*, pp 34-41; Matison, P. (2014). *The Happy Puppy Handbook*, Ebury Press, pp 35-42.



Let's Heel!

Heeling is walking your dog with a controlled (no pulling) stride on your left side. It is a training tool which promotes safer walking and helps strengthen the bond between a dog and owner. A dog who heels has better focus on walks and is less likely to chase other animals, run into traffic, or ingest something harmful.

Gather a leash, a dog collar or harness, and a handful of high-value treats. Let's go!!

- Attach a lead to your dog's collar and walk to a distraction-free area, such as the backyard, driveway, or indoor hallway.
- Have your dog sit on your left side. Praise with "GOOD SIT" and then promptly give a treat.
- Hold a treat at your left side, close to your body, and say your dog's name along with heel (ex. "Jessie HEEL")
- Slowly step forward with your left foot first. The treat will help guide your dog to follow close to your side. Every few steps, PRAISE your dog ("GOOD HEEL!"). Continue to keep the treat in your left hand close to your body.
- If you turn, always turn to the right.

- End with your dog sitting on your left side, excitedly praise your dog ("GOOD HEEL, GOOD GIRL!!"), and give a treat.
- Briefly practice each day to reinforce sitting and heeling. If your dog loses focus while heeling, stop, and say "SIT." When your dog sits and is focused, say "HEEL" and restart the process.
- After a week or two of successful practice with heeling, increase the length of your walks and add some distractions.
- As your dog becomes more experienced with heeling, use treats more sparingly and rely on verbal praise. You can eventually train your dog to heel off lead in a safe, confined area.



"It's always 'Sit,' 'Stay,' 'Heel'—never 'Think,' 'Innovate,' 'Be yourself'."

Traveling with Your PWD Pup

Our puppy Banshee was born in February, 2021. She was the smallest of the litter and immediately became my favorite. She was scrappy and had a big personality for the smallest puppy. I knew right away she would be our pup. Banshee is my husband Tom's shadow. She goes everywhere with him and they graciously allow me to tag along.

Our home is in northeastern Pennsylvania. We have a large fenced-in property and Banshee often follows Tom around the yard and into the woods as he works around the house. She listens well and is very friendly and active. Exercise is a big part of her day and ours. Every day she goes for a long walk and we play games and keeping this routine is important for her health. So when traveling we keep this routine in mind.

In February, 2022 I joined my husband in retirement and we started traveling quite a bit. Our three children live in three different places (Pittsburgh, PA, Blowing Rock, NC and Charleston, SC) and we enjoy visiting them while exploring other parts of the country. Of course, Banshee goes everywhere Tom goes (and me).

Banshee is a great traveler. We have a seat sling we use in the car to keep her safe and comfortable in the back seat of the car. We travel with a portable crate and she of course has her identification tag, a reflective vest, and we have a neon light ring for her neck which helps with taking walks after dusk and in the early morning during those dark winter months.

When traveling we research dog-friendly rest stops or those with walking trails. There are quite a few public hiking areas located off of interstates. Utilizing these rest stops along the way can be highly beneficial for your pup and for you. As you know, Portuguese Water Dogs need stimulation and exercise. Your pup and you will be much happier travelers if you make a conscious decision to stop every few hours for a good walk, to chase a ball and get a bite to eat and a drink. Of course having plenty of water and sufficient food is imperative when traveling anywhere with your pup.

Your dog will let you know when he or she needs a break from the car. You will be much happier if you listen to those signals and plan accordingly.



Also, remember to research pet friendly accommodations. Many hotel chains or Airbnb/VRBO rentals do allow pets. I would encourage you go invest in a portable crate to take along on trips. A comfortable bed or blanket and a few favorite toys will not take up much room in your car but certainly will help your pet relax in unfamiliar locations.

Remember to keep your pet's needs in mind when planning your travel. Investing a little bit of time researching prior to your vacation can foster a happy, healthy trip for all.

Happy Travels!

—Peg Schaffer



Motion Sickness: Tips and Prevention

Motion sickness in puppies is especially common because the inner ear, which is required for balance, has not fully developed. Car sickness makes your dog feel miserable (same as humans!). Most puppies outgrow motion sickness as they mature, while other dogs never really get over nausea associated with travel. Dogs who infrequently travel may associate being in the car with sickness or fear because of a negative past event related to traveling, such as going to the vet, groomer, or kennel.

Ways to help your dog feel more comfortable while traveling:

- Always use safety restraints in a vehicle (an approved harness or travel crate). If possible, face your dog forward while restrained in the middle of the back seat.
- Keep the car cool and well-ventilated; opening windows slightly may help.
- Avoid feeding your dog before a long trip, but do not restrict fresh water.
- Make time to stop for potty breaks.
- Bring a favorite toy and blanket from home. Offer an old shirt in the travel crate. Consider buying a special toy used only for car rides.

Encourage positive associations in the car to help alleviate stress. Acclimate your puppy by getting into the car and letting it run in the driveway for five minutes with your dog inside. Bring a toy and play. Praise and offer treats. Shut off car and exit. Do this daily until your dog begins to show enthusiasm when getting into the car. The next step is to drive for 5-10" up and down your street and slowly increase the amount of travel until you are able to take



short trips, such as to the park or to visit a friend. Gradually extend the road trip as your dog gets used to the idea of car trips being fun. If your dog shows any anxiety in the car (licking his lips, drooling, whining, yawning, panting, shaking), then keep your cool and try again the following day.

If spending time in the car is not helping to desensitize your dog, speak to your vet about options to treat motion sickness. Medications such as Cerenia, Bonine, or calming supplements, such as Happy Traveler chews, Rescue Remedy drops, or ginger treats may be beneficial. Hopefully with patience and some preventative measures, your dog will be able to ride safely and comfortably on your next adventure.

—Adapted from AKC.org article Carsickness in Dogs:
Causes and Tips for Preventing Motion Sickness
by Jan Reisin, May 14, 2021



Saving Your Pet With CPR

If there is no breathing and no pulse, begin CPR immediately.

1 Check for breathing & pulse
Check for pulse using middle and index finger below wrist, inner thigh, below the ankle or where left elbow touches the chest.

2 Look for other warning signs
• Gums and lips will appear gray
• Pupils will be dilated

3 If no pulse, start compressions
Lay animal on right side and place hands over ribs where its elbow touches the chest. Begin compressions. **Do not give compressions if dog has a pulse.**

4 If not breathing, give mouth-to-mouth
Cats & small dogs: place your mouth over nose and mouth, blow air in.
Medium-large dogs: place your mouth over nose, blow air in.



Repeat Procedure

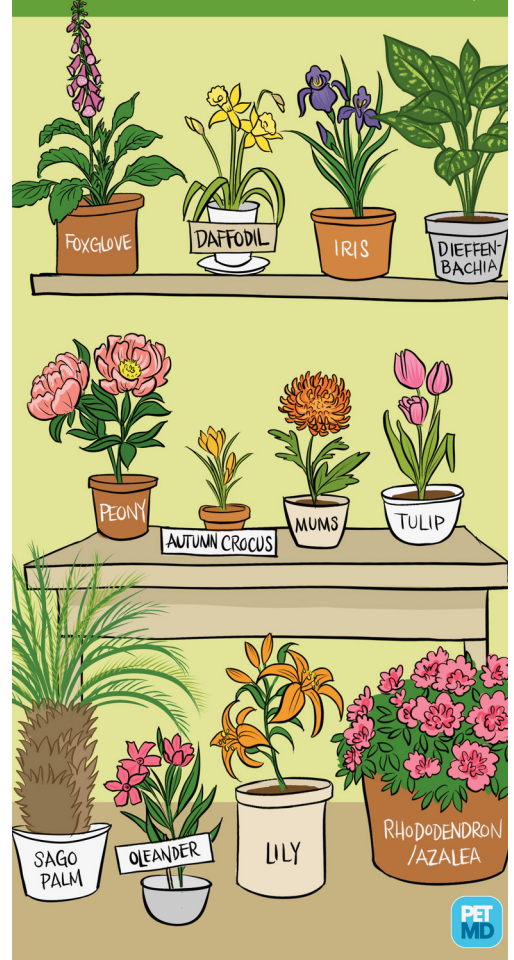
- Check pulse after 1 minute and then every few minutes
- Continue giving CPR until animal has a pulse or is breathing
- Stop CPR after 20 minutes

Animal Size	Compress Chest	Compressions per breath
Under 30 lbs.	1/2 - 1 inch	5
30-90 lbs.	1 - 3 inches	5
Over 90 lbs.	1 - 3 inches	10

Diagram Source: American Red Cross



12 PLANTS that are POISONOUS for pets



PET POISON CONTROL

ASPCA

PET POISON HELPLINE

888-426-4435

800-213-6680

www.aspcapet-care/poison-control

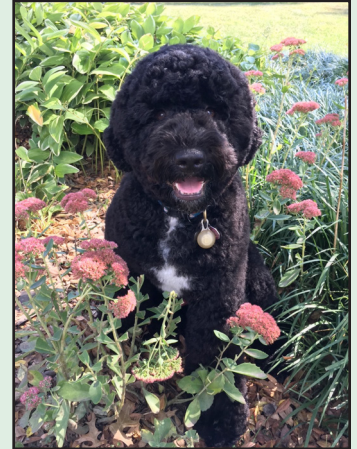
www.petpoisonhelpline.com



Creating a Puppy-Friendly Garden

While planning a garden for your family and dog to enjoy, there are a few helpful considerations.

- Put up a sturdy, tall fence to contain an energetic puppy. Most medium-sized breeds require a six-foot fence. Inspect for gaps at the base where a puppy can escape.
- Fence off delicate plants or enticing edibles.
- Remove ladders, fence off and firmly cover swimming pools, hot tubs and ponds when not in use.
- Avoid using cocoa-based mulch because it is toxic to dogs
- Avoid all irritating or poisonous plants (some examples are lilies, azaleas, daffodils, foxglove, yew and hydrangeas). If your dog eats a poisonous plant, call poison control and head to the vet, taking the plant with you.
- Plant dog safe plants like snapdragons, asters, camellias, roses, sunflowers, cornflowers, petunias, pansies, zinnia, sweet potato vine, basil, cucumber, cilantro, thyme, impatiens and calendula.
- Discourage your puppy from chewing anything found in the garden.
- Design clearly defined paths or add hedging to create defined boundaries for running dogs. Raised beds are a great choice, too.
- Make sure that it does not consume any slugs or snails, which can cause lungworm .
- Keep sharp tools, pool or pond chemicals, and lawn fertilizer out of reach
- Never use toxic weed killers and mice poison
- Secure your compost bin, garage and shed.
- If you have gates in your garden, remind everyone to keep them closed at all times.



References: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/how-to-plant-a-dog-friendly-garden/>
<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/12-tips-for-a-dog-friendly-garden/>



A Pet First Aid Kit Should Contain:

			
	Absorbent Gauze Pads	Adhesive Tape	Cotton Balls or Swabs
to induce vomiting ↪			
	Fresh 3% Hydrogen Peroxide	Ice Pack	Disposable Gloves
			
	Scissors with Blunt End	Tweezers	Antibiotic Ointment
			for bathing ↪
	Oral syringe or turkey baster	Liquid dishwashing detergent	
			
	Towels	Small Flashlight	Alcohol Wipes
			
	Styptic Powder	Saline Eye Solution	Artificial Tear Gel
			
	Vet Info Card	ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center	

↪ Phone number, clinic name, address of your veterinarian as well as local veterinary emergency clinics.

If you think your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, call **(888) 426-4435**.

What to Expect When Working with a Trainer or Attending a Group Class

Once you've done your homework and found a trainer that you like, what happens next?

There are some preparations that will be common to both private training sessions and group classes such as:

- You will probably be asked to complete and sign an enrollment and waiver form that includes specifying what your goals are (i.e. a well-mannered dog, competitive obedience, therapy work and so forth.)
- You may also be required to provide proof of vaccinations for your pet.
- Payment arrangements and fees should be reviewed in detail.

Helpful Hints for Training Sessions:

- Have your pet wear the type of collar and leash specified by your trainer.
- Use high-quality training treats. Typically dogs prefer soft & chewy treats over crunchy treats.
- Wear comfortable, flat, close toed shoes. Don't wear shoes like sandals, mules, or high heels.
- Wear comfortable clothes that you can easily move in but that don't get in your way.
- Make sure your pet has eliminated before class or your private session so they won't feel the need to go during the training time.
- You may want to forgo feeding or only feed a very light meal before training.

Group Classes

In a group setting, you will be working in the same area and possibly side-by-side with other pet owners. Class sizes can range from only a few people to ten or more. Part of the value of working in a group is that there are lots of sights and sounds to act as distractions. Your pet will learn how to focus on your directions beyond the class distractions. Don't be embarrassed if you have difficulty at first with getting your pet's attention. Practice will help.

Your instructor may review the entire course content on the first day and will introduce the materials to

be covered at each session. You will be expected to practice what you have learned during the period before the next class as "homework." Many instructors provide hand-outs to help you review the information covered in class.

Private Training

If you are working with a private trainer, your session may either be at the trainer's location or at your home. Private sessions can involve providing a detailed history of the pet's behavior, particularly if you have consulted with the trainer for a specific problem.

Your trainer should provide an "action plan" of what you will cover at each session. Written plans will help keep you on track, although the beauty of private training is that you can modify the pace of the instruction to suit your needs. Since your dog is being trained individually, the goals can be also customized for your pet.

Practice Makes Perfect

Whether you decide to train privately or in a class, make sure that you practice on your own in short daily sessions to keep your dog's interest. Practicing what you have learned in your training sessions is extremely important and will help you and your pet make progress.

Most training sessions begin with a quick review of what was learned the prior week before moving into new material that builds upon prior learning. Make sure that you understand each exercise and task that is performed. Failing to ask questions might mean having to retrain your dog later. Don't be afraid to ask questions about why an exercise is effective or what the logic is behind the training method. You probably aren't the only one with the question.

Finally, you should expect that both group and private lessons will help you achieve a closer bond with your pet and will build a more confident relationship through training.

—Article reprinted with permission from the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT). <https://apdt.com/resource-center/expect-working-trainer-attending-group-class/>

Considering Daycare

Life can feel challenging when trying to juggle a demanding work schedule while making sure your dog receives plenty of TLC. A dog left at home for extended time without potty breaks and exercise can become stressed. Owners may choose to hire a pet sitter, seek help from neighbors, or enroll their dog in daycare. Dogs have different personalities and needs. While some dogs thrive in a lively daycare setting, other dogs become stressed and overstimulated. A dog that is healthy, active, socialized, and enjoys a lot of play and stimulation may enjoy daycare. Not all daycares are created equal—do your research and determine the best facility to meet your standards and budget.

Once you have narrowed down the top choices, visit each facility without your dog, bring a list of questions, and ask to observe the dogs and staff. A reputable daycare should ask about your dog's behavior and medical history and complete a thorough evaluation prior to enrollment. Remember to be truthful while discussing your dog and completing the intake assessment.

Select a daycare that is clean, free of hazards, well-ventilated, low odor, comfortable temperature, fenced-in, with non-slip flooring, outdoor space, and adequate staff to dog ratio. Messes should be disinfected immediately and all toys, mats, food bowls, and kennels should be sanitized daily. The facility needs to be adequately staffed

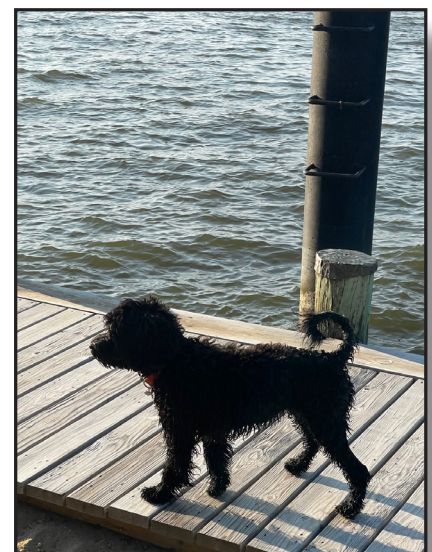
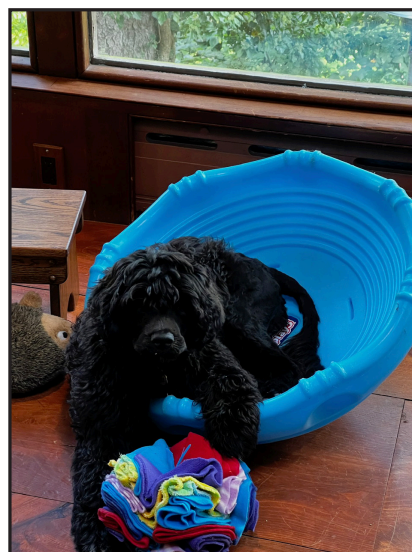
with trained personnel. Positive reinforcement measures should be implemented (no shock collars, shake cans, spray bottles!). Dogs should be properly supervised at all times. Dogs should be organized into smaller play groups with the mix of dogs routinely adjusted to avoid overstimulation. The facility should require that all dogs have, at a minimum, all vaccines required by law. Any dogs exhibiting signs of illness should not be allowed to participate. A detailed emergency plan should be outlined in writing and available for review. Staff should be certified in pet first aid and CPR.

Benefits of daycare:

- Socialization
- Mental and physical stimulation
- A consistent routine alleviates potential boredom and anxiety
- Peace of mind that your dog is safe while being cared for and supervised
- Avoids having strangers in your home

After your dog gets settled into a routine at daycare, be sure to periodically reevaluate the routine to make sure your dog is happy, well-adjusted, and comes home tired yet relaxed.

References: J. Reisen. (2021) Choosing a Daycare for Your Dog. American Kennel Club. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/home-living/choosing-a-doggy-daycare/>; S. Colman. (2021). Dog Daycare: What You Should Look For. Whole Dog Journal. <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/care/dog-daycare-what-you-should-look-for/>



CHOOSING A DAYCARE

Questions to Ask

TEMPERAMENT TESTING

Will an assessment of your dog's behavior and personality be completed prior to daycare acceptance? Testing helps decide if a dog is right for the environment and facilitates customized care.



STAFF TRAINING

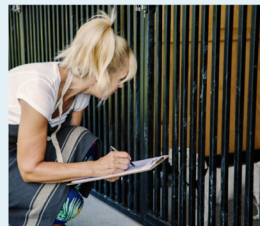
What training requirements does the staff have? Ask if the staff is trained in basic care, CPR, safety protocols. Seek a staff who is trained in canine behavior, including canine body language and any signs of danger, stress, or illness.

EMERGENCIES

What procedures are in place for emergencies, such as natural disasters and injuries? Staff should be trained in canine first aid. Ask how to facility will communicate with you regarding emergencies concerning your dog.

RATIO

What is the usual staff to dog ratio?



REPORT CARDS

Will you receive daily or weekly reports? Is there webcam access? Will you be promptly if a behavior or well-being is noted?

ACTIVITIES

What is the daily routine look like? How much playtime vs. crate time? Is there a variety of activities to appeal to dogs of different energy levels and personalities? Is there a quiet, comfortable, designated rest area? Will your dog be crated at any time and for what length of time?

DOG GROUPINGS

How are dogs grouped - by age, size, activity level?

ENRICHMENT OFFERINGS?

PROCEDURE FOR MEDICATION?

VACCINE PROTOCOL

What is the core vaccine requirement?



TYPE OF CORRECTIONS

What type of correction methods will the trained staff utilize? The staff should never use punishment for unwanted behaviors and should reward positive behavior.

INSURED

Is the facility bonded and insured?

Reference: J Reisen. (2021). Choosing a Daycare for Your Dog. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/home-living/choosing-a-doggy-daycare/>

Infographic by Shannon Antunes

Puppy socialization begins with the breeder and continues with you. Expose your puppy to different people, places, objects, animals, and sounds.



IN MEMORIAM

Gracie

October 23, 2008 - May 15, 2023

Gracie came into our lives when our first Portuguese water dog, Mazie, gave birth to seven puppies in the wee hours of a crisp October morning. The only girl in the litter, with six brothers, we fell in love with Gracie from the very start. With a sprinkle of white across her nose, her white chest, and two white paws, she was our little princess. The kids delighted in watching her grow from a tiny puppy that fit in the palm of their hands to active dog that loved the water from the creek in our backyard, to the lake in the Adirondacks to the sandy shores of Cape May. Gracie had an imperial air about her whether she was prancing in the show ring, clambering into a kayak or counter surfing to satisfy her hearty appetite.



Gracie spent her life under the watchful eye of Mazie. She was the mother of four puppies of her own and had a lifelong fling with her canine cousin, Woody. She welcomed other dogs to the pack in our house with grace and tolerance.

While she had a mind of her own and could be stubborn sometimes, we will remember Gracie was a loyal, happy dog with a spirit of adventure and mischief. While we are heartbroken that she left us earlier than we had hoped for, we will be forever grateful for the joy and love she bestowed upon our family. Rest in peace, beloved Gracie.

—Locke-Keane Family

REMEMBERING PAT HASTINGS

Pat Hastings, renowned breeder and handler, AKC judge, educator, and founder of the Puppy Puzzle, passed away in October 2022. Pat, a respected mentor among dog fanciers, strived to teach by example, viewed breeder support to families as ongoing, and dedicated her life to the betterment of all dogs. Pat was passionate about researching canine structure and taught countless breeders during litter evaluations how to determine which puppies meet the standard and should be considered in a future breeding program. She believed that the structure of a puppy at eight weeks old is an indication of structure as an adult. During litter evaluations, Pat focused on three essential goals: finding any structural differences in the litter to be avoided in future breedings, deciding which puppy to keep for a breeding program, and determining the best home for each puppy. Pat's lifelong contributions and dedication to the sport of dogs led to the honor of receiving an AKC Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.



TJ

May 23, 2007 – September 22, 2022

Theodore Jasper Klingler, commonly known as TJ, was adopted by me 13 years ago when his current owners decided he had too much energy for them. I always wondered how a dog bred to swim one to two miles in the ocean between fishing boats would not have a lot of energy. Anyway, I gladly adopted the dog who climbed into my lap at his foster home and put his head on my shoulder. I was told that he had just picked me.

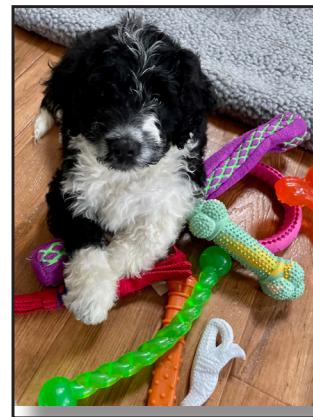
TJ lived to be 15-1/2 years old and died on September 22, 2022. His energy was channeled into obedience, rally, water work, scent work, barn hunt, and therapy work. He and I travelled up and down the East coast—me judging and him competing—and met hundreds of other dogs and their handlers, making friends every trip. School kids had grown to love TJ as they read to him in their classrooms with his head in their laps. The PWD rescue gave me a much-needed companion, friend, and partner. I thank them all the time and have even volunteered on occasion to transport dogs.

TJ had lost much of his hearing but luckily we trained with hand signals so we were good to go. His eyes were a bit cloudy, but it did not stop him from retrieving dumbbells and jumping low jumps. He had both ACLs repaired and so suffered from arthritis in both rear knees. Getting old is tough. The problem is that PWDs do not admit to

having body issues. TJ still did Barn Hunt—falling between bales of straw and totally not caring. When he did his last Master Container AKC scent run, he took second place and the judge gave me a high five when I told him TJ was 14 years old. He thought he was amazing the way he ran around the ring looking for the hidden odors. My chiropractic vet told me that in her opinion PWDs can do anything and excel at all venues they enter. Other breeds can do well in some things, but PWDs do well at anything they try. I totally agree with her!

TJ began having nose bleeds and radiographs showed left sinus totally clouded—something was growing in there. Add to that bloody stools occasionally and then the last week of this life he could not keep any food down—even all the meat and pasta I was cooking for him. He had spent most of his life at 60 pounds of muscle and was now down to 47 pounds. Again—that PWD attitude was still there and he went for a last swim in the morning and then ran around the yard retrieving his toy. He left me that afternoon of the 22nd and I am still missing him terribly—especially his sense of humor that always had me laughing. I cry myself to sleep at night but know that he will send me another dog to entertain me.

—Joan M. Klingler



KPWDC Fundamentals Agility Workshop

The Keystone PWD Club held a Fundamentals Agility Workshop on March 19, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Y2K9s Dog Sports and Training Club in Willow Grove, PA. There were three 1.5 hour sessions with six teams in each session.

Participants in each session received a “dog goodie bag,” a clicker, and a target at the start of each workshop. At the conclusion of the workshop each participant received a personalized Certificate of Completion for the workshop signed by Judy Murray, president of KPWDC and Lynsey Heffner, the training director at Y2K9s. They also received a beautiful ribbon created and provided by Shannon Antunes.

There were 18 teams registered. The PWDs that attended the workshops were from 8 months old to 9 years old. The workshop was open to anyone who was looking to begin the lifelong journey of this amazing dog sport that promotes a bond between a handler and dog or just to have fun with your dog. As an added benefit, agility keeps your dog fit, helps prevent obesity, increases endurance, and strengthens bones and joints. Agility exercises are also mental stimulation, giving a dog an opportunity to learn, build confidence, and solve problems. Agility training will help you keep in shape, too!

At the conclusion of each workshop, participants were request to complete a five-question survey with an optional space for comments.

Results of the survey were as follows:

Everyone indicated the workshop met their expectations, were satisfied with the length of the workshop, the price was a good value, and everyone would be interested in additional agility training.

The following are examples of the comments:

“This was GREAT”

“Lynsey was great—good pace for the class, good activities”

“Excellent class”

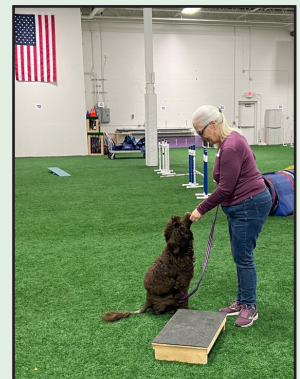
This was so much fun

Can't wait to come back to learn more

“Lynsey helped me understand how to shape any behavior

\nIn an effort to learn what other types of workshops our membership may want to attend we listed ten different venues. The top three workshops selected were Water Work, Nose Work, and Canine Good Citizen, in that order. Stay tuned for more upcoming workshops in 2023.

—Sandra Caruso



The Power of Positive Reinforcement

Positive reinforcement is one of the most influential training tools to help shape desired behaviors in dogs. By rewarding your puppy for making “good” choices, the desired behavior becomes linked to a reward. This leads to the likelihood that your puppy will repeat the behavior in the future. A reward is whatever your puppy is willing to work for—could be praise, treats, play, or a fun walk.

Where to Start

Find a motivating reward for your puppy. If your puppy is food motivated, buy or make high value treats (like string cheese, jerky treats, dehydrated liver, cooked chicken). High value treats can be used to reward during training sessions or to sustain your puppy’s focus in a distracting environment. Some puppies may prefer being rewarded with a fun game.

Rewarding Good Behaviors

Timing of the reward is very important! Reward your puppy as quickly as possible after they produce the desired behavior. Taking too long to give praise causes confusion and can lead to linking an unintended behavior with the reward. Positive reinforcement will only work if it is consistent, predictable, reproducible, and given immediately after your puppy exhibits good behavior. Rewards must occur within seconds of the desired behavior or your puppy may not be able to associate the two. When praised for doing something “good” (instead of being fearful for doing the wrong thing), your puppy becomes an active participant and learns to love training.

Staying Consistent

Consistency is a key element in training your puppy. If you live in a household with multiple people, make sure everyone is on the same page with training cues and rewards.

Benefit of Positive Reinforcement Training

- Humane approach
- Strengthens the bond with your dog
- Avoids increasing anxiety or aggression
- Fun and easy training method
- Does not involve elaborate training equipment
- Increases focus
- Provides mental stimulation, decreasing boredom and problem behaviors
- Allows your dog to choose
- Helps build confidence in your dog

Punishment does not work! Scientific research has repeatedly documented that training with punishment (called aversive training) can lead to increased excitability, stress, anxiety, and aggression. Aversive training measures like yelling, spanking, shock collars, leash correction, spray bottles and shaker cans, does not teach puppy what behavior to do instead!

References: S. Gibeault. (2021). Positive Reinforcement Dog Training: The Science Behind Operant Conditioning. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/operant-conditioning-the-science-behind-positive-reinforcement-dog-training/>; S. Gibeault. (2023). Tips for Using Rewards. AKC.org. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/training-rewards/>; Dogs Trust. Positive Reinforcement Training with Rewards. Dogstrust.org. <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/dog-advice/training/techniques/positive-reinforcement-training-with-rewards>

Recall: Teaching Your Dog to Return to You

Recall is a lifesaving training tool which allows you to take control and safely remove your dog from potential danger. Each time we call our dog, we are asking them to stop everything and turn away from other stimuli. Your dog has to trust that returning to you will be worth his effort—a huge fuss and plenty of treats! Consistency, patience, and positive reinforcement are key when teaching recall.

- Before starting, your dog should already know their name and make eye contact when they hear it.
- Find an enclosed, low-distraction practice area.
- Call your dog (“Lula, COME!”) as you walk backwards. As your dog comes to you, PRAISE and give a treat. End with your dog sitting and facing you.
- ALWAYS reward your dog for coming to you! Use high value treats (string cheese, jerky, or small pieces of chicken) combined with verbal praise.
- As your dog consistently comes when called, gradually increase the distance between you and your dog and add distractions.
- Stay calm if your dog ignores the cue. Gently guide your dog back to the starting point, and try again.
- Practice recall daily.

Never punish your dog for coming to you, even if they are slow or have misbehaved. Never call your dog to do something unpleasant. Do not chase your dog. Keep your dog on a lead in dangerous areas, near streets, around other dogs, and in heavy pedestrian traffic.

Reference: Dog’s Trust. Teaching Your Dog to Come Back When Called. <https://www.dogstrust.ie/help-advice/advice-for-owners/recall%202021.pdf>; S. Colman. (2021). Daily Practice Makes for Perfect Dog Recall Training. *Whole Dog Journal*. <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/training/daily-practice-makes-for-perfect-dog-recalls/>; G. Bassin et al. Recall Training in Dogs. UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Clinical Behavior Animal Science. https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk491/files/inline-files/Recall_Training_in_Dogs.pdf.

How Do I Train My Dog NOT To Jump Up?

April 25th, 2019

Blog Post By Susan Garrett

Initially, the title of this blog post was “how do I stop my dog jumping?” ... then I changed it to “how do I train my dog not to jump?” ... then I added “up” to the end. The changes were made because for agility, we DO want our dogs to jump, and I write about agility frequently.

But this post is about dogs jumping on people, and you guessed it, the question about how to teach a dog to NOT jump on people is one we see frequently. I know that many of you will be reading this thinking, “Susan, I’ve seen your dogs jump on you” ... and you would be absolutely correct! My dogs jump up by invitation, and it also has a strategic purpose. More on that below.

Dogs Don’t Understand DON’T

When I was interviewed by Tim Ferriss for his podcast... and if you like podcasts, I’d certainly recommend you check out the Tim Ferriss Show... we covered the topic of jumping up. I told the story of training a group of dogs in a B&B we were staying at when on vacation in Ireland to not jump on me, and how it did not take very long at all to change that behaviour.

Anyone can teach this, you don’t have to be a professional dog trainer; you just have to know what you want your dog to DO. The thing is that most people try to train from the world of “don’t”. Don’t jump on me, don’t bite, don’t bark. Dogs don’t understand don’t, because don’t is a concept. Dogs understand DO. They understand behaviours.

What you have to do, is look at what you don’t want, and create a behaviour that you DO want, so that your dog can be right and you’re setting him up for reinforcement. This makes for a much better relationship for you and your dog, and for anybody else who comes in contact with your dog. Reinforcement builds behaviour, and what is reinforced will be repeated.

There are many reasons a dog will jump up, but the main reason is that we teach dogs to jump up with reinforcement. The behaviour continues as our dogs grow up because it is very rewarding. When our dog is fully grown, we decide we don’t like the behaviour because it’s annoying, and it suddenly becomes a problem. The good news is that you can help your dog and have fast results if you know what you want your dog to DO.



Remove the Reinforcement for Jumping Up

We let our dog know that jumping up when uninvited is not appropriate by removing our attention. It is also essential to also reinforce the dog’s good decisions not to jump up. If your dog jumps up without being invited to do so, turn around so he can’t see your face. Turning away removes the reinforcement of your attention. As soon as your dog chooses another behaviour, give him a treat that he loves.

When your dog starts to understand what will earn him reinforcement, you can reward him for all four feet on the ground with your attention, you don’t always have to give him cookies for not jumping up. When we take the reinforcement away for jumping up by consistently turning, our dog is not going to want to jump up as there is reinforcement for alternate behaviour. The dog is going to start to offer the behaviour that has the most reinforcement for him, which is “four on the floor”.

The dogs in Ireland you hear about in my chat with Tim Ferriss. Turning away removes the reinforcement of your attention. As soon as your dog chooses another behaviour, reinforce that!

The dogs in Ireland you hear about in my chat with Tim Ferriss. Turning away removes the reinforcement of your attention. As soon as your dog chooses another behaviour, reinforce that!

Embrace Opportunities to Reward Appropriate Behaviour

Look for all opportunities to reward your dog when his feet are on the ground. Reinforcement will show your dog



what it is you DO want. By teaching our dogs what we do want, we are empowering the dog to be in control of the 'good things,' be it a cookie, or our attention, by offering the behaviour we want to see.

Start to notice the good choices your dog makes and be quick to reward those good choices! Be conscious of where you are in your training and what it is you want your dog to DO. This may need considered effort on your part initially, but looking for good choices will soon become a natural part of your life with your dog.

Put Jumping Up on Cue

You might not want your dog to jump on you at all, and if that is the case, ensure you heavily reward all your dog's good choices for "all four feet on the ground" and be consistent in removing reinforcement by turning away if he does jump up. Empower your dog to make good choices. If you don't mind your dog jumping up, you can train it as a behaviour.

Putting "jumping up" on cue will help our dogs understand how we would like to be greeted. It is usually easy to teach a dog to jump up on cue. Pat your leg, and when your dog jumps up on you, give him a treat. When you know your dog will reliably jump up on you when you pat your leg, introduce a verbal cue. Give your verbal cue just

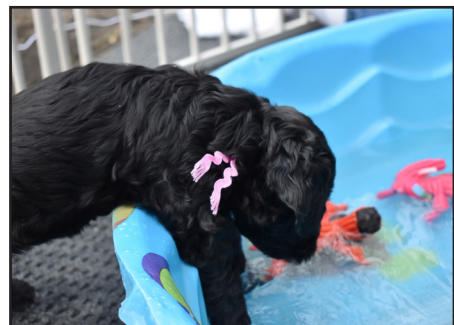
before you pat your leg, and reward your dog with a treat when he jumps up. Soon you will be able to fade patting your leg and your dog will jump up on your verbal cue. You now have a physical cue (patting your leg) and are introducing a verbal cue (e.g. "paws up") to let your dog know when jumping up is appropriate.

The Advantages of "Paws Up"

As I said at the start, my dogs jump up on me. They do so when invited with a verbal cue "paws up" and the way I present my body. As well as being something my dogs and I enjoy, jumping up can be used for balance breaks, as a good trigger, and to make sure you have optimal "desire" (the D in my D.A.S.H. acronym) when you and your dog are working together. Remember that work = play and play = work.

If you are training with food rewards, having your dog jump up on you to be rewarded with a treat is far more dynamic and engaging to keep enthusiasm up and to maintain your connection, rather than just mindlessly feeding him a cookie. We always want reinforcement to be a celebration with us.

—Article reprinted with permission from Susan Garrett's Dog Training Blog: <https://susangarrettdogagility.com/2019/04/train-my-dog-not-to-jump-up/>



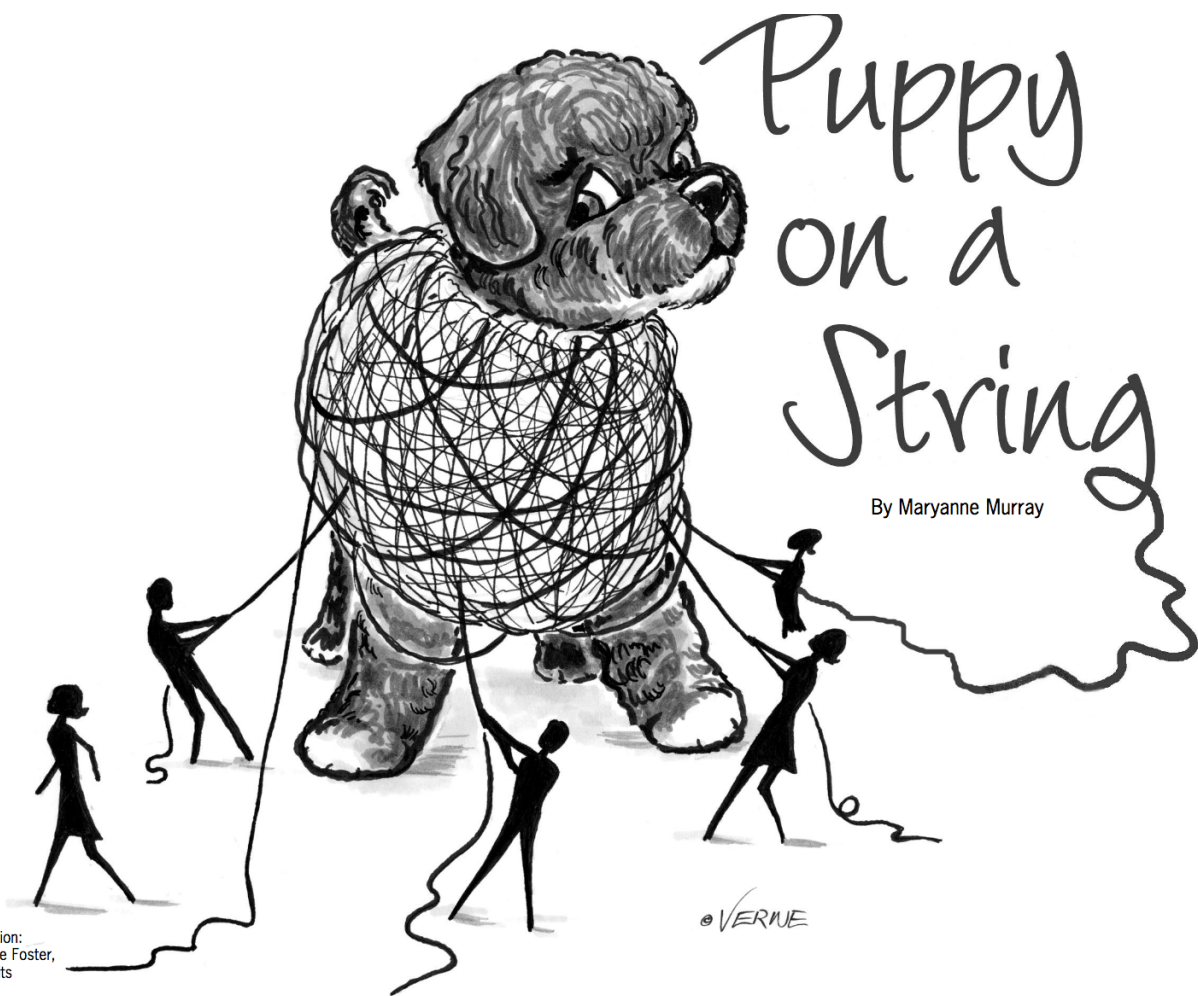


Illustration:
© Verne Foster,
Pawtraits

Expect Strong Moral Tethers From A Good Breeder

Buying a Portuguese Water Dog puppy is so much more than just adding an adorable, cuddly new member to your family. While it's exciting and fun and lots of happy times, it's also a major responsibility. Owning a PWD puppy comes with strings! No, not the contractual kind or the kind you negotiated with your deposit but rather, as a more descriptive term, **heart strings**. Your heart strings! You have pledged yourself to providing a loving home for the lifetime of this living, sentient creature.

Your commitment to this new puppy, the ties that bind, should be sincere, long-lasting, solid and strong and straight from your heart.

Just as significant as your pledge of loving care for this new life is the basic moral obligation, the ties, yes, the **strings**, a good breeder will maintain with you as a part of their duty to see that the puppy is living a good life.

You may already have substantial contractual STRINGS with the breeder but the strings I refer to here are more like "tethers" – they keep you connected but not controlled.

Good breeders stay in contact with you and insist you keep in contact with them. A new puppy owner once told me about his breeder that *"I should have married her – she's always on me"*! Well, that's a breeder who is taking her moral obligation seriously. Being "tethered" to your breeder doesn't need to be oppressive – lightly tethered with a hint of caring keeps everybody, especially the puppy, on the best path. If your breeder isn't in touch with you but took and cashed your check, go figure!

"Puppy on a String" is a series of articles addressing things to consider when buying a puppy.

When your puppy's breeder decided to put the sire and dam together to produce this litter, he/she made a conscious determination to create living creatures who had needs for food, shelter and in this case, loving care, training, vaccinations, and everything else that goes with responsible dog ownership. Hopefully, their decision was the result of serious consideration and proper motivation. **Breeders are responsible for what they produce.**

Puppy buyers should expect caring and friendly contact from a breeder after they take their puppy home. Dedicated breeders always maintain a follow-up program and stay in touch with their puppy buyers. They ensure that the puppy, as a youngster and as it matures, has optimum emotional as well as physical care. These dedicated, responsible breeders are also prepared to take back or help to relocate at any age a dog of their breeding should the owners be incapable of keeping the animal. In fact, breeders should be available for consultation at any time and take an interest in each dogs' welfare for its entire life. You're in it together! You're both tied to the dog! If your breeder only shows up when it's time to enforce a contractual obligation, be assured that you and your puppy are a means to an end..... an end with questionable gain.

Breeders are responsible for what they produce and breeders only produce what they want. If what they want involves your "down the road" contractual participation by producing puppies for them, then you have just become as morally obligated to the puppies produced as they are. Your dog produced the puppies – you agreed to it – you are responsible for those little lives. Get your "tether" out and keep track of the pups produced by your dog. Reflect on the connection you had with your breeder and figure that the puppies produced by your dog will probably get the same treatment and most assuredly, the same contract! What will it be? Tethered or **STRUNG OUT**?

Moral obligation derives from our recognition of a shared existence, a shared being with the rest of humanity. The

most grounded kind of human being there is, the one with the moral consciousness to lose any roots in ignorance, greed, selfishness, fear or intimidation, is the person you want as your breeder. The breeder who treats their puppy buyers as human beings and not just as a means to an end is the breeder you need to find.

BREEDERS – the way you interact with your puppy buyers tells the world who you are, what you stand for and what to expect when conducting business with you. Will you maintain a continuing "tethered" relationship or will you employ the heavy duty **STRINGS**?

Knowing what is right and what is wrong in specific dog breeding circumstances and having the integrity to do the right thing defines a breeder's moral consciousness.

Keeping tabs on the puppies produced and being available to help puppy buyers is a big part of responsible breeding. Your "tether" determines your dedication and commitment.

Understanding and empathizing with your puppy buyers and their concerns reflects your sense of fairness. A moral and ethical obligation to be responsible for your puppies and to respect your puppy buyers depends on your basic view of life. If your life view is individualistic and egocentric, you are less likely to feel a moral obligation than someone who believes in the golden rule. Understand that your actions affect people in ways which can produce good or ill will and that the consequences will go "full circle"... we reap what we sow.

Maryanne B. Murray became a part of the world of Portuguese Water Dogs in 1979 when she got her first PWD, CH Trezena Konstelada. "Brilha" was the 274th PWD born in the USA and became the 6th AKC CH in the breed in 1984, all major points, all owner handled. Maryanne breeds under the kennel name Brinmar, has been a PWDCA member since 1979 and has served the club in many capacities over the past 31 years, including a four-year term as President from 1990 - 1993, during which time the water trial program began and the first PWDCA National Specialty was held. She is currently Chairman of the Breed Standard Committee, Courier advisor and co-chair of the Heart Committee.

Top Ten questions to ask before you buy a Portuguese Water Dog Puppy:

1. **IS THIS THE RIGHT BREED FOR YOU?**
2. **HOW WELL WILL A PUPPY FIT INTO YOUR LIFESTYLE?**
3. **IS THIS A LONG TERM COMMITMENT YOU CAN AFFORD?**
4. **HAVE YOU SPOKEN WITH AT LEAST THREE BREEDERS?**
5. **IS YOUR DEPOSIT REFUNDABLE IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO GET THE PUPPY?**
6. **DO YOU WANT A FAMILY PET OR DO YOU WANT A DOG TO SHOW AND BREED?**
7. **HAVE YOU AND THE BREEDER DISCUSSED ALL OF THE HEALTH TESTING RECOMMENDED BY THE PWDCA?**
8. **DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE TEMPERAMENTS OF THE SIRE AND DAM ARE LIKE?**
9. **DO YOU HAVE A POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF THE BREEDER?**
10. **HOW HAVE THE PUPPIES BEEN RAISED AND HOW WELL DO THEY INTERACT WITH YOU?**

Continued in detail on next page

TOP TEN QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUY A PORTUGUESE WATER DOG PUPPY

- 1. IS THIS THE RIGHT BREED FOR YOU?**
Do you know about their health issues, temperament, activity level, grooming, mouthiness, training, intelligence and often stubborn nature? Do you know what a good specimen of the breed looks like?
- 2. HOW WELL WILL A PUPPY FIT INTO YOUR LIFESTYLE?**
What will you do with the puppy if you work all day? Do you have a fenced yard or are you prepared to take the puppy outside on a leash in all kinds of weather? How will your children handle the puppy? Are you prepared to go through at least two years of wild and crazy puppy behavior and provide consistent training? Major lifestyle changes could be ahead for you to meet the demands of an active puppy.
- 3. IS THIS A LONG TERM COMMITMENT YOU CAN AFFORD?**
Grooming, training, life long veterinary care, boarding when necessary, quality food and your time all have associated costs.
- 4. HAVE YOU SPOKEN WITH AT LEAST THREE BREEDERS?**
Comparison shopping is the only way to go when making a major life purchase such as a house or car or, in this case, a family member. Different breeders have different prices, contracts, requirements, dogs, ways of raising puppies, and reasons for being a breeder. Find a breeder who meets your requirements.
- 5. IS YOUR DEPOSIT REFUNDABLE IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO GET THE PUPPY?**
Sometimes, life happens and plans change. Know up front how your deposit will be handled should you not be able to get the puppy. Shop around – not all breeders have the same rules.
- 6. DO YOU WANT A FAMILY PET OR DO YOU WANT A DOG TO SHOW AND BREED?**
Read and understand any contract you must sign in order to purchase the puppy. Some breeders may expect long term contractual promises, “STRINGS”, which could cost you and your dog down the road. Showing and breeding is not for everyone. Decide what you want before you start shopping and be assured you can get a good quality family pet as well as a good show/breed quality puppy.
- 7. HAVE YOU AND THE BREEDER DISCUSSED ALL OF THE HEALTH TESTING RECOMMENDED BY THE PWDCA?**
Before you buy, make sure you know exactly what health tests the litter’s father (sire) and mother (dam) have had and how they will impact your puppy. The PWDCA has a recommended health testing policy for breeding animals. See:
<http://pwdca.org/resources/programs/breederreferral/BreederReferralAgreementForm.pdf>.
- 8. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE TEMPERAMENTS OF THE SIRE AND DAM ARE LIKE?**
You should be able to meet the parents to assess their temperaments. It’s not always possible to meet the sire as he may live a considerable distance away but you should ask for references and speak with others who have his offspring. Meet the dam, the mother, definitely.
- 9. DO YOU HAVE A POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF THE BREEDER?**
The breeder needs to be a person you feel you can trust, go back to at anytime with questions and who has the best interests of your puppy and the breed at heart. The rapport you establish with him/her should last for the life of the puppy. If your gut tells you differently, reassess the purchase and rethink beginning a relationship with this person.
- 10. HOW HAVE THE PUPPIES BEEN RAISED AND HOW WELL DO THEY INTERACT WITH YOU?**
A good breeder will make every effort to properly socialize a litter with people and children and the puppies will usually be the center of attention in the house. Kennel raised puppies may not get as much human interaction as they should. Good beginnings are important.

Introducing your Portuguese Water Dog to Water:

First Steps

by Lauren McDermott

The dam walked calmly into the water and just started swimming. The puppy followed behind and went seamlessly from walking to swimming as well. I remember this as a great example of how natural learning to swim can be.

- Angela Harding

Puppies *can* swim!

Outlined below are three steps you can take to introduce your Portuguese Water Dog to water. Once you have a confident swimming PWD you can build on these first steps to increase your PWD's love for water activities whether you plan to participate in the PWDCA water trial program, or simply want a swimming companion. With opportunities to swim, and with careful guidance from you, your PWD can have fun in the water.



photos: Lauren McDermott

Does your PWD love the water? If not, do you wish he did? It is never too late to provide an introduction to water that your PWD will enjoy. Dogs who have pulled on their leashes for years can learn to walk with a loose leash. Dogs who have resisted can learn to happily offer a paw for nail clipping. Dogs who frantically try to escape from the grooming table can learn to relax and enjoy the pampering. PWDs who are afraid of, or have no interest in water, can learn to love it.

When the puppies were old enough, we put the play pool on the deck with a ramp to go in and out. We slowly increased the depth of the water. Sinking toys were added to see who would be the first to try an underwater retrieve.

- Sandy Melson

Some PWDs get an early start in the water, and others come to it later in life. No matter what activity you want your PWD to enjoy, the first steps involve happy, stress-free exposure to the environment where these activities take place. Good breeders and successful dog trainers know that early exposure to a variety of surfaces, sounds, temperatures, and unique stimulating environments contributes to a dog's happiness as well as success in dog sports. While there is a difference in how you introduce adult dogs to water, because of their size, the principles remain the same. Keep it simple and fun.

STEP ONE: THIS IS WATER

With this step young puppies learn that the world has warm cuddly places like the whelping pen, as well as exciting new places like water. In their book "How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With", authors Rutherford and Neil, suggest that in their fourth week of life puppies should be removed from their littermates and placed on a unique surface that they have not experienced before. It is important to not over stress the puppies, and after a minute or two they are returned to their littermates. Beginning at this time, breeders can introduce puppies to water in the same way. Place a small folded towel in a dishpan for good footing, and add warm water to just cover the towel. Place the puppies on the towel one at a time. By the time pups are 28-30 days old, puppies can play in shallow water in a small play pool. Because of their very young age, the water should be warm, and good footing must be provided. Young puppies need to be watched 100% of the time they are in water. Be sure to dry them well with a towel and watch them until they are completely dry for signs of being chilled.

Weather permitting, puppies are exposed to swimming pools, both the wading and in-ground types, beginning at 6 weeks. In the winter their exposure comes in the form of a bathtub.

- Jane Freeman

If your older PWD has not had this kind of gentle introduction to water, you should not skip this first step. Fill a bathtub or a play pool with 1 or 2 inches of water and play games in the water. If this is more water than what your PWD is comfortable with, play on a soaking wet towel or a wet piece of carpet in a play pool. You can toss toys in the water, or toss small treats in the water. As your PWD begins to enjoy these games you can gradually increase the depth of the water.

STEP TWO: YOU CAN SWIM!

With a little help, all puppies can swim. At approximately 35 days old, puppies can be placed in a swimming pool or in the bathtub with water deep enough for them to swim. With a little guidance they will remain upright and will use their legs to move themselves around. This should be done with one puppy at a time to guarantee a safe and enjoyable experience for the puppy.

Some puppies may need some help as they are learning to hold themselves level in the water. I very gently lift on the stomach area, making sure I am not in the way of their back legs.

- Logan Ott

This exposure to swimming, just like the first exposure to very shallow water should be handled in a matter of fact way, indicating to the puppy that swimming is a normal part of life and not a big deal.

We show them where the pool stairs are and after a few times they remember. We never force them to stay in and if it's windy or chilly we dry them off. We'll do this as often as we can before they go to their new homes.

- Charles Schreiber

PWDs of any age can learn that they can swim in the same way as puppies, but an older dog may have already formed an unfavorable association with water. If you want your PWD to love the water you should never struggle with him around water, either physically or emotionally. If he is not already comfortable with it, teach your older PWD to be lead around by the collar or a body harness, and carried. These skills are also important for grooming and for veterinary care. While your goal is to be able to smoothly lift or lead your dog into water deep enough for him to swim, you should not begin this training around water. Once your dog has learned that it is normal to be carried or lead around by you, you can gently lift him or guide him into water deep enough to swim. Start with just a second of swimming and

allow your dog to touch bottom or hold him again so he feels comfortable. If your dog is struggling to get away, go back and practice away from the water until your dog easily accepts your handling.

If your dog already knows he can swim, you can use this step to teach him that you are there in the water to support him, physically if necessary, while he learns to swim better. Even if your dog loves to play and swim in the water, you should not skip this step because it teaches your dog that he can trust you both in and out of the water.



photo: Lauren McDermott

Sprinklers are fun too!

STEP THREE: IT'S YOUR CHOICE

Some PWDs choose to swim at their very first encounter with water, but many do not. Steps one and two give your PWD a chance to experience water in a simple and non-stressful way, and help him to know that he can swim. Dogs with plenty of opportunity to swim learn this naturally, but most of our PWDs do not have this kind of access to water. Once your puppy is comfortable around water (step one) and knows he can swim (step two), the occasional opportunity to swim on his own will build his enthusiasm for swimming. Once your PWD is enthusiastic about swimming, he will be more easily trained to do other more specific things in the water, like retrieve objects or swimming politely along side of human swimmers.

I took my 12-week-old PWD to a local pond everyday and we walked on the dirt paths, ending on a beach. He played in the shallows and if there was another dog around, they would romp together in the water.

- Sandra Gould

Once you know your PWD can swim, you can take him to water of swimming depth and be comfortable about his abilities. You should have the attitude that you don't care whether he swims or not. A



photo: Connie Millard

Getting an early start in the water.



photo: Connie Millard

Choosing to swim.

slow running stream, or a quiet lake or pond with a gently sloping entry is ideal for giving PWDs their first opportunity to choose to swim. A pool with steps will also work. If the steps are too big for a smaller puppy to use easily, you can add bricks to the steps to make each step a more appropriate size.

I never push my puppies to swim. I want them to love playing in the water first. I found that letting them watch and play while I work with the older dogs makes them want come in and join us in the water faster.

- Vera Arnold

Your PWD may benefit from having another confident swimming dog along to encourage your PWD to swim, or it may be best if your PWD is alone with you. Try both, but don't coax him into swimming depth, and don't make him continue to swim when he wants to stop. Allow your PWD to choose to swim, not out of fear or desperation, and not by being tricked into it. If your PWD does not choose to swim the first time he has the opportunity, don't worry. You can take a break and try again, or you can repeat step two, helping your PWD to understand that he can swim.

I take puppies on walks near water and if they go in fine, and if they don't, fine. The first time maybe one or two of them only get their tippy toes wet, but eventually they all swim. A couple of puppies racing through the water can be impossible for the others to resist.

- Connie Millard

Having the opportunity to swim on a hot day, and after a run on the beach may be just the thing to encourage a reluctant dog to choose to swim the

first time. It is important, however, to not overdo it. No matter how far you have to drive to get to the water where the PWDs can swim, keep the sessions short, and leave before your PWD loses interest in swimming.

I like to let the puppies play and follow the older dog. When it is cool we will stay 15 minutes or so and then back into the car, into warm crates with towels, and then home.

- Jane Harding

After you have introduced your PWD to water, and he has learned that he can swim, and he chooses to swim on his own, you might want to schedule some play dates with other swimming dogs or attend a water training workshop or class. Some classes may even be designed for PWDs who are new to water. It is your responsibility, however, to be sure that all of the experiences your PWD has with water are safe, and contribute to his confidence around water. You can easily lose ground with your training if you push your PWD to do too much too fast.

I have noticed at our water practice that cautious young dogs gain confidence faster and get more assertive about getting wet when they see older dogs flying into the water.

- John Cucura

When PWDs are given a gentle introduction to water, learn that they can swim, and have plenty of opportunities to choose to swim, they will continue to enjoy the water and all of the activities associated with it.

This article first appeared in The Courier in 2011.

★ BRAGS ★

CAYO

Cayo, SeaAngel N NorthStar's IC The Higher Power earned his Exterior Advanced title and Container Advanced title in Scent Work at Bayshore Companion Dog club.

He had a lovely score qualifying the first time out in Novice Obedience, scoring a 195.

He also earned his CGC and Tricks Novice title. Cayo was bred by Carolyn K. Iraggi and Barbara Weisman. Owned and loved by John and Susan Soviero.



JAXON

New Champion! CH Paragon-Hytide Midnight Rider Expertly presented by Michael and Michelle Scott Bred by Rick and Kelly Jones and Dave Wichterman (www.paragonpwd.com)

Owned and loved by Carol Bronowicz-Wichterman and Dave Wichterman



IN THE KITCHEN



TOPPL CUP

- Layer high-value food in the bottom of the Toppl (could be canned wet food, xylitol-free peanut butter or dog-friendly stew)
- Next add a few pieces of kibble, crumbled treats, or frozen cuts of green beans.
- Top the cup with pureed food, such as yogurt or mashed sweet potato or pureed banana.
- Adorn with several blueberries, diced carrots or apple slices.
- Place the filled Toppl in the freezer for two to four hours to make the treat more challenging.



TECH CORNER

I am thrilled to announce my membership in KPWDC and my excitement to join the Web Admin team. I want to express my gratitude for this opportunity to introduce myself. I currently reside in Pennsylvania's Lower Merion Township, located near Philadelphia, along with my husband, Marty, and our beloved PWD, Amur. Before settling in Pennsylvania in 2012, I had the chance to travel extensively. Originally hailing from Russia, I spent six years in Florida and another five years in California. Our children have all grown up, graduated from college, and embarked on their own paths, leaving us with an empty nest.

Professionally, my career keeps me busy. I was a professor of Accounting at Drexel University, and I'm excited to share that I'll be joining the faculty at West Chester University starting this fall. On top of that, I have a deep passion for real estate. I hold a real estate license and utilize my expertise in the market and analytics to assist numerous clients in making significant moves.

Amur is my second PWD. Sadly, my first one, Altai, passed away last year at the age of 11 due to hemangiosarcoma. It was in Florida back in 2004 that I first encountered this remarkable breed. I was in search of the perfect companion, one that possessed the intelligence, agility, strength, and energy I admired in my previous pet, a Siberian Husky. After extensive research and browsing the internet, I stumbled upon the PWDs and became instantly intrigued. Eager to meet them in person, I attended a local PWD club picnic and fell head over heels in love. Circumstances prevented me from acquiring a puppy at the time, and subsequent moves from Florida to Berkeley, California, further delayed my dream of having a dog. Finally,



in 2010, I welcomed my first PWD puppy into my life! The breed captured my heart with their loyalty, intelligence, perpetual cheerfulness, and zest for life.

Amur is an absolute delight. He joined our family last September, arriving from Oregon through Mara Hertzberg. At the time, he was a tiny bundle of joy, weighing a mere 9 pounds. Since then, he has grown into a magnificent and impressive companion. Amur is incredibly intelligent, albeit a bit mischievous. He learns new things with remarkable speed, and when I manage to capture his attention, he becomes completely focused. However, when given the chance, he'll take off like a rocket, zooming around with boundless energy. Amur adores joining me on hiking expeditions, eagerly exploring the local trails. I'm keen to engage in agility and water work training with him. I'm also proud to share that he's been doing well in confirmation shows, having earned seven points in just two months and recently winning his first major at the Lum's Pond show.

In my role at KPWDC, I'm eagerly looking forward to contributing to social media engagement. My primary goal is to ignite a passion for this incredible breed among those who may be unfamiliar with it. I want to reach out to individuals who, like me all those years ago, are scouring the internet in search of the perfect furry companion. Additionally, I aim to foster a stronger sense of community among PWD owners, encouraging us to share our heartwarming stories and facilitating virtual and in-person gatherings. I'm always eager to hear your ideas and anecdotes, so please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to chat and share in the joy of our shared love for PWDs.

With warm regards,
Natalya Khimich