



Pittsburgh, PA Pugs PUPPY CARE GUIDE



Supplies You May Need :

- Collar & Leash
- Crate
- Food & Water Dish
- Treats for Training
- I.D. Tag
- Nail Clippers
- Brush
- Puppy Shampoo
- Small Tennis Ball
- Potty Pads
- Pig Ears



PUPPY PROOFING:

Before your puppy arrives you should puppy-proof your home. Electrical cords, toys with small parts, plastic bags, any sharp objects and even garbage pails are all potential hazards to your puppy. Medications, insecticides, mouse poisons, household cleaners, and especially antifreeze are sweet tasting to your dog and need to be out of reach. Houseplants: dieffenbachia, philodendron, azalea, English Ivy, and caladiums and possibly others as well are poisonous. Make sure your puppy has Nylabones, knuckles bones, ect... to chew on to help prevent the temptation of inviting plants and other household items. NATIONAL ANIMAL POISON CENTER # 1-900-680-0000.



TAKING YOUR PUPPY HOME:

Your puppy is probably more excited then you are so contain your own excitement as much as possible to help your puppy adjust. Your puppy will either welcome or fear the car ride and may even get carsick. Upon arriving at home make sure your puppy is safely on a leash to avoid him/her from dashing away and possibly getting run over.

Children need to be calm and no sudden moves as this frightens a puppy the most in his/her new environment. You want to make this an enjoyable experience for the puppy to adjust better and quicker. Teach the children how to hold, handle, and respect the puppy.

By now your puppy probably needs to relieve itself from the long ride and excitement. Make sure this is done before going inside. If you are using papers, please place those papers down as soon as you get home and show your puppy to the papers. The puppy will probably relieve itself as soon as you get home.

After that show the puppy to it's water and food as it may need a drink or need to eat. Your puppy may not be hungry right away or may not want to eat when you want it to. This is why the first few weeks, it's better to leave free choice food for the puppy until he/she can make adjustments to it's new environment and home and family. Don't be concerned if the puppy does not want to eat much it's first day home. It is adjusting to the new surroundings and will eat when he/she is ready.

The puppy's crate is off limits to everyone but the puppy. That is his/her personal, private space to get away from all the overwhelming outside world. This crate is used for houstraining, and left open for the puppy to return to when he/she is tired.

Expect a few accidents. Making an adjustment from our home to yours may require a refresher course in houstraining. Set up a regular schedule and take your puppy outside frequently to eliminate, preferably by the same door. Be patient and reward with lots of praise. A frightened puppy is hard to train. We give our dogs a treat every time they go outside and "potty". They know it is coming and gratefully go outside with out incident. Please be patient as this takes time and practice!



SOCIALIZATION:

Your puppy needs that human socialization, love and security, to establish a person-dog relationship. Your puppy needs plenty of play area and time with you. Socialization means taking the puppy with you wherever and whenever possible. During the puppy's first months, the number and quality of different situations, people and events the puppy socializes with can affect it for the rest of the pup's life. Take your dog to public parks, dog events, or drives. If you intend your pet to be a member of your family, treat it like one.

Try not to tie your dog. This causes distrust to who did the tying and induces aggression as this takes away the dog's defense to run away from frightening or harmful situations.



CRATE TRAINING/HOUSEBREAKING:

Crating is based on the idea that dogs are denning animals. In the wild, canine species use a small cave or dug out for sleeping, protection, and having pups. However they do not spend the day in their den. Crating is useful but may be over used and improperly used. Using a crate makes it easier to supervise and prevent the puppy from having complete access to the house. Also since the puppies have a natural tendency not to soil their den or sleeping areas the puppy will more likely eliminate outside. However problems can arise if the crate is over used. Puppies cannot control their little bladders or bowels for hours, especially not an entire day. Leaving the puppy in the crate 8-10 hours is not useful in housetraining. The puppy needs to be released from the crate when the puppy needs to eliminate. A puppy forced to soil in the crate will be much more difficult to train.

Crate training may be accomplished in several days or may take weeks, depending on the pup's age. Don't expect too much too fast.

Introducing your puppy to the crate with a nice towel or rug to lie on and a favorite toy will make the crate a better experience. Keep the new puppy at bedside during the night, you'll want to be able to hear the puppy whine when it needs to go outside. At bedtime take the puppy on a final evening walk, then straight to the crate. A puppy will fuss a bit and whine but should settle down. Don't let the pup out of the crate if he/she starts to fuss or association to fussing means getting free. Wait til the pup becomes calm. If it becomes unreasonably vocal a few squirts from a water bottle should do the trick, making sure the pup isn't frightened or needs to go outside. Once the puppy is sleeping through the night you may move the crate to a more suitable location.

Make sure to give a command for putting the puppy in the crate, like "go to bed" and "outside" for going to the door and "go potty" when in the yard for a bathroom break. Praise the puppy every time it eliminates where it should. During waking hours take the pup outside every couple hours. A young puppy has no bladder control and needs to eliminate after eating, drinking, sleeping, and playing.

NEVER scold your puppy when an accident occurs. Scolding only teaches your dog to fear you or repeat the bad behavior when you are out of sight. Instead scoop up the mess and take it to the location you want your puppy to eliminate. The pup will find it, sniff it, and soon get the idea. If you catch the puppy, a firm "NO" or throwing an object to the floor to distract the puppy, quickly and immediately take the puppy outside to finish eliminating.

Good nutrition plays an important role here as it helps with minimal stool production, fewer trips to the bathroom, and small firm stools for easy clean up. Cheaper brand foods make softer stools and more of them as the puppy eats more trying to get the nutrition out of it the pup needs.

CRATING WHILE LEFT ALONE:

After your puppy is spending short periods in the crate without becoming anxious or afraid while you are there, you may begin leaving the pup crated alone while you are gone. Use the “go to bed” command and vary the times when you put your puppy in the crate during the process of leaving. Praise your puppy briefly and give a tidbit then quietly leave. Do not make departures long and emotional and vary the time you put your puppy in the crate between 2 to 20 minutes prior to leaving. Only crate your puppy for short periods of time. When you arrive back home do not reward your puppy for excited behavior and keep arrivals low key. Reserve playfulness for after the puppy has been let outside and has calmed down. Continue to crate your puppy for short periods of time when you are home so that he/she does not associate the crating with being left alone.

FEEDING:

Puppies attain 80% of their growth in 6-12 months. They burn double the calories mature dogs do so from weaning til 1 year old your puppy should be fed the best puppy food available (dry food is best). We like to use Bill Jack puppy for the first year and then Bill Jack Select after the puppy is 12 months old. Only the dry is recommended unless your puppy is not feeling or eating well for some reason. Canned is bad for their teeth and is mostly water. For the first twelve weeks we like to keep free choice food available to our puppies until night when the food and water is picked up to avoid those late night outings. From there you may feed your puppy 3-4 times daily, gradually reducing it to morning and evening feedings by five months of age. At about a year switch to a maintenance kibble, again gradually by mixing it with the puppy food.

SNACKS:

Doggy biscuits, doggy treats, tidbits, small pieces of meats are okay if you are using them as training aids, such as calling them to the door, potty training, tricks, ect. Instead of doing this every time though try treating your dog 3 out 4 and rewarding with praise more often then treats. That way curiosity will draw the pup’s attention toward you, rather taking the tidbit for granted.

Do not use the food as a bribe but rather a reward, for instance do not stand by the door and wave the treat as you call. This is allowing the puppy a choice in

whether to come or not. Get the dog inside then present the treat and praise. Table scraps are a no-no, especially in smaller breeds where choking is a hazard as well as bloating and not being able to digest the scrap. As we all do, look at them irresistible begging eyes and can't help ourselves, but remember very little and in small amounts only. Dairy products are hard for dogs to digest. **NO spicy food, chicken bones, or chocolate!!!**



HELPFUL HINTS:

Your puppy so very much wants to please you so lots of praise and love for good behavior.

Your pup knows little or no English. Your puppy only understands body signals and movement and tone of voice right now. One or two words for commands is best. "Sit" is not a six syllable word. More than one person at a time giving commands will confuse the puppy.

Your puppy doesn't know your street address. They wander off chasing squirrels, children, or even other dogs and can't find their way back. Leashes and yard fences will keep your dog from getting lost or run over. Make sure you get your puppy an ID collar immediately and have you street address and telephone number listed. You may even inquire at your vet about micro chipping your pet, which is an inexpensive process that can be done during your spay/neuter procedure.

Being alone out in the yard is not exercise and it's lonely and boring. Your puppy will find ways to expend the energy destructively if left this way. Long walks, games of fetch, frisbee, and agility events are all good ways for you and your dog to get along better and make that special bonding relationship.



VACCINATIONS:

Most puppies receive their first vaccination between 5-6 weeks of age and continue receiving a series of follow ups until they are 6 months old. An annual booster ensures their protection for life. I have a vaccination program already started with each puppy and you must talk to your vet to do the follow up program. Each puppy leaves here with it's vaccination record to show your vet.



SPAYING/NEUTERING:

Spayed and neutered pets have a longer life span and a decreased risk of cancer. The basic disposition and temperament of your dog will not be changed. Neutering your male will make him more tolerant of other males, but neither spaying nor neutering will turn your dog into a lazy obese animal.

Benefits will include not having to worry about accidental breedings, stress and inconvenience during the season, and unwanted puppies. A litter of puppies is a lot of work and a big responsibility. The spayed dog will not develop uterine infections or tumors of the reproductive system as many unsprayed females do. neutered males will not be stressed or upset with neighboring females and are less tempted to escape or wander off. Also a neutered male will not lift it's leg in your house marking his territory. A neutered male will not develop testicular cancer and the risk of prostate cancer is lowered.

Some veterinarians recommend spaying and neutering at a very young age, five to six months. The procedure has greatly improved over the years so that is safe at a young age.

I highly suggest getting your male neutered early before the hormones develop and he starts raising his leg on everything! Including your guests who stop by that have their doggy smell on them.

GOOD LUCK! Enjoy your new family member and call me with any questions or concerns.

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