

Top Tips for New Puppy Owners

By Nigel, Jenny and Ben Egginton at Valentisimo

1. We recommend that you should feed the puppy twice a day, once in the morning and once at night, on dried food; we use James Wellbeloved as we think it is the best food for the dogs. Feed them approximately 280 grams of dried food. Also a few times a week the puppy can be fed on RAW, UNCOOKED chicken wings. When older 1 meal a day is sufficient
2. Keep separate from other dogs, to get him used to his own company as much as possible, but don't keep him away all the time because he needs to be able to socialise as well. Also make him sleep alone in a cage. This will help him get used to his own company, as well as being in the cage.
3. DO NOT OPEN the cage whilst the puppy is barking, whining or making any noise at all. Let the puppy out immediately after he stops making a noise and praise him. As the puppy gets better at being quiet you can extend the amount of time that the puppy is in the cage whilst being quiet.
4. The puppy must learn to be happy on his own, this is really important.
5. You must never force the puppy into a situation that he is wary of or scared of. You must coax him into the situation with a slack lead and plenty of praise, NEVER EVER DRAG him into a situation with his lead if he does not want to go. You may also use a reward to coax him into the situation at the same time.
6. REMEMBER the puppy will feel your fear through the lead, so you always need to have a slack lead and praise them for all of the good things they do. If you are scared and pull a tight lead, your puppy will feel this and be scared too. This may turn into fear aggression, with him wanting to protect you by barking at strange situations etc, so the big rule is always be CALM when training and socialising your puppy, and try and anticipate situations that may arise as you approach them, so that you can avoid potential harmful things happening.
7. Use the NO or LEAVE IT command for ALL their bad behaviour.
8. Be firm but fair with the puppy.
9. DO NOT HIT THE PUPPY, but in our opinion a gentle tap on the nose or body will not hurt if he has been really naughty. As you get to know your puppy you will soon learn how strict you have to be. Remember you are the pack leader and what you want must happen. You have to have your dogs respect to enable you to achieve your goals.
10. Really work on the recall command. Get the puppy focused on a ball or treat and always reward when you get your recall. If the puppy will not come, make silly noises, jump up and down and run away from the pup. He will follow, and when he does, reward immediately by throwing the ball for him to retrieve. Try and make all training fun, but always mean what you say. Do not keep repeating the command if the pup does not respond, just cough or say erm to reinforce the command, and praise

and reward when you get what you have asked for. We believe that bad behaviour should not be accepted, and that the puppy must know this from the start, so that when he is wrong a strong NO should be used. Good behaviour should be praised and rewarded.

11. The puppy is just like a child learning about life. He has to know what is good and acceptable behaviour, and what is wrong and naughty behaviour.

12. NEVER spoil the dog or feed him more than necessary because some dogs will eat to their hearts content, and this is terrible for their health.

13. Do not use dried foods that have a lot of protein in them, or other ingredients that will make them over excited. If you are not sure what type of food is best for your dog, either ask your vet or speak to us.

14. It is advisable not to let the puppy sleep in your bedroom. This would lead to separation anxiety when you did leave him on his own. Start immediately you get home the way you intend to carry on.

15. Attend puppy classes and training classes. This breed needs plenty of mental stimulation and it is always best to play and hide things for your dog around the house and when walking outside. You will find that they will do just about anything you ask of them and love Agility, Flyball, water work, climbing walls, trees, ladders, searching and retrieving, they also have a strong herding instinct. Your life will never be the same again!

16. If your puppy is a little wary of new situations, please ask people not to run up to him shouting ahh and trying to stroke him. Just ask them to ignore him and carry on as if he is not there, and in no time at all you will find the puppy will come to investigate. Also, if he is wary, ask people not to go and attempt to pat him on top of the head but to lower their hand and stroke him from under his chin. Puppies do not like strangers that are tall bending over them quickly, trying to put their hand on the top of their head. This just makes them feel threatened.

17. Please remember, if you ever have anything you want to ask, or need some friendly advice or help, we are at the end of the phone and will always do what ever we can to help you.