

Homecoming Care Tips for Your New Puppy!

by Trish Halloran Krokell

**** Vet Visit!** take the pup to the Vet as soon as she arrives – this will give a good marker of her general health and the Vet can answer any health questions. Ask Breeder for her records of shots and any visits to the vet (ask for all the records) You want to know any and all health issues.

**** MICROCHIP** your pup! Quick, painfree, inexpensive method to identify your pet. Your Vet does it, form filled in and sent to AKC Registry for chip numbers. This will help get your dog back to you as quickly as possible and is a second form of help with the nametags. The microchip can never be removed unlike a collar or tags. Shelters and Vets can scan the dog to find the registered number and call the national registry for the owner's name and phone #.

**** ADVANTAGE!** this is a wonderful protection against Fleas - once a month it gets put on the back of the neck and that's it. No Fleas There was no advantage for the first years I had my Daphy and she suffered so w/bites...I had to flea comb her everytime we went out -- Advantage is safe and eliminates the problem for all of you! Usually costs \$10/month, in a pack of 6.

FRONTLINE is similar to Advantage, but has additional protection against ticks if your area has this problem. Applied exactly as Advantage to the back of the neck

PROGRAM are pills given once per month. They destroy the reproductive ability of the flea. Fleas have an unimaginable ability to reproduce.

I buy these on the web – Some shopping sites:

Ebay best for Advantage (usually can get 6pak for 20.00)

<http://www.petvetsupplies.com/> cheapest for Program - free shipping

<http://www.healthypets.com/eccon.html>

<http://www.1800jeffers.com/ssc/>

Nature's Miracle! This is great for clean up on rugs, chairs, clothes (use in wash)..wonderful fresh scent...all dogs have accidents or get sick -- just be prepared. It's nothing to quickly clean up any mess. Charlies love to be clean and can get distressed by being sick or having an accident...you must be very gentle w the little one if it happens. Remember, she wants only to please you and love you! Charlies are very bright and learn quickly because they want to please you and get more praise and hugs and kisses!

Bitter Apple! Dogs hate the taste of this product – it is an extremely useful spray to keep your pet from chewing on the wrong thing, e.g., sofa, wall, etc. Several companies make a variation of this product, all clearly state it is to keep the pet away from something. A tremendous help during the teething/chewing on everything stage.

Cover/Conceal Wires! All exposed wires should be covered, taken up off the floor – I've used "presentation board", purchased at Office Depot (for example) to cover/conceal wires –

It comes in different thicknesses (1/2", 3/4"), is very easy to cut with utility knife or razor, and is white so it looks nice up against the wall. I cut my boards from 2/5 ft to 3 ft high, tape them together if needed along a long wall, and space out "wedges" in front of it so it cannot be pulled down. I found it an ideal solution to computer wires, phone wires , lamp cords, etc. Your Charlie may not go near the wires while you are home, but if you leave the room or go to work, exposed wiring is a favorite chew toy.

Lock Cabinets/Close Closet Doors Tight! Use childproof locks on any cabinets your pup can get opened – securely close all closet doors!

TRAINING

To train your puppy use **PRAISE** and love.

Praise pup when she is being good

Praise pup when she is not barking

Praise pup when she goes potty on her spot

Praise pup for eating her food

Praise pup for doing all the things you want her to do!

There is no such thing as too much praise and positive feedback.

Never Yell at your PUPPY (Never ever hit your puppy)! It will merely frighten her and make her afraid of you and not want to do what you say...she will hide and be depressed.

"No" should be said quickly and immediately the desired behavior gets substituted with the incorrect behavior. Praise the dog for stopping the undesirable activity! Dogs learn very quickly because they do want to get praised.

- **Train yourself and your puppy to talk to each other positively.**

- **Doggie Training Classes** are highly recommended! They are truly fun and a great bonding experience for you and your pup or adult dog. New friends learning to talk together! I've been to Perfect Paws, others can be found through local SPCA or your Vet.

- **Teach your pup to come and stay. These are VITAL.**

Use positive reinforcement, start with treats and repetitive voice commands, e.g., "Come" and when the pup comes over (at first you need a lot of coaxing, and repetitive practice) when pup comes to you, give lots of praise and a treat.

- **Come on your command!** The most important thing to teach is your pet! In a worst case situation if your pup ran away from you or was in danger, you want her to come on your command. If she gets off leash somehow, you want her to **STOP** and **STAY** on your command. She will learn quickly, Repeat. Repeat. Repeat! Use treats & tons of praise!! Your pup is very bright and will learn quickly because she wants to please you and get more praise and hugs and kisses!

Leash Training - with a small pup I get a cat weight leash and collar with a buckle. Always be sure 2 fingers can fit under the collar. I put the leash on the dog in the house and let her walk around getting used to it being there. Don't leave it on very long...just a "try out" so it is not frightening. Slowly start walking a bit inside with your pet – you must always have your pet on lead when you are outside for safety!

Shopping List - Some things you'll need to have at home;

- **water bowl**
- **food dish** - ask breeder to give you some start food for first few days - don't change foods quickly - it will have an effect on the bowel. I feed **Innova** or **Wellness**, they have excellent ingredients of human grade (no by-products, fillers or meal).
- **soft brush** (kitty brushes are good at first)
- **soft small slicker brush**
- **comb** (never pull roughly through hair, gently hold ear leather and comb slowly; you don't want to frighten her by pulling out knots. If some hair is too knotted up, I use scissors and carefully cut off the knot – much better than pulling.
- **Leash/harness or collar** - I use a harness since it is easier on the dog's neck and back.
- **Doggie tooth paste** - I use CET and put it on my index finger and gently rub it over their teeth, getting to the back it tastes good to them and a quick go every few days can save any tooth problems worry and expense. They never liked a brush, so my finger works great!
- **TOYS** - hard chew, squeaky, stuffed toy
- **** Very important to have toys available to chew –**
puppy is teething for several months to help with teething discomfort/pain, get a baby's teething ring and do as directions say (fill with water and put in freezer) this will soothe little mouth. Never punish the dog for chewing on you or the wrong thing, but immediately substitute the CORRECT chew toy and give lots of PRAISE.
- **Crate** - I have a medium Vari Kennel - soft crate liners, so it is very comfy. My girls love to lay in the crate in the house (the door is off it), they also have a regular bed they love and of course all the furniture :) I put them in the crate when we go in the car to be safe if there is any quick stop -- they are so small, they could get quite hurt!
- **The crate is NEVER used to punish the dog**, you want your dog to view their crate as a safe place, cozy and secure. Line with fleecy crate pads so it is very cozy and soft to lie on. Their own little blankets for warmth.
- **Bed**, curl up beds for pups,

House-Training your Puppy

Paper training a pup that you eventually want to eliminate outside your home is not recommended. Doing so prolongs the housebreaking process because you first encourage eliminating indoors, then you must discourage it. Consistently follow the steps below to teach your pet to eliminate outside.

- 1.** Choose one or two areas where you want your pet to eliminate. The odor left at this place will remind your pet to eliminate when you take him there.
- 2.** Take your pet to the area on a leash. While he eliminates, praise him profusely. DO NOT put your pet out in the yard by himself! You must be there to help focus his attention and to praise within seconds of elimination. Use a command like "get busy", "go potty" etc. – your pet will associate the word with eliminating and this is a tremendously helpful connection for the future.
- 3.** Stick to a schedule for feeding and walking so your pet can anticipate being taken out.
- 4.** Confine your pet to a small area, such as a dog crate or part of a tiled room when you can not watch it. Dogs naturally avoid soiling their den or bed area. Close confinement helps to motivate your pet to wait to be taken outside and prevents damage to your home. If you must confine your pet longer than it can wait to eliminate, give it extra space to eliminate away from its bed.
- 5.** When your pet soils inside, clean the area with vinegar or an odor eliminator ([Nature's Miracle](#) is excellent). Do not use ammonia. On carpets, soak up as much urine as possible with towels, then soak the carpet and padding with odor eliminator. Unless all odor is destroyed, the pet will be attracted to eliminate there again.

Punishing your pet in any way will do more harm than good, **it will frighten the dog and he connects the yelling as negative reinforcement for trying to eliminate.** You must anticipate your pet's need to eliminate and provide it the opportunity to eliminate in the appropriate place. Adjust the schedule or watch your pet more closely. Praise, Praise, Praise your dog's successful potty trips!

*** Tips for setting the housebreaking schedule:**

*Plan to take the pet outside 10-30 minutes after feeding, first thing in the morning and last thing at night, and whenever the pet gets excited.

*In general, you should plan to take your pet out in hourly intervals equal to your pet's age in months. e.g. a 2 month old pup should go out at least every 2 hours, a 4 month old every 4 hours, etc. Regardless of age or previous training, start with a maximum interval of 4 hours.

*Although pups younger than 6 months may understand that you want them to go only outside, their performance is still limited physically by the size of their bladder.

*Some dogs, once housebroken, can wait over 8 hours at a time, but others, **like most people**, can't. It may be necessary to hire a dog walker if your schedule can't accommodate your pet's physical needs.