

PICK OF THE LITTER



DOG TRAINING

BONDING WITH YOUR PUPPY

Developing a relationship with a new puppy is one of the most important prerequisites for a dog to become a healthy, well-adjusted adult. In general, this bonding creates easier obedience training, fewer and less intense behavior problems, and a closer, lifelong relationship.

Here are a few ideas for bonding with your puppy:

- Think of yourself as a teacher rather than a disciplinarian (remember, your puppy is a blank slate, which means they know nothing about how to behave in our world, only about how to behave as a dog)
- Talk to your dog -- use a happy, high-pitched tone of voice to interest your puppy and a soft, relaxed tone of voice to calm your puppy
- Establish daily routines for walking, play-time, feeding and elimination
- Involve the entire family in training
- Begin grooming your puppy from an early age (i.e weekly baths and nail trimmings)
- Touch and hold your puppy - physical contact is an expression of comfort
 - Exercise 1:* hold and examine your puppies mouth, ears and feet on a regular basis
 - Exercise 2:* teach your puppy to accept being restrained
 - 1) pick up your puppy and hold him on his back in your arms
 - 2) repeat the command “relax” or “settle”
 - 3) release your puppy to the ground the moment he or she relaxes
 - Exercise 3:* massage your puppy and practice repositioning his feet, head and body
- Prevent food aggression problems
 - Exercise 1:* let your dog chew on a bone while you hold the other end
 - Exercise 2:* drop a favorite treat into your puppy's dish as he is eating