

## Mixing with other dogs

- Do not let new dogs meet face-to-face; take them on a walk together outside of the home and let them smell each other side to side. If everything goes well, let them sniff for a couple seconds, then keep walking. Once they are either trying to play with each other or ignoring each other, you can start giving them more time.
- Any tension on the leash will escalate anxiety in the dog, as will touching.
- When you are ready to try letting them be together, let them drag their leashes so if there is a problem you can grab them quickly without having to touch them.
- Do not let them play with toys together at first, make sure they are good with each other completely before adding other elements. Then, start with low value toys, things they don't go completely nuts over. Never have bones or super high value treats out with multiple dogs. They can, however, make good crate treats for when you are going to be gone for a while.
- If you are witnessing a dog fight or scuffle, the best and safest way to break it up is by throwing water on the dogs, or using a hose if available. If you reach for their collar or neck, their adrenaline will be so high, they will not realize it is you, and bite. Breaking up a dog scuffle is when most people are bitten.

## Potty Training

- Get a crate that is big enough for dog/puppy to turn around and stand so their back is not hitting the top of the crate, but not much bigger. Dogs naturally do not want to go to the bathroom right on top of where they are lying down.
- Feed the dog/puppy in the crate. Dogs innately know that where they eat should not be the same place they go to the bathroom. By making this space a feeding space, it helps it NOT become the bathroom place.
- Always take dog/puppy out from crate ON A LEASH and go directly from crate to outside. When you take them outside from crate, keep moving at a moseying pace. This will keep their brains moving and their noses smelling the ground as well. Tell them verbally to "take a break/go potty/get busy/phrase of your choosing".
- Scanning the ground/grass means they are potentially looking for a place to potty, digging their nose deep in to one spot means they are potentially about to dig or roll in something.
- One they go potty, have a party-"good dog!!", give them a big verbal praise, and a treat if on hand.
- During potty training, when inside, let them drag around a leash so you can see where they are, and if they look like they are about to go, you can grab them easily, without having to chase them, to take them outside.
- Only correct for accidents if they happen right in front of you. You have a 3 second window before they will not associate what you are yelling about to the action that they have done. Bringing them back to the scene of the crime and reprimanding will only send mixed signals.

- Try to ONLY give them access to whatever room you are in so you can keep an eye on them. You can't catch accidents, if you can't see them. If a dog/puppy is playing or engaging with you and suddenly walks away, take them outside.-When In Doubt, Take Them Out!
- If you can't watch them, they can go back in their crate until you can. Every time you let them out of the crate, take them outside first. If they don't go, they can go back in their crate. This combined with staying in motion outside will help prevent the mind set of 'fun stuff is outside, then I go in and I'm bored so I potty inside'.

## Crate Training

- If you use a wire crate, you may want to cover it with something light and breathable like a sheet. Make sure that the dog does not try to pull it in and eat it, because this can cause a lot of serious health problems. Same with whatever bedding you choose. Keeping the crate covered will help them feel more secure. Think of a wolf den, with all sides secure. If they are pulling in the crate cover, get a plastic crate. Covering the crate will also help with barking.
- Never let a dog out of the crate if it is whining or barking UNLESS it is in the middle of the night. You want them to tell you they have to go out if you are sleeping.
- If whining or barking in crate you can use a squirt bottle, convincer, any loud noise, or your voice to tell them to stop. Always give them the verbal cue first. "Quiet!" Then a correction, so they learn that there is a consequence to that word. Puppy Exception-if it has been a while (40min-1 hr) since the puppy has been out, it may be trying to tell you it has to potty. Remember! WHEN IN DOUBT, LET THEM OUT. But make it quick and to the point, and then back in the crate, so they don't learn that when they bark or whine they go potty but then get to play. NOTE: Puppies should have all leashes and collars removed when they are in the crate, especially if no one is home.

## Bad Manners in the House

- When you first bring a dog home, let them drag a leash around (when someone is home only, do not leave leash on if no one is there to watch them). This allows you to easily correct for bad behavior without touching the dog and raising energy.
- Every time you touch a dog, it escalates whatever they are feeling. So if you want them to stop doing something, the last thing you want to do is touch them, even if you are saying, "No, stop!"
- Leave them in a crate at night AND when no one is home initially. New dogs should EARN trust, it should not be automatic.
- Use conditional positive reinforcement. Meaning: correct them for incorrect behavior, and reward them for correct behavior. This will be the fastest, easiest way to communicate with your dog. Remember, it is OK to tell your dog, "No!"
- Verbally give them the cue of, "No/Off/Down/Leave It," then correct them with the leash/pet convincer/squirt bottle/tool of your choice. By doing this you cement the fact that there is a consequence paired with the word. Then you do not need to do these things later, and you can quickly get them off of the leash.

- When you see them make a good decision, where previously they had made a poor one, give them a very small “good” (you don’t want to get their energy level back up too high!) And depending on how good of a decision it was, you can give them a treat. If the bad behavior immediately begins again, then the treat might have been too much for them, and they are not ready.
- Do not leave bathroom doors open or children’s toys out on the floor. It is not fair to the dog that the people toys are so similar to the dog toys. Never give a dog old shoes or clothing to play with. They won’t know the difference between new and old, expensive or cheap like you want them to!
- Barking/Jumping at the front door: Tell them “No/Quiet!” The best tool I have found is a Pet Convincer. Say “No/Off/Quiet” FIRST then use squirt bottle, pet convincer, or leash to correct. Then when people come to door and they don’t bark, give them a treat. (This is CONDITIONAL positive reinforcement.) Use the convincer for
- lunging at other dogs or people out on a walk, getting mouthy with guests and family members or excessive jumping/counter surfing.

### **Feeding Time**

- If there are multiple dogs in the house, I would recommend always feeding everyone separately. Everyone can eat in their crates, or in different rooms of the house. This eliminates any guarding or possessive behaviors over their food. They will be less likely to feel like they have to protect it, if there is no one around that could take it away.
- With new dogs, be very careful of children touching them when they are eating. If they do not see them coming, it could startle them.
- Transitioning on to whatever food you would like to use: typically changing ¼ of their food to the new food at a time, and each week adding a quarter more, will help them not get upset tummies.
- Always check with a vet if your dog looks or acts sick or has diarrhea.

### **When to Call the Dog Trainer**

*All of the things listed below can quickly escalate into bigger problems. Don’t wait until it is too late and the problem is unmanageable.*

- If a dog starts growling at other animals, or people, even a little bit. This usually means that there is something causing the dog to have anxiety. When addressed promptly and quickly, it can usually be corrected.
- Resource guarding: getting possessive over food, toys, the house, or yard.

# So, you adopted a dog . . .

## Now what?

**Tips for**  
**Meeting Other Pets**  
**Crate Training**  
**Potty Training**  
**Manners**  
**Feeding Time**

**Remember, just like any new addition to a family, pets need lots of care and attention. This pamphlet will provide you with some tried and true tips and training methods to help you and your pet adapt to new situations. For many shelter pets, it has been a while since they were in a loving home setting. Be patient. Be kind. Expect a few mistakes and missteps by both yourself and your pet. All behaviors are correctable and with a lot of love, your pet will soon be part of the family!**