

Scatter Feeding Suggestion

Puppies should be fed from a bowl until after the final initial vaccinations have been given. Thereafter, food should be scattered around the back garden to encourage the dog to satisfy its natural foraging instincts. Humans take food from a plate, so we automatically give our dogs food from a bowl. This is an unnatural way for a dog to eat. As much as possible, the pup should be grazing for most of the day rather than taking large amounts at set times.

Eating from the ground will encourage the puppy to become self sufficient and he/she will learn to trust his territory to provide food, rather than the owner. If the puppy learns to associate the arrival home of the owner with the supply of food, the puppy instinctively begins to bark/cry to call the pack back when hunger sets in. The puppy can only assume that the barking or crying was responsible for calling the pack back. They have no idea that the owner would have returned home in the normal course of events.

Habits such as this, established early in the puppy's life, can lead to nuisance barking at a later date. The over-exuberance that puppies/dogs exhibit on the arrival home of an owner is more to do with the **association** to food than it has to do with the puppy's joy at seeing the owner. The puppy instinctively jumps up to reach the owner's mouth (the source of food in the canine world) and shortly afterwards, the owner often supplies the food.

Scatter feeding will also allow the puppy to identify an area for toileting, away from the source of food. Owners can successfully drive a puppy into a certain area of the garden just by the placement of the scatter food.

Attracting the puppy to the garden area for foraging purposes also takes care of teaching the puppy to separate from the owner without the fear of going hungry.

Whilst the puppy is foraging outside, it will also be toileting outside, so it is important for an owner to see the many benefits of scatter feeding. That is not to say that the puppy should not be allowed inside the house for interaction with the pack – this activity is equally important, but the bulk of the pup's day should be spent outside, learning to trust its' territory. The puppy should be allowed to spend short, supervised periods inside with regular visits to the garden area for toileting purposes. **All food should be given outside.**

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Puppy Information Sheet (8 – 18 weeks)

Voice Tones	Use a growly voice for correction. <i>Never physically reprimand your pup, it will only lead to fighting back or fear of you and may prevent your growing puppy from wanting to come back to you.</i> Use normal and calm voice tones when giving commands such as sit, stay, down etc... Use a high pitched happy voice when giving vocal praise and encouraging your puppy to you.
Socialisation/ desensitisation	Accustom your puppy to as many different noises and sounds as possible such as traffic, school children, vacuum cleaner, mowers etc... Check with your vet regarding vaccinations before you take your puppy out on a lead. Let him meet people, by getting them to stand still and not reaching out with their hands. Let the puppy go to them voluntarily. Crouching down is less threatening to a puppy.
Leadwork	Be calm and ensure that your puppy is calm when putting on the collar and lead. Gently encourage your puppy forward to walk by your legs, don't tug on the lead. As your puppy starts to walk forward give lots of vocal praise in a happy voice. Gently change direction so the pup focuses on you and so is ready for turns.
Exercise	5 or 10 minutes only, twice a day should be enough; use the time to teach your puppy to walk properly and socialise. Play is the best exercise in the home/garden.
Sleep	Like human babies puppies also need a lot of sleep. Their behaviour gets worse the more tired they are, so make sure they get plenty of sleep periods.
Examination	Get your puppy use to being handled and examined. Check eyes, ears, teeth, feet and under the tail area and around the tummy every day to make sure your puppy accepts such handling which will make it easier for future examinations by your vet.
Toilet Training	See following pages...
Correction of unwanted behaviour	If necessary, use a growly voice to correct any unwanted behaviour. Use LOTS OF PRAISE when the naughtiness stops. Be careful not to praise at the wrong time which could lead to you praising the bad behaviour.
Recall	Invite your puppy in a high pitched, happy voice (with rapid excitable hand claps if necessary) and immediately praise as soon as there is any movement towards you. Try not to force your puppy to you. Let him come to you of his own free will.
Sit/stay	Start with very short stay period building up to longer. Use the growly voice tone if he looks like moving. Keep calm and start again if he moves out of sit. Don't forget to "free" your pup when finished and then use LOTS OF PRAISE .
Gate/door training	Use the sit/stay when in front of the door/gate. If at the garden gate or at the front door, use a rope or 25ft puppy lead attached to a fixed collar, to ensure your puppy can't escape.
Feeding manners	Don't interrupt the pup when he eats, this could set up a protective habit. Ensure he is getting plenty of correct nutrients, offer raw fruit and vegetables each day (research appropriate food for your breed).

Bad Behaviour Prevention

CHEWING	Chewing is natural for a puppy but you can limit the amount of chewing with the proper puppy management. Supply your puppy with safe chew toys such as the Kong or provide your puppy with a Buster cube. This will stimulate its brain by providing mental stimulation. It is best to confine a young pup, that way you control the environment and limit the amount of damage it does. Also place all valuables up out of harm's way. Be patient and do not correct the puppy unless you catch him in the act.
PLAYFUL BITING	Freeze your hand movement and use your correction word. When your dog or puppy stops biting and begins to lick your hand, then offer plenty of praise. NEVER play hand games with your puppy, this will definitely encourage biting.
ITEM STEALING	Use your correction word if you catch your puppy in the act of stealing. Don't chase the puppy, crouch down and encourage the puppy to come to you. When he does, just love him, don't correct him. Limit temptation by always placing items up out of your puppies reach.
WASHING LINE PROBLEMS	Take your puppy to the line whilst you are hanging out the washing and correct any silly behaviour. Talk to your Bark Busters Therapist about ways to best protect your washing and the best way to amuse your puppy whilst you're out.
BARKING	Early puppy barking is a bad sign. Don't encourage any form of puppy barking by saying, "What's that?" etc. Remember that councils can issue hefty fines for barking. Don't allow your puppy to bark at you cheekily as this shows a lack of respect.
DIGGING	Triggered by stress at times, some dogs will dig to seek a cool or warm place depending on the weather. Some dogs can hear the water running through pipes under the ground. They also will dig to bury bones. So always make sure that you give your puppy a big bone and then secure it safely so that they can't drag it off and bury it. Supply a digging pit, using something such as a wading pool filled with washed sand. You could bury food there for your puppy to find. Puppies and dogs much prefer to dig where they know they'll find something good and sand is softer and easier to dig.
SEPARATION ANXIETY	This generally stems from lack of leadership, lack of general control and incorrect conditioning by owners. The solutions are to practice separation while you are home and correct the dogs barking. Don't greet your dog immediately after you arrive home and exercise good leadership skills.
CAR SICKNESS	Begin with short trips, preferably not on a full stomach. Place your pup on the floor of the car on a rubber mat or newspaper. This will stop the static electricity affecting your pup. Sometimes a very long journey will cure chronic car sickness.
SCRATCHING AT BACK DOOR /CRYING AT NIGHT	Correct your puppy immediately with your correction word and hand clapping. If the behaviour becomes frantic, catch your puppy in the act and correct from where you are. Never open the door to correct your puppy. The puppy must know you have not deserted it, the correction lets it know you are still there but do not approve of its behaviour.

Toilet Training a Puppy

There are mainly six times when a puppy should be let outside for about 30 minutes to toilet:



1. Before going to bed for the night.
2. As soon as he wakes up.
3. After a nap during the day.
4. After eating.
5. After exuberant play.
6. After you return home from an outing.

Other points to remember:

- **If you have your puppy inside with you, be aware of where he is at all times.** The puppy which disappears from your immediate area is a puppy up to mischief, with either toileting or chewing.
- **Puppies should be confined to a sleeping area, preferably a crate that is large enough only for the puppy to turn around and sleep in.** It should be placed in a bedroom with a family member. When the puppy cries, take him out to the designated area to toilet. As your puppy toiles, say "go toilet", "busy busy" or "quick quick". Praise your puppy AFTER he has finished toileting (no dog over the age of eight months should be left in a crate for more than eight hours – remember to monitor your puppy while he is in the crate).
- **An idea for a toileting area if space is limited is to place a box of turf on your patio.** You can take the puppy to this area and train him to toilet there as his designated area.
- **Alternate feeding in the areas where you do not want your puppy to eliminate.** Also, leave fresh drinking water in those areas. Puppies generally will not toilet in those areas where they eat, drink or sleep.
- **Feeding your puppy a nutritious well balanced diet** also helps because pups which are fed naturally will defecate less (about 25% less). Look for ingredients on your dog food package that contain real meat – not 'by products' – and not too much 'meat meal' or grains. Puppies fed dry food have to drink more, so what goes in must come out.
- **Using lavender oil also helps your puppy associate the smell with his den.** Place a few drops of lavender oil in the water when washing his bedding. Place a few drops in the water of a spray bottle to spray everything in your house. Also place some lavender oil in the water you mop your floors with. Finally, take a towel that has been dipped in a lavender oil and water mixture and rub it all over your puppy. He will start to associate the lavender oil smell with his den. In this case, his den will be your entire house, not just his crate.
- Keep things as simple as possible. **Your puppy will make mistakes, but if you follow the above regime, mistakes will be at a minimum.** If your puppy does make a mistake, simply mop up the urine with a sponge. Then, cut off the urine-soaked sponge parts and disperse them throughout your backyard where you want him to go. Be sure to clean the soiled area thoroughly so no odour is left to confuse him. You may also place his poop in areas where you want him to go (instead of just putting it in the garbage). Your puppy will soon associate those smells with the outside areas in which you want him to relieve himself.
- **Be patient and consistent.**
- **Never become physical with your puppy – you are his teacher.**