

December 1, 2014

Merry Christmas, everyone! Have you made your Christmas wish lists? For many families a puppy is at the top of the list. Do you know what supplies are absolutely necessary to have before bringing home a puppy? Have you considered training for your new addition? Many times I have been asked what kind of preparations should be made prior to the arrival of a new puppy, and I am more than happy to share from a training perspective.

It's a week before you're supposed to pick up your new bundle of joy, and nothing has been done. Don't fret! A lot of your needs will be based on personal preference. Will you be crate training your puppy? I always recommend that puppies are crate trained right from the start. I have never known a dog that didn't have to be confined for some reason or another during their lifetime. Purchasing a crate and getting your puppy used to it immediately can potentially save you from future frustrations. The crate that you purchase should be just large enough for your puppy to stand up and turn around. Any bigger and it will give him the opportunity to potty and get away from it, which is a bad habit that will inhibit house breaking. If your puppy is going to outgrow his crate too quickly for this sizing to be reasonable, you can purchase a crate that will suit him at his adult size and put a divider in it so that he does not have access to the entire space.

A crate will be your best friend during potty training. Remember that every time you take your pup out of the crate after napping or eating take him immediately outside to potty. Praise and a yummy treat will be great reinforcement for the behavior of eliminating outside. If he has accidents in the house chances are that he was given too much freedom too quickly. If you catch him in the act of eliminating in the house, interrupt him with a noise, and take him outside even if he has already finished. You are telling him that, no, he cannot go potty in the house, and showing him the appropriate place for that.

The first few months of your puppy's new life with you will be spent teaching him what is and what is not appropriate. Finding a trainer that is well versed in positive reinforcement should be one of the first steps you take. Enrolling him in a puppy class that is at least six weeks long will help to build a wonderful relationship and bond between you. Teaching your puppy manners and only reinforcing the behaviors that you would like to see again will get you on the right track.

In addition to getting your puppy started in training, socialization is key to raising a well-rounded dog. Bringing your puppy to daycare so that he is able to interact with other dogs will be extremely beneficial to learning socially acceptable dog to dog behaviors in your pup. Letting your puppy meet many different people and walking on many different surfaces and taking him out to see the world will aide you in raising an adult dog that is bomb proof. Also, bringing him to daycare will not only help to socialize your puppy, but it will also tire him out. A tired puppy is a good puppy. If you have any questions or would like more information on training, please give us a call. We would love to meet all of your new additions!

Sit, Stay, N' Play will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas, and the day after Christmas. Our pick up and drop off times for boarding dogs will be either 9 a.m. or 5 p.m. (there will be no boarding pick up or drop off on Christmas Day).