



MORAINE GROVE Veterinary Clinic

Training Information

We highly recommend that all dog owners take their puppies and dogs through basic and advanced obedience training. This is a fun activity that provides social and mental stimulation for the canine companion and teaches owners how to teach and relate to their dogs. It is the foundation on which all future training rests, and it facilitates the dog's development of trust in and respect for his owner.

Some good sources for such training are listed below:

Butler Dog Training Association

724-285-9910 or 724-287-3933

Family Dog Obedience

www.familydogobedience.net

Val Klein 412-302-6736

My Top Dog Training

Missy Porter 724-256-3272



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Canine Housetraining

A. Choose the desired location and teach the puppy where to go

1. Ensure that the location is practical and easy to access (e.g. a short walk from the back door).
2. Go out with your puppy every time and enthusiastically praise elimination in the desired area.
3. Take the pet out when it is most likely to need to eliminate.
 - Following play, exercise, meals, naps and being released from confinement. Feeding and drinking may stimulate elimination. Therefore, supervise well after feeding and plan to take the puppy out to eliminate 30-60 minutes after it eats.
 - Prior to confinement or bedtime.
4. Consider teaching your puppy to “go” on command by saying a command word, such as “hurry up”, in a positive tone as it squats to eliminate.

B. Maintain a Consistent Schedule

1. Offer food two to three times each day at the same time.
2. Only leave the food down for 20 minutes or until your puppy walks away. However, you should also discuss with your veterinarian how to assess your puppy’s body score (i.e., whether it is too heavy, skinny or normal) so that food quantity can be adjusted according to your pets needs.
3. Take up the water bowl about 1 to 2 hours prior to bedtime.

C. Confine/Supervise (small room, crate or tie-down)

1. Until the puppy has completed four consecutive weeks without soiling in the home, it should be within eyesight of a family member or confined to a safe puppy-proofed area.

2. The room, crate or pen used for confinement is intended to serve as a safe, comfortable bed, playpen or den for the puppy. The puppy should not be confined to this area until after it has eliminated and had sufficient exercise and social interaction (i.e., when it is due for a sleep, nap or rest) and should not be confined for any longer than it can control elimination, unless paper-training techniques are being used.
3. Most puppies can control elimination through the night by 4 months of age. During the daytime, puppies 4 months or less usually have a few hours of control, while puppies 5 months and over may be able to last longer between eliminations.
4. If the puppy eliminates in its cage, it may have been left there longer than it can be confined without eliminating, or the cage may be large enough that it sleeps in one end and eliminates in the other, in this case a divider might be used temporarily. Also, if the puppy is anxious about being confined to its crate or left alone, it is unlikely to keep the crate clean.
5. Use a leash indoors to help supervise the puppy. By observing the puppy closely for pre-elimination signs, the puppy can be trained to eliminate outdoors without the need for punishment and may soon learn to signal when it has to eliminate.

D. Handling Mistakes

1. Punishment is generally not indicated as part of a house training program. The goal is to interrupt your puppy if it is caught in the act of eliminating indoors, and direct it to the appropriate location so that it can be rewarded when it eliminates there.
2. If you catch your puppy in the act of eliminating indoors, quickly say “no” and clap your hands or pull on the leash to interrupt the behavior (you have 1-2 seconds to catch it in the act). Then take the pet outside and praise it enthusiastically upon completion.
3. If urine or stool is found on the floor after the puppy has eliminated, do not consider any form of correction since the

puppy will not associate the correction with the elimination. You can prevent resoiling in the home by closing doors or moving furniture to prevent access to the location, booby trapping the location with a repellent or motion detector, constant supervision of your puppy and by consistently rewarding elimination outdoors.

E. Odor Elimination

1. Clean up any odors from indoor elimination. Be certain to use enough odor neutralizer to get to the source of the odor. Use one of the products that have been specifically designed to eliminate pet urine odors (chemical modification, enzymes, bacterial odor removal), and follow the label directions.

F. Paper Training

1. While it is best to skip paper training and immediately train the pup to eliminate outdoors, the approach is sometimes necessary for apartment dwellers or when it's not practical to take the puppy outside frequently enough. For paper training, the puppy should be confined to a room or pen with paper covering the floor except for the sleeping area. The puppy should be confined to this area while you are out, or when you cannot supervise. Paper training can be combined with outdoor training so that the puppy learns that there are two appropriate places to eliminate. The crate could be used for confinement for shorter departures and the papered area for longer departures. Another option is to train the pup to use an indoor litter product.

In some households and in some communities, it might also be practical to house the dog in an outdoor run, or provide a dog door with outdoor access if the owner cannot be home to let the dog outside when it needs to eliminate.



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Puppy Mouthing, Nipping and Biting- Bite Inhibition and Teaching Off

A. Bite Inhibition

1. No hard bites or pressure
 - a) When the puppy is calm, place your hand in its mouth and praise it when it mouths softly.
 - b) Give an immediate, loud “ouch!” whenever your puppy applies too much pressure, and stop playing with it. Once the puppy ceases, you can give it an alternative form of play or attention (e.g., chew toy, exercise session, training session) or a settle exercise, and reward the desirable behavior.
2. Mild attempts at deterring the puppy and physically discouraging the puppy can actually serve to increase the intensity of play and biting.
3. Gentle mouthing as a form of play is okay, but it should not be initiated by the puppy, and the family must be able to stop it on command. Any hard biting or over exuberant play must be discouraged.
4. Avoid tug of war if the pet becomes too excited, aggressive or out of control. Tug of war games should only be allowed when you have initiated them and when you can quickly stop the game on command with an ouch, give or drop command.
5. If the puppy is constantly demanding attention through mouthing and biting or is over exuberant in its play, then it is likely not receiving sufficient stimulation. You should consider additional or longer periods of play, training, and exercise, and more outlets for chewing to pre-empt the puppies unacceptable play biting.

6. If the puppy cannot be quickly calmed and settled, then confining it away from the target (e.g. children, visitors) until it settles may be necessary. When the puppy is calm it can then be released, and encouraged to play in an appropriate manner.
7. For those problems that cannot be quickly and effectively controlled with bite inhibition techniques, a leash and head halter can be left attached when the puppy is with the family. Mouthing or biting can be immediately stopped with a pull on the leash, with tension released as soon as the puppy settles. The leash and head halter can also be used to teach the off command by first giving the command and if the puppy does not immediately cease, pulling the hand back and guiding the dog into the proper response with a pull on the leash.
8. For some puppies in some homes, all forms of hard mouthing and play biting may be unacceptable. This may be the case when there are elderly or young children in the home.

B. Teaching off

1. The purpose of this command is to get the puppy to stop mouthing or play biting on command.

Procedure:

- a) Present a piece of food to get the pet's attention, say "Okay" in a friendly tone of voice and give the food.
- b) Present another piece of food and say "off" in a firm tone of voice, but don't yell.
 1. If the puppy doesn't make contact with your hand or the food for 2 seconds, say "Okay" and give up the food.
 2. If the puppy touches your hand before the 2 seconds pass and before you say "Okay", immediately yell "off" loud enough to make the puppy back away without frightening it. Be dramatic, lean towards the pup, make eye contact and give a forceful command.

3. Repeat, gradually increasing the time the puppy has to wait.
- c) Once the pup learns to back away from the food on command, practice the above exercise using only your hand. Later, repeat the exercise when the puppy is in more excited moods.
 - d) Work toward the puppy not taking food, or touching your hand, no matter how tasty the treat or how your hand is moving, once you have said “off”.
 - e) You must practice every day to attain a dependable response.



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Socialization Tips for Puppy Owners

Even though dogs have been domesticated for thousands of years, each new puppy that comes into our world must learn about humans. Socialization is the process during which puppies develop positive relationships with other living beings. The most sensitive period for successful socialization is during the first 3 to 4 months of life. The experiences the pet has during this time will have a major influence on its developing personality and how well it gets along with people and other animals when it grows into adulthood. It is very important for puppies to have frequent, positive social experiences during these early months in order to prevent asocial behavior, fear, and biting. Puppies that are inadequately socialized may develop irreversible fears, leading to timidity or aggression. This is not to say that socialization is complete by 4 months of age, only that it should begin before that time. Continued exposure to a variety of people and other animals, as the pet grows and develops, is an essential part of maintaining good social skills. It is also extremely important that your new puppy be exposed to new environments and stimuli at this time (e.g., sounds, odors, locations) to reduce the fear of “the unfamiliar” that might otherwise develop as the pet grows older.

Puppy Socialization:

Attending puppy classes during this primary socialization period is another excellent way to ensure multiple contacts with a variety of people and other dogs. This relatively new concept in training involves enrolling puppies early, before they pick up “bad habits”, and at an age when they learn very quickly. Puppy training and socialization classes are now available in many communities where, in some cases, puppies can be admitted as early as their third month. These classes can help puppies get off to a great start with training, and offer an excellent opportunity for important social experiences with other puppies and with a wide variety of people. Eight to ten weeks is an ideal time to begin classes. Since there can be some health

risks when exposing young puppies to other dogs and new environments, the best age to begin your puppy in classes should be discussed with your veterinarian.

Socialization Biscuits:

It is important for every puppy to meet as many new people as possible, in a wide variety of situations. It may be beneficial to ask each person who meets the puppy to give the puppy a biscuit. This will teach the puppy to look forward to meeting people and discourage hand shyness, since the puppy will learn to associate new friends and an outstretched hand with something positive. Once the puppy has learned to sit on command, have each new friend ask it to sit before giving the biscuit. This teaches a proper greeting and will make the puppy less likely to jump up on people. You should make certain that the pet has the opportunity to meet and receive biscuits from a wide variety of people of all ages, appearances and both sexes during the early formative months. Every effort must be made to see that the young pup has plenty of opportunities to learn about children. Kids can seem like a completely different species to dogs since they walk, act and talk much differently than adults. Puppies that grow up without meeting children when they are young may never feel comfortable around them when they become adults.

And last, but not least, be careful to avoid physical punishment and any interactions with people that might make the puppy anxious. Harshly punishing a young pet will damage its bond with you and weaken its trust in people. Techniques such as swatting the pup, shaking by the scruff, roughly forcing it on to its back, thumping it on the nose, and rubbing its face in a mess should never be used. Pets that are raised using these methods may grow up to fear the human hand, and are likely candidates to become fear biters. In general, any interactions with people that might make a puppy anxious should particularly be avoided during the early months of its life.