***Intro***

We at Aydt’s Shepherds and Training LLC, feel it is very important for new puppy owners to have a few guidelines on what to do and what to expect when puppy owners bring home their new life long companion. The following information provides useful tips in training, adapting, feeding, potty training, and also toys for the new puppy at your home. We urge you to learn as much as you can about canine behavior and check out articles, books, and videos on puppy training, and obedience. Doing some research will certainly help you make decisions on how to interact with your new furry companion. Please, know that we are and always will be here to help you in any way we can through the entire life of your puppy!

***Socializing***

It is very important to socialize your puppy at a young age to many different environments, textures, people, and other animals. So far, your puppy has spent the first 8 weeks of his/her life with their mother, littermates, and our breeders. In many cases the breeder has started to expose the puppies to loud noises, new surfaces, children, and car rides. It is very important to keep socialize your puppy during the next few months after pickup to your own personal lifestyles. The critical socialization period for a dog is between 8-16 weeks. It is absolutely essential during this period that they experience as much as possible. Remember, some of these experiences may be a little stressful and you will have to support your puppy during these events. Everyone’s lifestyle is different and some may be busier than others. We encourage you to take your puppy out 2-3 times a week even if it is 15 minutes for quality family time. If your puppy never leaves your property he may be fearful of life outside of your home. However, keep in mind there are many contagious diseases such as Parvovirus which are dangerous to young puppies. I do not recommend taking young puppies who have not received all their shots to public parks or other public places where other dogs frequent. I recommend going to a family or friends house, shopping centers, or even going to get ice cream so your pup is exposed to new people, children, noises, traffic etc.

***Bring home your puppy***

Your puppy has just been taken away from his/her mother and littermates so the first few days can be difficult for the puppy learning how to adapt to your personal lifestyles. You need lots of patience and a good sense of humor. If you work or have school it is a good idea to plan your puppy’s arrival on your day off, preferably the weekend, so it gives the puppy two full days of bonding. Remember your puppy does not speak English so your puppy will have no idea what you saying when you try to yell at him/her. He/she will only sense you when you are angry. You must teach your puppy what you expect him/her to do without physical corrections. When he/she is doing good, show praise with nice words: “good dog,” “good girl,” and “good boy.” These words sound nice and should be associated with petting, praise, and/or treats. Conversely, he/she will learn that bad actions are associated with “no” and “bad” which have sharp disapproving verbal sounds. With some stubborn puppies a neck scruff like his mother would have done is very effective used with “no” or “bad.” Make sure your words are clear and consistent to avoid confusion. Studies have shown that during the 8th week puppies go through a fear stage which is very common so give your puppy time to explore on its own. Try not to expose him to sharp noises or harsh treatments during but instead be very patient, loving, and understanding during this week. Preparations should already be made as to where your puppy will live, sleep and go to the bathroom. Puppies are like toddlers, they can be very destructive and should not be left alone to run around the house or yard without supervision! A puppy proof room is a good area in your home where your new puppy can play but not injure itself or destroy your house while doing so. If you are leaving for a few hours it is best to put him/her in a crate with water and a toy. If you leave your puppy for more than a few hours, for example going to work, we recommend that you provide an outside facility for him/her. I wouldn’t want to be locked in a small crate all day, would you?

***Feeding***

Everyone always asks what food we use and how much to feed them? We suggest a food with high protein. Some people say chicken based is the best, and others say lamb is the best. Still others strongly advocate a raw diet. The bottom line is, get a good/ high quality puppy food and see how your puppy likes the food/diet you choose. We feed our dogs Victor High Pro Plus and it can be found on Chewy.com. It comes in many different varieties such as puppy, adult, and also diet control formulas. If you experience continuing loose stools, poor coat, etc and you have ruled out all other issues try another food. We suggest you do not go hoping around from one food to another. Find a food he/she enjoys and is doing well with and stay with that food. If you have to switch food make sure you mix a little old food with the new. When switching dog food brands or formulas, make sure to follow the guidelines suggested on mixing the new food and the old food until control of the loose stool is made. Please be aware that a change in diet of any kind whether it is food brands, formulas, or supplements, your dog will have loose stool until its digestive system gets used to the change in the diet. DO NOT GET YOUR PUPPY OVERWEIGHT! DO NOT FREE FEED! You need to feed enough for him for his growing period. Our vet told us that you should not be able to see the ribs, but you should be able to feel them easily. We think that is a good rule to go by. Studies have shown that overweight dogs pose a contributing factor towards hip dysplasia. How often should you feed? Feeding your puppy 3 times a day until they are 6 months old then reduce it to 2 times a day afterwards. You do not want your dog to be very active directly before or after you feed him. He/she needs time to digest. You should make the switch from puppy food to adult food after 18 months of age. We encourage you to do a little research on your own to decide when to switch. Then there is an issue of supplements. Should you or should you not use them? Dog foods these days are such high quality that research suggests supplements are not necessary. Well, maybe, but we have seen a noticeable differences with some supplements. Do your research in this area as well. It’s about personal preference and there is no right or wrong answer.

***Sleep Training***

Your dog should have a designated area for sleep associated with positive energy. When you bring home a new puppy it is important to establish boundaries, and your dog knowing where he belongs in the house is part of that. Whether he is sleeping in a particular room, gated in with a bed, or in a crate, he needs to know right away that is his space. Throw a treat into the area so that he associates the space with positive energy, rather than placing him there by picking him up, which can associate negative energy.

If you want to eventually share you bed with your dog, do not do it straight away. Before you can welcome your dog into your bed, he needs to have his own routine established for sleeping. Don’t coddle your dog. Much like a newborn baby, you cannot run to your dog as soon as he starts crying. Let him cry out for a short time. It’s hard, but it’s necessary.

Invite our dog into your bedroom. Going to the bedroom should be a treat for your dog. He should only come in when he is invited to. Once he knows that the bedroom is your space, you can call him and let him in your bed.

Make sure you and your dog are both comfortable with the sleeping arrangements. You dog should sleep in a place that is appropriate for his size. He should be comfortable and able to sleep peacefully wherever it is designated. If you are worried about your dog at night, he will read your negative vibes and feel uneasy as well. If you are planning on switching your dog’s sleeping location, tire him out with exercise so that he is ready to sleep the night wherever it is that you move him.

***House Training***

Young puppies do not have effective control over their elimination. When an eight-week-old puppy has to go, it really has to go! Generally speaking, a puppy can control their bladder on hour every month of age. So if your puppy is two months old, they can hold it about two hours. This doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t start housetraining a small puppy. You should begin as soon as the puppy moves in. You should realize that at this point the training is more a matter of management than education. In other words, the attempts at training a puppy where to go may eliminate some messes from a house, but in reality your puppy is just starting to learn what to do so be patient. While a puppy is young, any mistakes can be laid directly at the feet of the owner. As the pup matures, it can assume some of the blame, but young puppies can’t be blamed for doing what comes naturally.  It’s all up to you!

***Observation***

The single most essential aspect of housetraining is to keep the pup under observation.  Puppies that are carefully watched by their owners won’t get into the habit of chewing up shoes or electrical cords, eating goodies from the cat litter box, or leaving little surprises behind couches.  When anyone brings a new puppy home, that person should plan to use vacation, summer break, or any other available leave to spend as much time as possible with the puppy.  This is why we recommend bringing your puppy home on the first day of your weekend off. When a puppy is left home alone, the only training it gets is accidental and probably unacceptable. Anyone who is unwilling to devote quality time off to a new puppy probably shouldn’t have a puppy to begin with.  Just being in the house with a new puppy isn’t enough.  You must be aware of what the puppy is doing. One technique recommended by some puppy trainers is the umbilical cord method, or tethering. The owner attaches one end of a leash to the puppy and the other end to his or her belt or wrist. In this way, the puppy is always no more than the length of the leash away from you the owner- but he/she is learning to follow the leash and interact with you the owner.

The use of the umbilical cord method is a controversial issue. Some experts agree with this method; others believe it’s not an appropriate method to use. Even those who support its use disagree on how long the leash should be and how long the puppy should be tethered to its owner each day. Having the puppy attached to the owner is only the first step. Keeping the puppy close won’t make any difference if the owner is reading a newspaper or watching TV. You must be aware of what the puppy is doing. With practice, you can learn to watch out of the corner of your eye and still look at the TV or read a book.  It takes a little concentration to start out but will come with ease as time progresses. Now that you and the puppy are attached to each other, you must know what to watch for. You must constantly be alert to any behavior that indicates the puppy may need to eliminate.

Do not send the puppy out alone. You and the puppy must go out together-you must be armed with a treat or two and take him/her to the designated potty area. Once you are at the potty area you should give the command for the dog to eliminate then wait to see how your puppy reacts. If the puppy sits or lies down, you should walk around to get the pup up and moving so the urge to eliminate comes. In reality you should basically be a quiet observer until the puppy performs. When the puppy eliminates, you should praise your puppy as if he/she had just made an amazing discovery.  Learning how to eliminate outdoors is an important part of etiquette and it deserves high praise. Many dogs in shelters are there because of housetraining failures, so it is essential for the puppy to learn this lesson well. In conjunction with praise, you may also give the pup a treat. Unless it is pouring rain or the temperature is too frigid, playing outside for a minute or two is an excellent idea.

***Timing***

Young puppies must eliminate often.  Crucial times for going out are

* when they wake up in the morning
* after a nap,
* after they eat one of their meals,
* after they take a drink of water,
* after they’ve had a lively play session.

At other times, a pup should be taken out at least every two hours, even if none of these things have occurred.

Another element of timing is a puppy’s feeding schedule. A regular schedule helps to put bowel movements on an equally regular schedule so the owner knows when to expect them. The dog appreciates a routine and likes to know when its next meal is coming.  Some trainers recommend withholding water in the evening so puppies can’t “tank up” before bedtime. Most veterinarians frown on this idea. You should always make fresh drinking water available for the continued good health of the dog. Then you must decide either to get up during the night for a potty break or to arrange the puppy’s nighttime quarters to allow for some unavoidable piddling. Getting up and taking a puppy out in the middle of the night doesn’t rank high on anyone’s list, but doing so can speed up the housetraining process. Most people can learn to take their dog out without becoming completely awake which makes going back to sleep quick once they return to bed.

During the day, puppies may have to eliminate every hour to hour and a half; at night, one trip halfway through the night is often enough to keep everything dry. Think about it – most people sleep through the night but visit the bathroom more often than once every eight hours during the day. The same is true for puppies. Owners who choose not to get up during the night must provide an acceptable indoor potty. One option is to separate the puppy’s crate into two separate areas – one for sleeping and one for eliminating.  When a crate is purchased, its size should be based on the size the dog will be when it’s fully grown. Therefore, the crate will be a little large when the dog is still a puppy, and the pup will have room in the crate for both a sleeping area and a potty area. During the day, the owner should block off the potty area in the crate so the puppy doesn’t learn to soil in its crate. If a puppy uses the potty area in the cage at night, the owner should clean it up first thing in the morning and say nothing to the puppy. As the puppy gets older and in better control of bodily functions, the nighttime elimination should disappear on its own.

Creating a potty area in a crate isn’t the recommended method of training a puppy. It is just an alternative for those owners who choose not to take their puppies out during the night. Ideally, a puppy shouldn’t eliminate in its crate.

Another part of timing involves deciding how long to stay outside after the puppy has eliminated. If you go back inside as soon as the puppy has finished, you may unwittingly be creating a monster. Some pups really enjoy these outdoor excursions, especially if it’s the only time they get outside. They soon learn to postpone eliminating so they can prolong their outdoor time.  People can avoid this problem by staying out for some play time after the pup has eliminated. Then the puppy doesn’t associate elimination with the end of the trip outdoors. If you have already unwittingly created this problem, you’ll need to do a bit of retraining. Take your pup outdoors for no other reason than to play. Doing this should reduce their pup’s incentive to extend potty trips. In addition, you should put a time limit on potty trips. If the pup doesn’t perform in a reasonable time, say, five minutes, then the you should take the pup back inside and closely observe it or put it in its crate for fifteen minutes before going out again. This retraining procedure is not a punishment.  It’s simply making an adjustment in the puppy’s understanding. Don’t reward a puppy by staying outside when it hasn’t urinated. Please remember a pup does not have the control to be truly reliable until it is four or five months old. If a puppy is no longer having accidents indoors, it may be the result of you having good observation and management. Don’t stop training too soon or you may be unpleasantly surprised.

***Establishing Signals***

During the housetraining process, you should also establish a signal the puppy will use when it’s older to indicate a need to go out. Sometimes the dog will establish its own signal. For example, suppose an owner uses the same door every time he or she takes a puppy out to eliminate. As an adult, the dog will try to signal you that it wants to go out. It may glance at the door, sit in front of the door, or go to the owner and then run quickly to the door. The owner should be alert to any signals the dog it trying to send. On the other hand, owners can teach their dogs signals they choose themselves. For example, some people hang a bell from a doorknob and ring it each time they take the dog out. Once the dog is trained, the owner doesn’t have to be within sight of the appropriate door to know the dog wants to go out. When the dog starts ringing the bell on its own, the owner must reward the dog by taking it outside immediately.

***Chewing and Biting***

Puppies explore the world with their mouths. They nibble on their mother, their littermates, their blanket, even their own feet-pretty much anything they can get their short little muzzles around. Using its mouth is a natural behavior that acquaints a puppy with the world   but it definitely has its hazards and drawbacks. By the time puppies attend an obedience class; most owners have probably given them the run of the house, or at least a large part of it. However, while allowing the puppy free reign in the house, they fail to make the entire house safe for the puppy. For example, the owners may have puppy-proofed the original safe room, but the rest of the house may contain many dangers for a puppy-dangling electrical cords, cabinet doors that can be nudged open, breakable objects on less-than secure surfaces, and on and on. After a while, people become tired of following a puppy every minute. They convince themselves that the puppy is reliably housetrained, and they begin to allow the puppy out of their sight. The puppy suddenly has time alone to make all sorts of discoveries. This is exactly how bad habits start.  Even if a puppy doesn’t electrocute itself by chewing on a power cord, bad behaviors can lead to injury or death to the animal. Later on during puppyhood, owners shouldn’t slack off on supervision. You need to watch a puppy as closely as they would a toddler. You should know everything your puppy puts into its mouth.  Rather than tying their puppy to them with the umbilical cord method, you can use gates in doorways to keep them in area they are and are not allowed to be in.

***Teaching Bite Inhibition***

The fact that puppies mouth nearly everything in their environment can actually be a good thing.  It means that you have ample opportunities to teach puppies what they can and can’t chew and how they should behave with their mouths around humans. The more opportunities you have to teach puppies about chewing, the sooner the puppies will learn their lessons. Bite inhibition involves teaching a puppy that it really hurts when they bite someone. Even though puppies have weak jaws, their needle-sharp teeth can cause severe pain. Although puppies can’t cause severe damage to someone with their teeth, they must learn not to nip when they play. Otherwise, when they become adult dogs, they may unintentionally cause significant damage to someone while they’re playing together. Do not try to forbid your dog from touching human flesh with its mouth completely. When you start teaching bite inhibition you increase the chances that if the dog ever does lose control, the result will be a soft harmless mouthing, not a hard bite that tears flesh.  This practice provides one more line of defense against behavior that can create a serious rift in the human-dog bond. Owners who have plenty of interaction with their puppies should have plenty of opportunities to teach bite inhibition.

Here’s a simple procedure for teaching bite inhibition: Whenever your puppy puts its mouth on any piece of human anatomy, let out a high-pitched yelp or ouch and stop interacting with the puppy.  Get up, turn your back, or leave the room – whatever it takes to impress on the puppy that you want nothing to do with it This is the same way that littermates tell each other when play gets too rough. Keep yourself separated from the puppy for just a minute or two.Allow the puppy to come back to you. A puppy may be so excited about regaining contact that it will immediately begin to put its mouth on you.Again let out a high-pitched yelp and stop interacting with the puppy. Don’t feel sorry for the little guy and ignore this nip.  A second offense should get the same response – a yelp and another minute or two of noncontact.Continue this procedure until the puppy doesn’t nip when you return. Every time it nips, give it this “timeout.”

The puppy should soon learn this important lesson. As an alternative to this method, you may begin the same way – by letting out a loud yelp when their puppies bite. Then they should encourage the dog to mouth a toy, that is, provide a substitute for the puppy to chew on.  A puppy being trained not to mouth a person is learning two essential lessons. The first is self-control.  It’s extremely hard for a puppy to refrain from something it wants to do, but it’s also very important that the puppy gain that ability. Second, a puppy is learning that people have remarkable tender outsides that can be hurt by the merest grazing of a tooth. When a puppy begins to understand this, it will be careful not to injure its large but fragile companions.  Occasionally a puppy doesn’t react appropriately to the owner’s yelp and the separation.  In fact, it may even become more excited when it hears its owner call out.  The owner of a puppy like that may have to take stronger measures.

If this technique doesn’t work try this second technique: When your puppy nips at you, say “No!” in a voice that tells the puppy you’re serious.Grasp the puppy’s muzzle just for a moment and look sternly at the puppy. Don’t squeeze the muzzle. The purpose is not to inflict pain. Just reach down over the top of the muzzle with your thumb on one side and fingers on the other.  Don’t hit or shake the puppy at all. Just take control of the pup’s muzzle for a moment, let it go, then leave the room. This technique is similar to what a mother does when puppies get out of control. As the puppy starts to get the idea, you can begin to say “gentle” or “easy” when it looks as if the puppy may be inclined to bite. This word becomes a command to exert no pressure when mouthing any part of a human.

***Chewing Indoors***

Puppies need to chew. In fact, chewing occupies a large part of their day. They chew:

* To learn about their world,
* To exercise their jaws,
* To test their rank,
* To help ease the discomfort of teething,
* To pass the time.

You can either provide plenty of approved chewing opportunities for the puppy or suffer the consequences when the puppy finds things on his/her own to chew on. When a puppy must be left in its crate or its safe room, it should have a chew or a toy to keep it occupied. Even when a puppy is with its owners, it should have something to chew on.  After all, someone won’t be playing with the puppy every moment. A chew or toy will keep a puppy occupied when the humans are busy with something else. The easiest way to prevent damage to possessions is to not let it happen at all. Keeping a puppy under observation is the surest way to nip inappropriate chewing in the bud. But it’s rare that an owner is completely successful in this task. Therefore, some remedial action may be necessary. If a puppy is caught in the act of chewing a forbidden object, take the object away from the puppy (or the puppy away from the object if the object is too large to move). Immediately provide a suitable substitute, and praise the puppy for chewing on it. Trying to stop a pup from chewing is like trying to stop water from flowing downhill. Always provide an appropriate alternative immediately. To help implant the idea that some things are permissible to chew and some things aren’t, you can use taste deterrents. A product such as Bitter Apple, leave an unpleasant taste on surfaces. The goal is to teach the puppy not to put its mouth on that object again. Taste deterrents are effective with many, but not all, dogs.

***Chewing Outdoors***

A young puppy shouldn’t cause chewing problems outdoors, because a puppy shouldn’t be allowed outdoors alone. As a puppy gets older, however, it may spend some time alone in a safely fenced yard. This is when trouble can start and it can be just as hazardous as the trouble caused by indoor chewing. Electrical cords may be on decks, beside doors, or along paths for outdoor lighting. Some plants in the landscaping may be poisonous, and so may mushrooms that sprout up unbidden. Common yard chemicals may also be extremely toxic.  Every year dogs die from eating snail bait, even though nontoxic options are available. Dogs may even chew on wooden fences, possibly giving themselves splinters or an unplanned escape route. Does this mean a dog can never be outdoors unaccompanied?  Of course not.  The important thing is to provide a transition period so the puppy can learn acceptable outdoor behavior. The first thing you must do is to remove all real hazards. Once the environment is safe, you can carefully watch as the puppy explores. You should hang back, coming only as far as needed to watch the puppy.  If possible, you can even watch the puppy through a window if it provides a good view and if the owner can get into the yard quickly. If you need to correct the puppy’s behavior in any way, you can be right there in a moment.  If the puppy has already had some lessons in coming when called, you could try calling the puppy away from bad chewing choices, giving the puppy a reward if it comes. If the puppy doesn’t come, you must immediately go to him/her. Never stand in a window or doorway and continue to call to a dog that’s not responding! If the dog doesn’t come, you should go and get it. To discourage a puppy from chewing on unacceptable things outdoors, make sure you have plenty of approved chewing objects in the yard. In fact, you can take some of the indoor objects outdoors because the puppy already has the idea that these toys are for chewing. A dog that has learned how to behave outdoors can pass the time by watching what’s going on in the neighborhood while its family is away. Being outside is far more entertaining than being locked in a crate.

***Dog Chews***

In response to puppies’ need to chew, companies have produced a bewildering variety of choices.  It’s easy to become overwhelmed by the variety. You and along with many other people may have differences of opinion on the topic of chewing. The following paragraphs describe several different types of chews available along with some suggestions and cautions.

Knuckle bones: which are available from butchers and some pet suppliers, are real beef bones. Some pet suppliers offer them in a variety of flavors. They’ve been the hard chew of choice for many years due to being large and unlikely to splinter in the dog’s mouth. Dogs seldom break knuckle bones, so they don’t actually ingest much of them. Few contamination problems if any have been reported due to bacteria from the bone. Dogs do occasionally break teeth while chewing knuckle bones, as they do while chewing any hard object.

Pigs’ ears: This dog treat is actually made from real pigs’ ears. Recalls for salmonella have occurred regularly since they were first introduced. Caution: Be sure to wash your hands carefully after handling pigs’ ears.

Rawhide: which is made from the skin of cattle, has been a popular dog chew for a long time.  It can be a good choice but, you must be careful in the type of rawhide you purchase. For example, some rawhide that comes from outside the United States is contaminated with chemicals. Owners who give their dogs rawhide should watch carefully as the dogs chew it. Some dogs chew very nicely, working off small pieces at a time. Others, however, attempt to soften and swallow an entire strip of rawhide, creating a choking hazard for them. Compressed rawhide, which is ground up and then pressed back together, eliminates choking problems but it doesn’t last nearly as long as regular rawhide. Rawhide may stain carpets so putting down an old cloth before the puppy begins to chew the treat is a good idea.

Synthetic bones: provide an alternative to rawhide. Nylabones were one of the earliest synthetic bones produced. In the manufacturing process, natural meat flavors are incorporated right into the nylon. Nylabones last a long time and satisfy dogs’ chewing cravings. Some owners, however, object to giving an oil-based product to their dogs, and others have reported problems with splintering.  In response to the criticism, Nylabone developed Carrot-Bones and other vegetable-based bones.  These chews are good hard crunchy products made of natural ingredients.  They last a reasonably long time and are low in calories. Owners may have to tryout different flavors to find out which ones their dogs like.

Booda Velvets: another synthetic chew, are made of cornstarch. This product seemed to calm the fears of some owners who disliked the oil based Nylabones. Booda Velvets do occasionally splinter, and they seem to pick up even more hair and dirt than rawhide.

Dentabones: manufactured by Pedigree, are a combination hard chew and tooth-cleaning device.  Their abrasive texture and unusual shape help to clean a dog’s teeth as it chews. Dentabones do a good job of scraping tartar from teeth. They don’t last that long with large aggressive chewers, but they provide an attractive alternative to other chews.

***Dog Toys***

Besides the variety of hard chews, dog owners will find an enormous selection of different types of dog toys that amuse, stimulate, satisfy chewing urges, and even dispense treats.  Most toys are meant to be played with under supervision. For example, most dogs can quickly disassemble rubber or plush squeaky toys, which may contain small parts that the dog could swallow. Some toys can be left with a dog while it’s alone.  For example, knotted rope toys are good for occupying a dog’s time – if the dog shows interest in them. As an added bonus, you can tie a hard chew into the middle of the rope toy. For years, trainers have been advising dog owners to put food into a toy called a Kong to occupy a dog’s time. The Kong is hollow and can withstand a great deal of chewing. By filling it with some of the dog’s kibble (dry food) and something sticky, such as peanut butter or cheese spread, owners can provide a treat that dogs have to work for. Many manufacturers have developed all sorts of devices similar to the Kong, specifically for slowly dispensing treats. One of the first, and still one of the most effective, is the Buster Cube. The dog must flip the cube around to get some pieces to fall out.  It’s your job as a trainer to instruct clients in the differences between various chews and toys. Then it’s up to the owners to choose the correct chew for their dog. Whichever you choose, toys can occupy a dog’s time when they’re not otherwise entertained. To get a puppy or dog interested in a toy, make the toy move-roll it, drag it, or make it move any other appropriate way.

***Separation Anxiety***

A specific problem that may surface around the time of adolescence is separation anxiety.  People often spend a lot of time with a puppy, working on housetraining and basic house manners. Then suddenly they just switch abruptly back to their usual routine, leaving a young dog suddenly alone for hours. This is a recipe for disaster. Dogs suffering separation anxiety exhibit all sorts of behaviors that owners find objectionable-urinating or defecating in the house, tearing up couches, and barking incessantly are some behaviors found. This whole problem can be avoided with a little preventive training. Even while owners are staying home with the puppy, they can gradually start to teach it how to stay alone.

Here is a good method for training a puppy to stay alone:

1. After a puppy has had a play session and been taken out to potty, put the dog in its safe room and say, “See you later” or “I’ll be back” or whatever you like.
2. Make usual preparations to leave, getting a coat and car keys, locking doors. During these preparations, ignore the puppy, especially if it cries or barks.
3. Step outside for a minute or two and then come back in.
4. Wait to greet the puppy until after you’ve hung up your coat and car keys and maybe even checked the mail or answering machine.
5. Greet the puppy in a happy, but low-key, manner.
6. Gradually extend each of the times you leave the puppy alone-the time before leaving, the time away, and the time between coming home and actually greeting the dog.

This is a good procedure to follow to accustom a dog or puppy to being left alone. To help the process along, you can provide a special treat for the dog to have while you are gone, such as a stuffed Kong, a loaded Buster Cube, a Pedigree Dentabone, or some other safe hard chew. Time spent conditioning a dog to be calm when left home alone is well worth it.  It’s much easier to prevent separation anxiety than to correct it once it occurs.

***NuVet*** [***http://www.nuvet.com/561824***](http://www.nuvet.com/561824)

We also supplement with a product called NuVet, which you need to purchase before you pick your puppy up. We use the wafers, not the powder (powder only for pups under 8 weeks). Here is why we choose this extraordinary supplement: Every puppy is born with an immature immune system. NuVet can bridge the immunity gap. Under 6 weeks: puppies rely on immunity antibodies passed from their mother. 8 weeks: Weaned puppies are vulnerable and challenged by stress of adoption, exposure to harmful bacteria and viruses in their new lives. 14 weeks: NuVet has clinical proof that when a puppy received NuVet antioxidant supplements, immune response to vaccinations dramatically improves, protecting our puppy even better! 22 weeks: Puppies fed NuVet antioxidant supplement have exhibited a drastic increase in immune function, compared to those of a kibble only diet.

Benefits of NuVet Plus:

\*Strengthens the immune system

\*Promotes healthy skin and coat

\*Free radical protection

\*Supports healthy eyes and ears

\*Helps keep the GI tract on track

\*Made in the USA since 1997

\*Holistic, natural supplement, cold pressed to maintain nutrients, made with

Only the highest quality, natural human-grade ingredients.

\*60 day money back guarantee

We feed all of our adults with NuVet Plus supplement and NuJoint Plus. We couldn’t do what we do with pride and success without it.

To order your will need to call 800-474-7044 or order online at: www.nuvet.com Your order code is: **561824** Because NuVet is not available except through vets, pet nutritionist’s, dog trainers and a select group of breeders, you need to use the order code.

I am proud and honored to have been selected as one of these few breeders that can offer NuVet.

*We hope you enjoy your new puppy and become lifelong friends! Repetition is key when it comes to training. Never give up! Contact us at any time if you have any questions regarding health, behavior, and training.*

*Raven and Derek Aydt*