

Read's

Australian Labradoodles

MEETING YOUR PUPPIES NEEDS

Your puppy now depends on you for everything – food, water, exercise, training, good health and hygiene. It is just as important to meet the needs of your puppy because a dog that does not have it's needs met or does not get enough exercise is going to get into trouble. You get what you put into your puppy! Some of those needs are listed below.

Basic Physiological Needs (food, water, sleep etc)

Your puppies will need to be fed three times a day from the time you bring your puppy home until about six months of age. Then you can start feeding twice a day. Your puppy should have access to water at all times of the day. Stopping water at an early age a few hours before bedtime will help your puppy to not need to potty during the night. Your puppy will need to nap very often throughout the day. This allows him to organize what he has learned and grow strong, as well enables him to behave.

Safety Physical and Emotional Safety

Some sort of containment or safety barrier is highly recommended for your puppy. This will aid in the success of house training your puppy. Some families use options like a play pen area, crate, baby gate in a small room (like a mud room, laundry room bathroom etc) along with tethering for training. A puppy does not need free reign of a room or the house and will excel with proper boundaries. Just as it is not wise but could be extremely dangerous to allow a baby or toddler to roam a room or home freely, the same for a puppy. Your puppy needs constant supervision if they are out of the play pen area or crate or not tethered to you for safety and to keep them out of trouble. Be proactive and set your puppy up for success.

Psychological Needs Your puppy will need affection, special time with your puppy, training and proper socialization.

Dogs need to be mentally stimulated. You can make sure you are properly mentally stimulating your dog by allowing him or her to work to earn resources, learning cues and self control through consistency and positive reinforcement training.

Physical Exercise

Although some dogs need more physical exercise than others and some dogs might need more mental exercise, all dogs need sufficient daily off leash exercise. Please make sure that your dog is in a safe environment.

Proper Training

It is best to start training your puppy immediately. It is easier to train your puppy early than to undo bad habits that were formed because training was delayed, then to try to teach your puppy what you expect. Puppies are so smart, eager to learn and want to please! Dogs are pack animals and are looking to you for leadership and guidance when they join your pack. It truly is amazing how much they can learn starting at 8 weeks old. It can be very exciting and rewarding when your pup learns something new! Some cues you can start with are “sit”, “down”, “stay”, “crate or house” and “go potty”. It is important to enroll your puppy in a puppy kindergarten class or puppy school. They will get to socialize, start learning self-control and begin on basic obedience tasks and many more benefits. Upon graduation, you can enroll your pup in a basic obedience class. Then you can certainly continue onto more advanced training. You can also get your dog certified as a Canine Good Citizen, you can learn more about that here:

<https://www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/what-is-canine-good-citizen/>

Potty Training

Depending on your bedtime schedule, it is best to remove food and water 2-3 hours before your bedtime to allow the puppy a greater chance of holding it all night. Your puppy’s bladder will not be fully developed until he or she reaches five months old. Therefore, as your pup gets older, they will be able to hold it longer. If you do have to take your puppy out at night, use caution not make this a play session. Keep it strictly “business” (as little talking and interaction as possible). Praise the potty behavior and put your puppy right back into the crate. These puppies are very bright and if they know that you will get up in the middle of the night to play, talk sweetly and love on them, they will start waking you for this extra special attention. Crate training is strongly suggested to use as a great tool to help aid you in potty training. Puppies will rarely potty where they sleep. If you cannot watch your puppy or it is naptime, tuck them into their crate. In the beginning you may need to place the crate right at the door or carry them right outside, as sometimes they squat after just a few steps! When your puppy has an accident, just clean it up thoroughly and move on. Try not to react. Rubbing their nose in it, yelling is not beneficial and is a complete waste of time, it actually is harmful to your puppy’s progress. In general, your pup will need to potty every 30 minutes as well as after a nap, vigorous play, exiting the crate and following meals Then you can build your time up as they are successful. When in doubt, just take your puppy out!

Socializing and Developmental Stages

It is imperative that your new puppy socializes with other people and pets in a safe manner. Try to steer clear of other unknown dogs and any areas populated by puppies and other dogs until your veterinarian has administered your puppy's vaccinations. Having your puppy around other people, dogs, new locations, in the car, stores that allow dogs etc. will create a much happier, well-socialized dog. You will be so proud and it will be a joy to take your pup with you on the go, and your puppy will enjoy and excel meeting new people and visiting new places. You should be cautious of Parvo, a highly contagious and very dangerous virus that can live in any environment for years and can be easily tracked into your own house on your shoes. It is a good idea to clean your house before your puppy comes home and keep your shoes at the door. It's best not to keep your puppy sheltered during these crucial developmental (first 16) weeks, just use caution and avoid areas with other dogs and that your pup keeps all four paws off the floor outside of the home. Brief and safe socializing is so important to the proper development of a puppy.

TRAINING MYTHS & FACTS

DOMINANCE

MYTH: We have to dominate our dogs and show them who's boss in order to get respect.

FACT: Science has proven that dominating a dog causes fear, distrust and breaks bonds between you and your dog...not respect

LEADERSHIP

MYTH: We have to be "alpha" in order to be a "pack leader".

FACT: True respect can't be demanded, it must be earned. Leading by example and controlling resources is far more effective and humane.

SOCIALIZATION

MYTH: You don't need to socialize your puppy until he or she is at least 16 weeks old.

FACT: Dogs that like new dogs and people are less likely to bite them and in turn less likely to be placed in a shelter or even put to death. Proper socialization is the number one key to survival and success. The younger the better.

CONTROL RESOURCES

MYTH: Dogs will challenge you for position or rank.

FACT: If you ignore demands and require your dog to earn or work for what he or she values there will be no challenge for resources.

CAUSE & EFFECT

MYTH: Dogs can experience the feelings of spite, guilt and even jealousy.

FACT: Dog's brains are not capable of these human emotions. Dogs live in the moment and experience the world through cause and effect associations.

CORRECTION & PUNISHMENT

MYTH: We must punish our dogs when they make a mistake or incorrect choice so they learn not to do it again.

FACT: Science has proven that punishment causes fear, anxiety, stress that actually can lead to aggression. If you teach and reward your puppy or dog for correct choices and reward them it actually strengthens the trust and bond between you and your puppy or dog.