



A Simple Guide to House-training your Puppy

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Housetraining - establish a back-to-kindergarten routine of taking puppy out of its kennel to empty itself at frequent intervals (train in cue words if wanted but be careful which words you choose!) lavish rewarding for performance, then ten minutes of play interaction (eg tug game, throw toy, chase ball) before returning pup to kennel. Objective is to get pup to eliminate as soon as it is out of the kennel, and it won't do this if it has to go straight back into the kennel after obliging. Or it can go into the house as a reward after emptying out. Beware the double-barrelled effect where they need to empty out again just after the first lot!

Pups should come into house as much as possible to interact with family/other dogs, but should be emptied out first and kept under supervision. While a male dog is going through the marking part of adolescence, he must only come in the house on a lead and under strict supervision, so that he gets no opportunity to mark. He will grow out of this so it's just a matter of not allowing the behaviour to establish.

Occupation

Pups need two walks a day, during which some training can be done. While time is always an issue, shorter walks individually are much more valuable than longer walks together as each pup will then bond with the human not the accompanying pup or dog.

Kennel environment enhancement (tired pups don't want to dig so much): save all cardboard inners from loo and kitchen rolls. Wrap a single tiny piece of food in newspaper and push into centre of tube. Stuff tube ends with more newspaper. Save all cardboard boxes and do the Russian doll thing with random tiny titbits wrapped up and hidden inside the boxes-in-boxes. Put a few pieces of biscuit in a plastic bottle and let the pup roll it around to get the food out. Stuff kongs with an assortment of titbits, add gravy and freeze - lasts for quite a while. Give large safe raw vegetables to chew up.

All this keeps pups occupied and tires them out, thus making them more amenable to training/being left.