



PUPPIES IN SHORT

Vibration collar and cue word. Yeah, I would never try and raise a puppy without a training collar. Sorry animal rights-ers. My puppy knows “No!”, “Stop!” “Nuh uh” “Drop It” and that’s about it. I use the vibration of the collar (which also has static shock) in *this* fashion: Behavior → “Stop!” (two, three) Button. *Consistently.* I don’t use it as discipline for *annoyances*. Just behavior that absolutely cannot continue into adulthood. I press the button pretty rarely then. Never hand the clicker to a kid.

Pick up slowly, two hands. People whisk puppies off the ground. Especially kids. It makes puppies jumpy and resist picking up. (Can’t catch him to pick him up). So, go under the belly *and* chest, and slow rise.

Never pick up by (or under) front arms, armpits. Self-explanatory. **NEVER**, ever, pick up a puppy under the arms.

Ignore bawling in crate. Never ever go to the dog while she’s making a racket. Try to anticipate the need to go out to potty and beat him to it. If they’re already bawling, let them settle down *then* go in and take them out. **NEVER** reward bawling in the crate. Notice how what *you* do could look like a reward.

No food within 3 hours of last walk of day. If you feed them in the evening they will have to void their dinner about 2 am. Ugh. My puppy’s last feeding is about 4pm.

No food or water in crate. Never. Ever. What a mess. Make the outdoors a pooping, playing, feeding, drinking destination. They don’t need water 100% of the time. They don’t have that in nature.

Adversity. Provide at least some. If your puppy gets everything they want, it will be spoiled and as an adult it will not be able to handle any difficulty. It will be a big baby. And all the more difficult for you to work with. Not a companion, more of a spoiled baby. Do **NOT** put the puppy’s crate in your bedroom at night and do not coddle a puppy. If it seems scared by something, your reaction should be off hand. Let a puppy figure stuff out.

Quality adult dogfood. I don’t know why they even sell puppy food. Skip it, and go straight to a **good quality** adult food. I like Nutro for one. Or Solid Gold. Slower growth gives better bones and cartilage. And a leaner puppy will have lower numbers of fat cells distributed throughout the body as an adult, which means a leaner dog later in life. For the toy breeds it’s a good idea to serially weigh the puppy on a postal scale (Staples.com) and *THEN* feed puppy food if weight gains are stalled.

Start a poop pile in a private spot. This is SO COOL. If you rake up some poops in the yard (any poops) and dump them behind a shrub within the purview of the puppy, it will approach that area and poop every time. Like a button has been pushed. Creatures of habit I say! I started my puppy’s pile with a mess of Atlas’s poops. And he’s a turtle. Puppies don’t care. They’re like Honey Badgers.

Face training – Okay this is gross. But it bonds you to the puppy like no other practice you will ever do. It’s the natural relationship of the mother to the puppy. Feed the puppy some food (deli turkey?) from your lips. This will train the puppy to be watchful of your face, which is awesome for training. And, it bonds the puppy to you like its mother. It will **ALSO** have your puppy trying to French-kiss your mother-in-law which can be pretty funny.



Name training. Put little Dixie Cups all over your house with tasty morsels in them. So that EVERY single time you say his name, whether in passing, directly, or just called out into the air, he gets a treat, immediately. After a couple days he runs to you, falling over stuff and drifting on the hardwoods, whenever you say his name. Thanks Pavlov!

Notice poops. A HUGE one. A puppy's overall health is easy to assess by way of its appetite, activity and poops. Formed not firm, brown not black. Normals. Even better if they're almost dry and segmented. But a dry segmented poop is not that common. Puppies eat too much, too often and that's okay.

Feeding outside. MY FAVORITE puppy technique. Whenever my puppy goes out, he has his access to water, and a pile of his food. I don't encourage anything. He eats and

drinks if he wants. I pretend not to notice. I don't have water or food in the crate or around the house. I only feed or water indoors if I have to.

The curse of constant contact. If your puppy never faces the "adversity" of being away from you, she will go nuts the first time it happens. I put my puppy in his crate and go somewhere else in the house and I don't mind if he can hear me. NEVER put the crate in your bed room. He can make a racket to a point then I say STOP! And give the collar a vibration/reminder. He quiets down. He learns that I can be away from him and to accept it.

Soothe the baby. Indoors is always CALM time. The way you speak with, play with and handle the puppy is as you would an upset child. Soothingly. Softly. Not excitedly. No grabbing! But outside, everything is the same but rambunctiousness and running around is encouraged. Outside is the place for you and the puppy to be the idiots you want to be, and truly are.

Nose flick but how? NEVER let him mouth or nibble your hands. It's not a game and NIP IT IN THE BUD. A lip pinch, flick of the nose, vibration of the collar, holding his muzzle *very* tightly, all make the mouthing-behavior quite unrewarding. And he will stop. He will mouth anyone that does not hold that precious, firm line. Everyone has to help.

No hand play. People around you, (and you) will want to play with your puppy using your hands as toys, decoys, things to chase.. NEVER do that, and never let anyone else spar with your puppy with their hands. It's not funny. And it can ruin your dog. Heck, use a flatulent sounding rubber pig or something to toy with your dog. Not your hands.

Make friends with Rawhide rolls. Puppies chew on absolutely everything. So why not make it YOUR choice what he chews on? Get a Rawhide Retriever Roll. It's not a brand, it's a thing.. They look like a rolled up newspaper made of blonde (non-dyed) rawhide. The thicker the better. Look at the roll "end-on" to see how thick the raw hide is. If rawhides aren't your 'jam' then another great, desirable dental / oral exercise is a big, baked, American-origin "**Knucklebone**" about 5\$ from Walmart or Target. Any puppy can chew on any size. It's ridiculous.