

Teaching Your New Pup to be a Good House Citizen

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The easiest way to teach your pup to become a good house citizen is to not allow him the opportunity to learn he can be a bad one.

Well you have a new puppy. Your work is just starting; you have a lot of things to teach him. Before you bring the puppy home there are items you need to purchase and have in place. (Also see my article "[Starting Your Pup Out on the Right Paw](#)".) These include:

- ◆ A nylon puppy collar with a ring on it to attach the lead to
- ◆ Six foot nylon dog lead
- ◆ Whistles
- ◆ Jingle bells put in a sock and tied in a knot, hanging from a string attached to the handle of the door that will be used to take the pup outside.
- ◆ A dog bed or blanket, get one that will be big enough to use when the dog grows up.
- ◆ Puppy treats
- ◆ Toys, soft plush type, nylon-bones vinyl toys, squeak type sterilized hollow bone

I have always been amazed at how hard people make it for themselves and the new puppy when they bring him home. There really is a way to make it easy on the whole family. You need to establish house rules for the pup from the minute you bring him or her into the house.

I have a new pup he is seven weeks old. He has just left the litter today and is spending his first day in his new home with me. First thing he had this morning was his bath, then I put his new collar on him. If I am sitting in my chair, I have his dog bed (blanket) next to my chair. I have the handle of the lead attached to my chair and the snap attached to the pup's collar. If I leave the area the pup lead is taken off the chair and he goes where I go. If I left him attached to the chair while I was gone from the room he could start chewing the chair. Remember the new puppy is just like a small child. Pup needs to be kept out of trouble or worst yet he could get into something that is dangerous for him. By having him in sight, where I am I can tell that when he wakes up he needs to be taken outside, even if he had been out 20 minutes before. Each and every time he wakes up take him pick him up, tell him let's go be a good dog, make it a habit, to swing the bells as you take him out the door. Later when he is bigger and has a good start on this house breaking process you can have him follow you outside. But for now we want to pick him up to be sure that he does not go potty before you get him outside. When he is a bit older and is

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off of his lead he will go to the door and use the bells to alert me to his need to go outside. I have my whistles on me; I have them on a string around my neck. I also have puppy treats in my pocket. I take my pup to the spot that I want him to use. He leans now that this is where he needs to go and do his business. When he has done his business I tell him good puppy. I then run away from him towards the house and use my whistles giving a toot, toot, toot, he thinks this is a great game and will chase me, I slow down and let him get to me and reach down and pet him, giving him a treat and telling him what a great pup he is. In a day you can have him coming to the sound of your whistle. I use the treats to reinforce good behavior. He has learned that it is good to go to me, there are so many little things you can do to teach a pup simple obedience. Remember to use lots of praise.

My pup soon learns that there are certain areas where he can be. As I am writing this he is attached to the leg of my computer chair on his dog bed with his toy next to him. He learns that being next to people is a good thing. He relaxes and goes to sleep. No barking or chewing, if he did do that I would correct him by telling him no noise or quiet. If he tried chewing, I would put my hand around his mouth and gently squeeze his gums into his teeth telling him no.

When I get ready to go somewhere I put the pup in his puppy kennel along with a hollow bone that is filled with peanut butter. I kept this in the freezer in a zip lock bag and have it ready for him. He loves his treat and it keeps him busy till I return.

When it is time for the family to go to bed at night I put the pup in his crate. I do not give him a treat it is time to go to sleep. I have his crate sitting on a chair next to my bed, he can see me and feels secure. I can hear him when he gets restless and take him outside. The best way for him to learn to be clean in his kennel is for me not to allow him to learn that he can't be.

In a matter of a few days if I am consistent he is sleeping all night and has learned to be clean in his kennel and has adjusted his schedule to mine.

I have been using this system with all of my pups over the years and find it so easy. The pup learns to be in different areas of the house but not by themselves. They soon learn that where their bed and toys are is where they should be. it is their place. When he is older and has a real good start on being house trained, the lead is not used but the blanket is. If I am busy getting dinner ready in the kitchen, his dog bed is there. So is the dog.

Good luck with your new puppy.