OSBORNE FAMILY
RETRIEVERS
est. 2018

PUPPY HANDBOOK

Osborne Family Retrievers • 6773 Township Road 55 • Alger, OH 45812 • osbornefamilyretrievers.com

CARING FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY

We'll start with the most unpleasant things first.

Unfortunately, parasites in pups are extremely common.
It is estimated that 95% of pups have parasites. Even when the mother has been on a perfect parasite prevention regimen her whole life, there are dormant parasites in her tissue that **will** be passed to her puppies, no matter what. Therefore, we deworm our puppies weekly from 2-10 weeks old. However, parasite eggs are literally everywhere, and the stress inherent in moving to their new home can make the puppies' little systems vulnerable.

After a lot of thought and experience, we recommend the following protocol to minimize the activation of dormant parasites:

1. **Keep the house completely calm and stress-free for 5-7 days.** No new visitors, limited commotion, etc. Treat them like a newborn baby coming home. **When you come home or have visitors stop by, please keep all shoes at the door.** Parvovirus, which can be deadly, can be brought inside your home on shoes that have walked through any infected area. Once your puppy has received all of his/her vaccinations, you'll have no worries.
2. **Add a good probiotic to their food for 3-5 days.** We recommend **Purina FortiFlora**, which we include in your puppy basket you receive when you pick up your puppy. It is available from chewy.com and a good item to keep on hand for your puppy.
3. **This puppy was raised on well water.** They will need to be given bottled water to drink the first three days and then transitioned to city water, if that's the water you will be giving him/her regularly.
4. **Do not feed ANY treats for the first few weeks.** Just use kibble as treats until they're well-established in your home. Upset tummies are a perfect environment for parasites.
5. If you see a mushy bowel movement, understand that it is common with stress. If there's no improvement within a day or two, **feed only boiled hamburger (or boiled chicken) and white rice 50/50 for 3-5 days if you see loose stools.** You can also add in a little **canned pumpkin** (**not pumpkin pie filling, which has other ingredients**). A bland diet can be very helpful during a tough transition. After three days, if stools are firm, then SLOWLY add in dog food to the bland diet, increasing the dog food ratio over the next 9 days as listed under the section "Puppy Feeding". You can make large batches of the boiled hamburger/chicken and rice at one time and put the mixture in the refrigerator, or even freeze prior to the puppy coming home.
6. **Don't wake the "sleeping baby".** Puppies sleep an incredible amount of time. Do not worry. As long as your pup wakes up with puppy energy, silliness, eats well, and drinks well, then all is good!

WHEN TO WORRY:

1. Bowel movement (BM) contains mucus or blood. If this happens, feed a bland diet for 24 hours and if the condition remains after this time period, a fecal test from your veterinarian might be in order.
2. Puppy is lethargic, does not play with any vigor and/or refuses to eat.
3. Puppy cannot have a BM and vomits. This can indicate he or she ate something and has a blockage. This is an emergency. Seek immediate veterinary care.
4. BM is liquid. Be careful. A puppy can dehydrate quickly, so immediately add puppy-safe electrolytes to their water. If BM does not improve quickly, then a visit to the veterinarian will be needed.

The above list is not meant to cause you to be anxious about your puppy or caring for your puppy when you get him/her home. It is simply a checklist of sorts to help you know when to take action and what to do before you seek immediate medical attention. Relax, take a breath — this has not been a problem with any of our puppies thus far. But being prepared and knowing what to look for is always a good plan.

"ALL FOUR OFF THE FLOOR"

If all of your puppy's vaccines have not been given, do not let your puppy on the ground/floor anywhere but your property or places where you know no other dogs have been — even a vaccinated dog can walk through an infected area and spread it.

PET INSURANCE

Because of the above-mentioned possibilities and any other unexpected events, we highly recommend **Trupanion Medical Insurance** for your pet. We have a code to give you 30 days of complimentary coverage through Trupanion, after you pay the deductible. This information will be shared with you through email or the Good Dog app after your deposit has been received.

With all the accidental things a new puppy can go through, even with the best care and supervision, pet insurance is certainly worth your consideration. You are welcome to shop around and choose a different plan, but Trupanion is the one we prefer for several reasons. If you'd like to know why, please ask!

Trupanion must be activated 24 hours BEFORE taking possession of your pup, through 24 hours AFTER taking possession of your pup. Since time flies so quickly after you pick up your puppy (or your puppy is delivered to you), we suggest you activate your insurance the day BEFORE you come to get your little darlin' or the day before delivery if you have arranged for transportation. This way it is done and you have nothing to worry about.

VETERINARY CARE

AS SOON AS YOU MAKE YOUR DEPOSIT, IF YOU KNOW YOUR "GO-HOME DAY", CALL TO SCHEDULE A WELL-CHECK VISIT WITH YOUR VET. Make your appointment for no later than 48 hours after you return home. If we didn't discuss your Go-Home Day during our phone interview, please message us and we'll take care of that!

Vaccination records will be given to you when you pick up your puppy or mailed/hand delivered if we are shipping your puppy. Take these with you to the vet and he/she will have all the information they need to care for your puppy and make proper recommendations for his/her care going forward.

We strongly encourage you not to spay or neuter your puppy any sooner than 18-24 months. After we receive your deposit (if you decide to purchase one of our puppies) we will be mailing you information on this and the proper exercise for your pup as he/she grows.

REMEMBER: Do not let your puppy out of your arms or your crate while at the vet's office unless you have put down a pad or blanket, or you've seen the surface sanitized in front of you. As with human doctors, the vet's office is where sick animals go. Don't risk your puppy getting an illness from the floor where an infected puppy has been.

PUPPY FEEDING

At 10 weeks your puppy will be accustomed to eating half a cup of kibble covered with a cup of water twice a day, plus one or two training sessions where he'll be earning more kibble as treats, and another cup of water in the middle of the day. Covering his meals with water eliminates the need for a slow feeder bowl, greatly helps the potty training process, and helps him not to notice if your water tastes much different than ours. Giving him free access throughout the day is not advised.

We recommend you purchase one large bag of Inukshuk 26/16 Professional Dog Food and follow the guidelines on the bag that correlates with your pup's weight and age, but keep in mind that it will give the daily amount, so you'll need to divide it between the two meals and any training sessions.

As we discussed on the phone, their food is the only constant that will remain in their life after leaving the only home they have ever known. Please allow them to stay on Inukshuk at least through the first bag you purchase. After that, if you'd like to switch to another **quality** dog food (see page 5, section 7 in our contract for recommendations) that is perfectly fine.

How to switch foods:
1/4 new food to 3/4 Inukshuk for 3 days
1/2 new food to 1/2 Inukshuk for 3 days
3/4 new food to 1/4 Inukshuk for 3 days
Begin straight new food after 9 days.

THE #1 RULE OF PUPPY TRAINING
DO NOT GIVE THEM ANY FREEDOM

Puppies make bad choices — they're basically teeth on feet. You need to have complete control over all their behavioral options at all times. If you give them any unsupervised liberty at all, they will make mistakes, and you'll end up having to take those liberties away anyway. Only now, the puppy knows what he's missing out on, and will try to exercise those liberties anyway, requiring even greater consistency on your part to prevent him from doing so. So you will both be frustrated, and at least a few degrees less pleased with each other overall.

Save yourself that headache.

Get your puppy on a schedule, and stick to it like she's a newborn baby.
Almost any schedule you can follow consistently is a good schedule, but here are some pointers to keep in mind, and there's a sample schedule on the back end of this handbook to get you started.

1. **Follow the Rule of Three**
   Your puppy should only ever be in one of three places at any given time:
   1. Attached to you via a leash
   2. In her crate
   3. In a small, enclosed area, with 100% of your attention

   Make sure all the slots on her schedule fall in one of these categories.

2. **Don't Skimp on Crate Time**
   Many people are afraid of their puppy "spending too much time in the crate." This is almost impossible for a responsible puppy owner to do. Puppies need to sleep 18 - 20 hours a day. As long as you're keeping her bladder size in the forefront of your mind, the crate should be your best friend, and you should not feel guilty about giving her time in it to relax, decompress, and most importantly, sleep.

3. **Embrace Tether Time**
   It will take a few days for the two of you to find a rhythm with each other, and you may feel a little silly in the meantime, but you will be a natural part of each other's lives before you know it. You will still absolutely want to have at least one official "training session" every day as per Work Your Pack's instruction, but this is a fabulous use of all the rest of the puppy's wake time to both wear her out, and teach her the rhythms of the house, while still allowing you to get some things done.

If you're following these principles, you can't go too far wrong. Lay a solid foundation of consistent standards early on, and the rest of your life together will be beautiful.

POTTY TRAINING

Depending on your bedtime schedule, plan the puppy's meal times 3-4 hours before your bedtime to allow for at least two potty trips beforehand. Remember that your dog's bladder will not be fully developed until he or she reaches five months old. If you hear them wake up in the night, even (and especially) if they don't cry, go ahead and take them to the potty, but do not make this a play session. Be matter-of-fact (as little talking as possible) and get down to business. Praise the potty behavior and go right back to the crate. If they know that you will get up in the middle of the night to play, sweet-talk, and love on them, they will start waking you for this attention alone.

When you bring your puppy home, put her into an appropriate sized crate (not too large, just enough room to turn around and lay down) anytime you cannot give her your full attention. Try to make it a habit not to leave her in there for more than two hours at a time until after she's had two or three potty breaks since breakfast.

When it is time to go out, place the kennel by the door and let the puppy walk him or herself out. In the beginning, you may need to place the kennel right at the door, sometimes they squat just after a few steps. Over time, you can move the kennel farther and farther away from the door. While puppies understand the concept of a den vs. an elimination area, you are bringing them to a new "den" and you will have to show your new puppy the ropes.

While the puppies were young, we carefully nurtured and encouraged their instinctive desire to seek out an appropriate place to go, they just need to be taught where that place is, so it's a good idea to incorporate lots and **lots** of trips to the potty area into the first several days after bringing them home. You want your puppy to have many well-worn paths to the potty in his mind as soon as possible.

When your puppy has an accident, just clean it up thoroughly (using an enzymatic cleaner) and move on. Only clap your hands and scold vocally IF you catch the pup going potty, and even then, your primary concern should be getting the puppy to the proper potty area as quickly as possible to increase the association. Rubbing their nose in it, etc., is a complete waste of time, and may result in their being reluctant to eliminate around you at all, which will make potty time much more frustrating for all parties.

In general, your puppy will need to potty after:

- A nap
- Vigorous play
- Exiting the crate
- Within 30 minutes following meals — some always go immediately after eating.

When in doubt, take them out! Again, if you can't fully focus on your puppy, please allow them to enjoy their crate.

There's a more in-depth guide to potty training in the resources at the back of this handbook.

CRATE TRAINING

Crate training is covered in the video series from "Work Your Pack" which is included with the purchase price of your puppy. We will send you the coupon code and necessary information two weeks before your pickup date. We ask that you binge watch the entire series over the two weeks before you take possession of your little darlin'. That way you are fully prepared as soon as you arrive home!

In the meantime, here is some basic information on crate training.

Dogs are den animals and enjoy retiring to small, dark places. The cost of a crate may initially seem expensive, but when you compare it to the cost of ruined rugs and/or chewed up furniture, it is well worth the investment. There are many different crates, but we recommend a 32" airline crate initially, and then purchase an adult crate later on. The crate needs to be large enough for them to walk into, turn around and lay down. You should refrain from giving your puppy a full-sized crate in the beginning, because you don't want them to have enough space to have both a "sleep" and a "potty" area inside the crate.

Crate training can make potty training easier, gives you and your puppy a few breaks throughout the day, and helps keep your puppy safe when you can't watch him or her. Periodically change the toy(s) inside the crate to give your puppy something new to look forward to when he/she enters. At 10 weeks, Ears are perfect for this until they get old enough to eat them quickly, but Kongs, Purina Busy Bones, Benebones, etc. are all great options. Use a washable bed in their crate to make cleanup as quick and easy as possible.

Even though we expose puppies to crates early on, they have free access in and out of them. Once you close the door, protest will occur. You will need to ignore the whimpering, crying, and possibly outright screaming (as long as everything is actually okay). If you let them out, you are teaching them that screaming will get them out. If you "console" them, you are telling them something is genuinely wrong. Both responses from you will make this process very difficult. You cannot enable this behavior if you do not want it to persist into the future.

First, make sure they're tired beforehand. Wait for them to be quiet, then make frequent visits to give them a treat through the door, and quietly leave again. Initially, be very quick to deliver the treat before they get excited, then gradually stay in the room slightly longer before giving the treat. The goal is to reward and extend calm behavior, so be very quiet and calm until you let the puppy out.

WorkYourPack.com offers a free mini-course on crate training which will give you a good understanding of the process, but one massive tip we would leave you with is to **never allow your puppy to sleep anywhere except in the crate,** until you're confident they have no problem being there anymore. As wonderful as it is to have a sleeping puppy on your lap or at your feet, waiting until you and your puppy have mastered these essential basics will be more than worth it. Generally, the crying and protesting only lasts about three days. So stick with it and it will pay off!

OBEDIENCE TRAINING & MENTAL STIMULATION

The first six months of a puppy's life are critical to developing the dog you want to live with for the rest of your life. Puppies and dogs need mental stimulation as well as physical exercise. A dog's brain uses 40% of his energy, so keeping his mind active and challenged is imperative to keeping a happy, contented puppy.

Hopefully, you will make time to watch "Work Your Pack" from start to finish in preparation for bringing your puppy home. But for the first few days, just establish a routine, and spend as much time hanging out with and observing them as possible. Labs are smart, eager to learn, and want to please, but they each have their own personalities. Your training efforts will be much more successful if you've built a rapport and begun an understanding with your pup right away.

After you have mastered the skills in the "Work Your Pack" series, continue with any ongoing training you and your dog can do together. Whether it's more classes in "Work Your Pack", in-person lessons locally, or other online classes, further training makes you and your pup a better team and will pay off in rich dividends for the rest of your lives together.

On days when you don't have time for a full training session, you'll find it very helpful to have a few food-dispensing toys and boredom busters on hand so that he gets his mental stimulation for the day without looking for trouble. Pinterest and Chewy are full of ideas and products, and you can't go wrong with a stuffed Kong, which comes with a ton of tips and tricks for all of this.

SOCIALIZING AND DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES

It is imperative that your new dog socializes with other people and pets in a safe, fun manner. Try to steer clear of other dogs and any areas populated by puppies and other dogs until after your veterinarian has administered all of your dog's vaccinations. But once those precautions are in place, having your puppy around other people, dogs, new locations, in the car, etc., will create a much happier, well-socialized dog in the long run. You will be so proud to take your pup with you anywhere you go and he/she will enjoy meting new people and visiting new places.

However, you must be cautious of Parvovirus, 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. We suggest you clean your house before your puppy comes home, keep your shoes at the door and employ the **"all four off the floor"** mantra when you take your puppy outside your home until he or she receives their complete vaccinations. Do not keep your puppy completely sheltered during these precious developmental weeks, just make sure that you 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.

The first 16 weeks of a puppy's life are a critical socialization window, just be sure to utilize them at a slow and steady pace.

THE ZOOMIES

FRAP (Frenetic Random Activity Periods) is the technical term for what is called the "puppy crazies" or sometimes referred to as the "Zoomies". These crazy sessions typically occur approximately two to three times a day. This is when your well-mannered puppy goes absolutely nuts! He/she will run around, jump on the furniture, spin in circles, bark, and quite honestly act like they have gone off the deep end. And the crazy thing is… this is totally normal! The good news is that these periods of high energy only last a few minutes and your dog will grow out of them. With that being said, this is a time when young children need to be picked up and placed in a safe location.

Working through the training sessions several times a day with your puppy will greatly (if not completely) lessen/eliminate the Zoomies. Taking him/her outside regularly for potty breaks and playing with a special toy will also wear them out nicely. Puppies, like toddlers, are susceptible to over-stimulation and need their play sessions to be tempered by adult guidance, followed by frequent naps.

Of all the puppies we have had over the years from birth to age two, very few of them have ever indulged in zoomies of any kind. However, it's good to know what is happening if you should encounter this, and how to work to eliminate or lessen it for your family.

AKC REGISTRATION

Your puppy will have his/her litter registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) when appropriate. We have one non-registered dam (MayBelle). Any litters from her will be unregistered. We will also register him/her with their individual registration number for you.

We also microchip all our puppies with AKC Reunite, whether or not they are registered. There is no additional charge or recurring annual fees for any of these services. The fees are covered for the lifetime of your pet.

DEPOSIT & PAYMENT

Deposits for all puppies are $500, which is deducted from the total price. All deposits are non-refundable. Registered puppies are $3,400.00. Non-Registered puppies are $2,800.

The balance of your payment is paid on "Go-Home" Day. All puppy payments are made through the Good Dog app, unless your **original contact** with us was **NOT** through Good Dog. If you contacted us through our website, owner referral, previous sale, etc, you may pay the balance by Cash, Cash App, Apple Pay, Venmo, or Good Dog, when you come to pick up your puppy.

Payment deadlines for transportation fees, and the final payment if using transportation, will be noted on the transportation contract you will sign that we will mail you through DocuSign.

SAMPLE PUPPY SCHEDULE

This is for a household with school-age children and at least one parent at home.
Modify as needed for your household.

6:00 Take him to potty as soon as you wake him up
Small dish of water
Let him run around in the yard for a few minutes
Breakfast — Ideally, he should work for it in some way:
Training session
Scattered in grass (if you can supervise)
Snuffle mat
Slow bowl
Kong (in crate)
Scattered in his crate
Etc.

6:30 Potty and nap in crate
7:30 Potty and back to crate

9:00 Potty, small dish of water, and tether time (remember potty breaks)
Tether time is just him following you around the house on your waist.
The most attention he should get from you is to reward calm, content behavior.
Just remember to do so calmly.

10:00 Potty and nap in crate
1:00 Potty, small dish of water, and tether time (remember potty breaks)

2:30 Potty and crate time
If possible, take him in his crate to pick up the kids from school.

3:30 Potty and let him run in the yard for a few minutes
3:45 Potty and crate time while everyone settles in for the evening.
5:00 Potty and back to crate

6:00 Potty and small dish of water
Supper with training session — if you only get one in the day, this is the time.
In a week or two, when everyone's more comfortable,
try letting the kids feed him by hand, if they can do so calmly,
with no timid jerking away or anything like that.

6:30 Potty and tether time until bed.
Remember potty breaks!

10 Step Puppy Handling Exercise

This exercise is to improve your pup's ability to handle different types of touch, handling and sensation. It can be performed in ANY order. Do not put your puppy down if they are agitated or upset. If they are displaying resistance, stop until the puppy calms and then resume! Reward with positive praise and snuggles when done!

1. Rub and gently tug on their ears
2. Cover their eyes for 3-5 seconds
3. Open their mouth, inspect their teeth and place your finger inside of their mouth. You can rub their tongue and gums. We also always watch teeth to ensure they are coming in correctly. Every once in a while, issues with tooth eruption do occur.
4. Rub their belly and chest in a wide circular motion.
5. Run your hand up their back (from tail to head) a few times to ruffle their fur. Also practice "heavy petting" - patting your pup's back like you are burping a baby
6. Gently tug and twist their tail.
7. Rub your fingers in between all of their pads on their paws
8. Tap on the tip of their nails
9. Put your hands on their collar and apply a slight tug or pressure
10. Touch their nose!

This is an excellent time to check the puppy over from head to foot each day ensuring everything is forming correctly and the pup's conformation looks and feels good. We use our hands and fingers as a way to explore and touch every part of them. You can be standing (elevation work) or sitting - try both! Don't always perform the "puppy massage" in the same room at the same time. As pups age, it helps to do this exercise when they are sleepy - after a solid play session is a great time. It is also CRUCIAL to have others do the massage as well. You want your dog to be tolerant to touch by friends, strangers, kids, the elderly, veterinarians, groomers etc.

We have been doing this daily, beginning at 2 weeks. It's a great practice to continue for many reasons, at least until the puppy is a few months old, and it should be something you both enjoy — your puppy certainly will.

Potty Training Your New Puppy:
Take Responsibility and Guide the Process

- Keep the dog in a crate in a quiet, safe place when you are not home or not able to closely supervise the pup. A crate just large enough that the pup can lie down and stand up fully is ideal. You want the pup to have just enough room to lie down and turn around, but not enough room for it to soil one area of the crate then lay in the non-soiled area. This prevents accidents and makes the process quicker and smoother. You don't want to allow the pup to develop the habit of soiling in the crate. It can be a very difficult issue to correct if they get used to being that close to their messes. You are trying to help the pup develop control.

- Scheduled food and water are very important for crate and house training. Give water whenever you can, but not in the crate and not right before the dog is going to have to wait in the crate for a long period, such as before bed time. Do no allow your puppy to have unrestricted access to the water bowl. We want to be sure we're aware of when and how much the puppy is drinking so we have an idea how soon they'll need to go out. One of the most beneficial practices we have found is to ***stop offering water at least three hours before bed time***. During the day, allow for monitored access to water. If your pup drinks an entire bowl of water and fills his belly up, he will need to go out every 15 minutes for the next couple of hours. So don't let them tank up on water in the morning and then head off to work. They'll never make it. Feed at least twice a day and be careful to keep the feedings to a routine schedule, preferably first thing in the morning and right after you get home from work or early evening. Ideally, the ***last feeding should be about 5 hours before bed time***. Modify this, of course, if your vet recommends it for your puppy's health or your lifestyle situation. You will find that your pup will adjust to and enjoy the routine and will begin to develop control around the routine.

- When you are able to watch the pup, keep him in the same room with you at all times. If you are not able to watch him, keep him in a crate. One of the most common errors is giving the pup too much freedom, allowing the pup to have accidents without your knowledge. Prevent them from ever learning this by controlling their space and getting them on a solid routine. Anticipate the pup needing to relieve himself and take him outside to a specific spot, frequently at first. Be sure and pick the younger pup up as it comes out of the crate and carry it to the door leading outside and say the command "outside" as you near the door. They will

begin associating going to the door with relieving themselves outside. A good starting point would be every 30 minutes or so. As your puppy progresses, begin to extend the time between taking the pup out to 45 minutes, then 1 hour , 1-1/2 hours, etc., until the pup can go 3-4 hours between trips outside. Take your time and try not to advance to the point of causing accidents in the house. Once you get to the 3-4 hour range, then your pup will have made the association and will be able to be left inside for extended periods of time.

- If you see pup start to have an accident say, "No, outside" at the very same time you scoop up the puppy and run outside. For a dog you cannot carry, use a leash. Never punish a dog for this. Although it is tempting to punish, it does not work for house training, and you can cause major complications.

- When you are outside in the right place for the pup to relieve, use a phrase such as "go potty" as the puppy exhibits behavior that indicates they are about to relieve. This is only used at the time and the place where you want pup to go. Never say it before you take the puppy outside. Only use the word "outside" in the house.

- When pup relieves outside, praise generously. Good Boy! or Good Girl! Using a pleasant tone along with a nice pat on the head or rubbing under his neck or behind his ears will do wonders. If pup likes to play outside, allow a little playtime after he relieves himself. Some have had success using a treat as a reward following the pup relieving himself in the proper place. If your puppy wants to get right back inside after relieving, reward the pup by going right back inside. A common frustration is "We were outside for 20 minutes and nothing happened, then we came back inside and he went on my rug!" ***If a puppy didn't go outside, he should be placed back in his crate when you bring him in. Then try again in 15 minutes.*** Sometimes they get too interested in playing or exploring that they forget to go. Once they are inside and more relaxed they will feel the pressure on their bladder and need to go.

- When you repeat this process consistently, you will find it only takes a few weeks to help your puppy develop enough control to be crate trained. The goal is to condition the pup to go outside by preventing accidents inside and rewarding him for relieving himself outside. Crate training is the foundation for house training your puppy.

A Couple of Things to Consider for House Training

Puppies will tend to see your house as a very large area. Relieving in the corner of a quiet room can appeal to a young pup's instincts to go somewhere far enough away from the pack. It is important to expand your young pup's freedom in the house very slowly. We recommend using a small puppy play area set up in the family room or an area adjacent to a family area where a close, watchful eye can help ensure that you continue to anticipate the pup's need to relieve himself. For safety purposes, we use puppy training pads under a blanket or quilt of some sort that we place the puppy play pen on. We use the play pen as a transition area when we are home. We do not want the pup to have full freedom in the house before it is time because it often leads to accidents. The puppy play pen helps transition the pup from the crate to a position of more freedom in the house. It's important that you still use the crate at this point for nighttime and extended times during the day, especially when you are not home to supervise your puppy. An important thing to note is that any mistakes that you do not see happen should not be corrected. Simply clean the area as if it never happened. Correcting the pup in this instance can cause the pup to become confused because they do not know why you are correcting them. The best plan is to stay on top of and prevent mistakes as much as possible.

One thing that often confuses people is that their puppy can hold it for 8 hours during the night or when they are away at work, so they assume that 8 hours is reasonable to ask of the dog at other times, too. However, during sleep, the body quiets the bladder and bowels, which allows for a longer period of rest time. When you're gone, the dog likely sleeps a lot, too, considering puppies sleep about 18 hours a day. In addition to the routine establishment throughout the course of a day, take your puppy out at least twice in the morning before you leave for work, and do the same in the evening before bedtime. ***It is important to remember that puppies are generally not mature enough for full bladder and bowel control until at least 16 weeks of age. Be patient and take this time to develop a great relationship with your puppy.***

How to Handle Accidents

Every time pup has an accident in the house, it confuses the puppy. Prevention is the best remedy. Therefore, you need to supervise or confine your pup 100% of the time. If you find an accident the puppy has had in the house that you did not see happen, that is more your mistake than the puppy's. Obviously, never punish your dog for this.

Before using any other cleaning agents, treat the spot deeply and thoroughly with a bacterial enzyme odor eliminating product such as Nature's Miracle (available at pet stores). Nothing else

has been proven to really work at getting rid of the scent. If you don't get rid of the scent, it will draw the dog's instincts to use that spot again. It is important to use the bacterial enzyme cleaning product before any other products because other cleaning agents may clean the mess up, but it will not destroy the odor. Odor elimination is important to help your pup achieve success.

Common Challenges and Solutions

When bringing a new pup into the family it can be difficult for everyone to be on the same page. While you may be completely serious about the success of your pup in the area of crate training and house breaking, it may seem that some of your family members are blinded by the pup's cuteness. This can lead to one missing the warning signs of a potty accident and a set back on the pup's progress. It is a good idea to sit down with the family and make sure that everyone is on the same page and that everyone is following the exact routine that you are.

Challenging schedules involving work can be a road block for success with house breaking. Depending on your work schedule, you may have to adapt to gain success with your pup on preventing accidents. If you work an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job, it is advised to take the necessary precautions to be as successful as possible. If you can, have a family member let the pup out at scheduled times throughout the day when first starting the crate training process. If that is not an option, be sure to limit the pups water intake before going to work. Also, be sure to wake up early enough to allow him to relieve himself a couple of times before you leave for work.

Pups tend to whine at first when they are put in the crate. They normally have two different type of whines. The "I want get out and play!" whine and the "I need to go potty!" whine. It is relatively easy to decipher the difference between the two. Typically, a pup whines so that you will let them out as soon as you put them up. He may even whine 15 minutes later. That is a time to let your pup quiet down and relax. Letting them out at this time is a bad idea because it will reinforce the idea that the pup can whine and be let out. Now, if your pup is quiet at first but decides to whine 30 minutes later, it is a good indication that you should let him out to go potty. As the crate training process continues, your pup should learn to go into the crate with minimal whining.

One of the common errors we see is not teaching the pup to go into their crate on command and not teaching patience when the door is opened. This can lead to many issues later, including containment anxiety, which is not fun for the dog or the owner. It is important to exercise

patience when teaching the pup to crate. We recommend using treats to reward the puppy for going into the crate and for waiting patiently to exit the crate on command.

Finally, as your pup begins to become proficient in crate training, it should learn to love the crate. The crate is your dog's safe place where no one will mess with him. Some may worry that a pup is not happy when he is in his crate. The truth is, the pup will learn to love its crate just as we love our rooms. When we are tired and need rest or if we just need some quiet time, our room is a great place to go. The same is true for the pup and his crate. Having a set schedule and giving your pup structure will enable it to flourish into a confident dog who can be a trusted member of your family.

This handout has been adapted from the Cornerstone Gun Dog Academy handout on successfully house training your puppy.