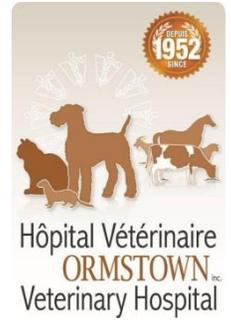


AFTER GETTING YOUR PUPPY

1 of 18



Behaviour tips when you bring home your puppy

- As a family, decide on a set of house rules that **all family members** will follow with the puppy. Decide what the dog will and won't be allowed to do. Set boundaries and enforce them right away. Even though the dog is only a puppy, do not allow him to do things he won't be allowed to do as an adult (for example: sleeping on the couch).
- Be consistent.
- **Encourage** the behaviours that you want the dog to keep and **ignore** those that you are not fond of.
- Interact with your puppy on a one-to-one basis every day by playing games with him, teaching him skills and handling him.

 Exercise and play is a must for every puppy.



SOCIALISATION

🔗 Socialization period (or sensitive period)

2 of 18

- Dogs are not born friendly to people. They must learn this. The socialisation period / sensitive period takes place between about **3 and 12 weeks of age**. During this period puppies must be exposed to many different people, animals, places and things. Their experiences must be positive.



- At this stage puppies will try to decide if something or someone new is a friend or foe.

🔗 Juvenile Period

- Starting from about twelve weeks of age puppies start avoiding animals, types of people or objects that they have never met before.
- From this moment until about the age of one year, the puppy's character is still very malleable (especially between 12 and 16 weeks).
- During this period the puppy learns more about what the world is like, how to deal with it and what strategies work best when coping with the unexpected.

🔗 What does this mean to owners?

- It is very important to pick a puppy that has already been exposed to humans (and other things) as much as possible.
- Try to expose your puppy to as many different types of people, animals and things before the age of 16 weeks. These meetings must be positive for the puppy.



- Ex.: Studies show that puppies exposed to fireworks during the socialization period or the first few weeks of the juvenile period tend to not become fearful of loud bangs.

🔗 Teach your puppy to enjoy being with people

3 of 18

- Men, women, children, the elderly;
- Different races if possible;
- People with different personalities;
- Encourage the people to offer the puppy tasty treats or to play with him.



🔗 Teach your puppy to enjoy being handled

- Practice hugging and restraining your puppy;
- Practice manipulating his ears, his paws, his lips etc.;
- Get strangers to also practice handling him once he is comfortable with them.

Toys and Chewing

🔗 Toys

- Puppies love to chew things;
- If there are no toys available, they will chew furniture or other inappropriate things;
- Select a variety of toys for your puppy and determine which types he prefers;
- Rotate the toys every few days to keep things interesting.



🔗 Which toys are recommended ?

- The most practical types are pressed rawhide, nylon or durable rubber toys;
- Chew toys that you can stuff are ideal as are interactive puzzle toys;
- Avoid toys that are easily destructible or have small parts that could be swallowed.



4 of 18

🔗 Preventing inappropriate chewing

- Chewing is essential for maintaining the health of your dog's teeth, jaws, and gums;
- Puppies have a strong need to chew;
- Dogs chew for many reasons (ex: to relieve anxiety, boredom, entertainment etc.);
- Puppy-proof your home by removing all items that could be chewed;
- When you leave home, confine your puppy in a long-term confinement area, such as a single room with a half dozen chew toys.
 - Your dog will happily settle down and entertain himself with his chew toys;
- When you are home always leave some chew toys lying around.



- **Encourage your dog to chew on appropriate toys**
 - When you see your puppy chewing on an appropriate toy, reward him by petting him or offering him a treat;
 - Stuff chew toys with treats to encourage chewing ;



- You can also stuff the toys with canned food or moistened kibble and freeze it;
- Play chew toy games with your dog, such as fetch, search, and tug-of-war;
- If you do catch your dog chewing on something inappropriate say, “Hey” or “No” in a firm voice and replace the inappropriate item with an appropriate chew toy;
- Once the puppy is chewing on the chew toy praise him.

Houstraining

Houstraining consists of two basic steps: teaching the dog where to eliminate and preventing accidents.

Houstraining can take a bit longer with female dogs and with small breed dogs. However, with time and patience any dog can be houstrained.

True or false

When houstraining your puppy always begin with newspapers or pipi-pads before starting to train him/her to go outside.

❖ The answer is : **false**

Puppies quickly develop location and substrate preferences

Determine where you would like the puppy to eliminate when he/ she is an adult (outside or inside).



Question

You find urine in one of the bedrooms. You don't know exactly when the puppy made the mess. What should you do?

6 of 1

- a) Go see the puppy and in a stern voice say, "No. Bad dog".
- b) Clean up the mess and pretend like it never happened when you see the puppy.
- c) Bring the puppy near the mess, put his nose near it (do not put his nose in it) and tell him, "Bad dog".

❖ The answer is : **b**



Start teaching him/her to eliminate in the desired area from the first day.

Never scold a puppy for urinating in the house unless you catch him in the act.

The puppy will not associate the punishment with the fact that he has had an accident. However, he will know that you are angry, not understand why and may become fearful of you.

If you do catch him in the act you can say, "No" or "Hey" just loud enough for him to stop and then bring him to the desired potty area.



Step 1: Teach the puppy where to go

- When you are home bring your puppy outside or to his pipi pad as often as possible: every hour during the day, after he eats and when he wakes up from a nap.



- Always bring your puppy to the desired area on leash.
- When you bring him outside say, “Go pee” and then give him a few minutes to urinate or defecate.
- When your dog eliminates in the desired area, praise him enthusiastically and then immediately give him some tasty treats (ex: dried liver treats).
- The puppy will learn that it is rewarding to urinate or defecate in the desired area. Treats are very important during this learning stage.
- Always give the treats immediately after the dog eliminates and NOT when you go back in the house.



Important note: If you have a fenced in yard you must still accompany your puppy outside on leash to do his business until he is 100 % clean in the house. However, after he eliminates outside you may then let him run loose in the yard as a reward.



A puppy will not train himself to use the pipi pads. You must train him to do so.

Step 2: Preventing mistakes when you are home

- You must be able to watch the puppy at all times when he is free in the house.
- One easy way to do this is the leash technique (also called umbilical cord technique).
- Place a long, light leash around your waist and tie it to your puppy’s collar or harness.



- This way you can always have an eye on your puppy and can tell when he wants to urinate or defecate in the house.
- If you cannot use the leash technique, confine your puppy to the same room that you are in by using baby gates or a puppy playpen.
- Prepare a small area where your puppy can be confined if you are unable to watch him when you are home. This can be a crate or a small room (ex: bathroom, laundry room).



- Whenever you are unable to watch the puppy he can be placed in this area with some toys and water.
- At least if there are accidents they will only occur in the area to which the puppy is confined.
- Most puppies will not relieve themselves on their bedding.

Crates

- Crates facilitate housetraining;
- During the day a puppy should only be kept in a crate for a maximum of one hour more than his age in months;
- A puppy must be trained to enjoy being in the crate before being closed in it.



Step 3: Preventing mistakes when you are not home

- Whenever you are not at home, leave your dog in a long-term confinement area (preferably a small room which has washable floors such as a bathroom or laundry room).
- Provide your dog with fresh water, some toys, a bed in one corner and a doggy toilet in the other corner.
- Dogs usually want to eliminate as far away as possible from their beds.
- Sheets of newspaper sprinkled with soil, a litter box filled with a roll of turf, or a concrete paving slab can be used as a doggy toilet for a dog that is being taught to eliminate outside.
 - Your dog will likely develop olfactory and substrate preferences for eliminating on soil, grass, or concrete.
- For a dog that is being taught to eliminate on pipi pads, use these same pads as a doggy toilet.
- By confining your dog, you prevent accidents around the house when you are not there.

When accidents happen

- Do not use ammonia based cleaners to clean up the mess.
- Urine contains ammonia. Cleaning with ammonia could attract your puppy back to the same spot to urinate again.
- Use an enzymatic cleaner such as K.O.E. (Kennel Odor Eliminator) instead.



Puppy Biting

Biting is a normal puppy behaviour.

10 of 18

It is very important to teach a puppy bite inhibition. Your puppy must learn that his sharp teeth can hurt you.

It is not necessary to hurt or frighten your puppy to teach him that biting hurts. In fact, techniques that encourage you to hurt the puppy might make things worse or cause your puppy to become fearful of you.

🔗 What should you do?

- As soon as your puppy tries to bite you, scream loudly, (“Ouch” or “Owww”) as if he has really hurt you. If the puppy stops, make him sit and then reward him with a treat.
- If the puppy doesn’t stop scream again, stop playing with him, fold your arms and avoid eye contact with him.
 - Puppies hate being ignored. This will teach your puppy that if he bites he will lose his playmate.
- After 30 to 60 seconds resume playing with him. If he bites you again, repeat the procedure.
- Do not slap the muzzle because this can excite the puppy and can actually encourage more biting.
- Never allow your puppy to mouth human hair or clothing because this teaches the puppy to bite harder.



Training

🔗 Understanding dog behaviour : a little word on the dominance theory

- The Dominance theory was based on research done with captive wolves over 30 years ago.



- For many years the social dominance theory was used as the primary model with which dogs were trained. Training was based on punishment of bad behaviours.

- Since that time our understanding of dominance and hierarchies has become clearer and disproved these theories.

- However, even though this new information is now available many people that work in the companion animal world are still misinformed and still use these dated training techniques.

 **It is important to remember that even though they might resemble them, dogs are definitely not wolves !**

🔗 Definition of dominance

- Dominance is the relationship between two individuals established by force, aggression and submission to determine who has priority access to multiple resources (food, partners etc.).
- Dominance is **not** a personality trait.

🔗 Relationships between wolves and between dogs are not based on dominance and submission

- The dominance-submissive relationships that were thought to exist among wolf pack members do not in fact exist.



- Wolf packs are in fact based on families and cooperation and not dominance. The “alpha” male and female are usually the parents of the rest of the pack and this is why they are in charge. Most of the members of the pack do not fight.
- Semi-wild dogs do not form packs like wolves.
- In some households one dog always seems to get what he wants compared to the other family dogs. This, however, is not an example of dominance. Usually this dog is just a brat and the other dogs let him have what he wants to avoid fights.
- Some dogs in a household might get the better resting spot while others get the best toys. It’s not always the same dog that gets everything as would be the case in a dominance model.
- Dominance is NOT the cause of most behavioural problems in dogs.
- FEAR is the # 1 cause of aggression in pet dogs and NOT dominance.



🔗 Training at home



- Start training your puppy as soon as you bring him home.
- Begin with teaching him how to sit by using a treat as a reward.
- Positive reinforcement training (treats, toys, attention) works better and much quicker than using punishment based training.



🔗 Nothing in life is free (say please by sitting).

- One of the most important things you can teach your puppy is the “Nothing in life is free” motto.
- This technique involves getting your puppy to sit before every interaction with you or other members of your family. Your puppy must first sit before getting attention, getting his food, going outside, playing with you and so on.
- This teaches your puppy to be polite. When he wants something, his first reflex will be to sit rather than jump or bark. It’s a bit like saying please.



13 of 18

How to choose a good dog trainer

1. The education must be based on positive reinforcement

1.1. The method that is the most effective in the long term and that respects the dog the most is one based on positive reinforcement.

1.2. The puppy is motivated to do desirable behaviours and not punished for undesirable behaviours.

1.3. It is recommended to look for a trainer that uses only positive reinforcement.

1.4. Positive reinforcement definition: By adding something the animal wants, you increase the likelihood that behaviour will occur.

1.5. Beware of a trainer that uses physical force in training!

1.6. Research demonstrates that there are serious risks associated with using physical punishment during training (fear, aggression, inhibition of learning)



2. The trainer you choose must be a good teacher

A good trainer should:

2.1. Understand but must also be able to explain dog behaviour to you.

2.2. Plan sufficient time during class to practice and help each student individually.

2.3. Be capable of adapting his/her method for each owner and his/her dog.

2.4. Offer classes that are small enough to assure individual attention.

2.5. Demonstrate that he/she participates in continuing education in his/her field (by assisting workshops or conferences).

3. Take the time to observe a class given by the trainer you are interested in hiring

3.1. Always ask to observe a class before signing up.

3.2. Meet the participants and their dogs.

3.3. Observe the class:

3.3.1. The owners and their dogs should be having fun;

3.3.2. The owners should talk to their dogs in a happy tone and not scream at them;

3.3.3. There should never be any physical corrections.

3.4. You should always feel comfortable with your trainer and what he/she expects from your dog.





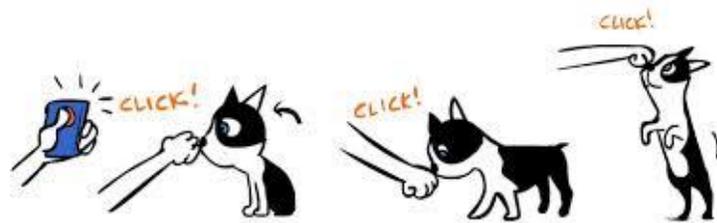
If a trainer does not allow you to observe a class, ask yourself why !

15 of 18

3.5. Avoid trainers that guarantee their results. A dog's behaviour and trainer have many different variables and can sometimes be unpredictable. Therefore, there can be no guarantees.

3.6. You must be present during all training classes with your dog because you will be the one training him for the rest of his life.

Here are some useful training tools:



- Clicker training
 - A clicker is a cricket-like box with a metal tongue that makes a click-click sound when you press it.
 - This clicker can be used as an indicator of a correct behaviour before giving the animal a treat.

- Head halter (Halti or Gentle Leader):
 - This collar allows for much better control of the dog when walking him. This in turn helps to prevent any injury to the dog and his owner.

- Body harness (Fidèle or *Easy Walk*)
 - This type of harness is very helpful in teaching a dog how to walk on leash without pulling.



🔗 What to avoid ?

- Avoid choke or prong collars:
 - These can cause laryngeal paralysis and/or skin lesions and are usually ineffective.
 - Prong collars have been illegal in Quebec since February 2014.
- Avoid electric collars
 - Those collars are also prohibited.
- Avoid physical punishment of any kind.
- Avoid dog parks until the puppy has had all of his vaccinations.

Microchips and Identification

- Many dogs are lost each year and end up in shelters or euthanized because they are unidentified.
- Every dog should be well identified with a collar and a tag that has your telephone number on it.
- Dogs can also be permanently identified with a microchip.
- A microchip is a tiny computer chip that is about the size of a grain of rice.
- With the use of a special syringe and needle, it is implanted subcutaneously between the dog's shoulder blades.
- The process is similar to getting a vaccine. Little to no pain is experienced
- Once in place, the microchip can be detected with a handheld device that uses radio waves to read the chip.



- This device scans the microchip and then displays a unique alphanumeric code. Using this number, the dog can be traced back to his owner.
- Microchips are designed to last a dog's entire life. They do not need to be charged or replaced.



- A lost dog that has a microchip can be easily identified if brought to a shelter or veterinary office in possession of a scanner.

- No method of identification is perfect, but the more identification a pet has, the greater the chances are of him being found.



Recommended Books

🔗 Dre Sophia Yin

- *Perfect Puppy In 7 Days*
- *How to Behave So Your Dog Behaves*

🔗 Dr Ian Dunbar

- *Before and After Getting Your Puppy*

🔗 Karen Pryor

- Livres sur l'entraînement au claquoir

🔗 John Bradshaw

- *Dog Sense*

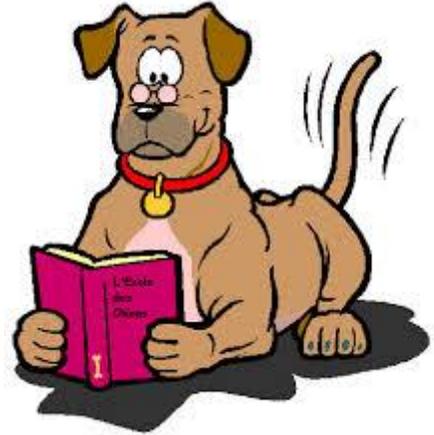
🔗 Mathieu Lavallée

- Le meilleur ami des chiens

🔗 Dr Joël Dehasse

- Mon jeune chien a des problèmes
- Mon chien est bien élevé
- Mon chien est propre
- Mon chien est heureux

🔗 www.drSophiaYin.com



If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us by telephone at 450-829-4245 or contact Dr. Vicky Sedgwick by e-mail at vicky.sedgwick@hvovet.com.

🗨️ **Consult our website for more information on canine and feline behavior.**

