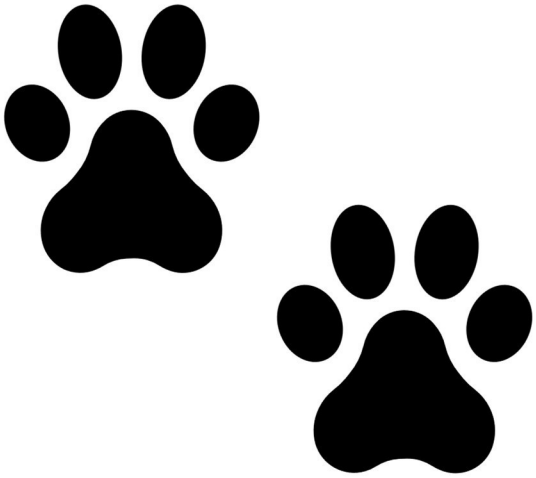
How to raise a Pittsford Puppies -Puppy-

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Pittsford MI 49271

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www.pittsfordpuppies.com



Congratulations!

Congratulations on the adoption of your new puppy from Pittsford Puppies. We are committed to assisting you and your puppy in developing the best and most enjoyable relationship together.

We hope your years together are filled with joy, love, good health, and happiness. This manual is about helping you to achieve that.

Much about the quality of your relationship with your new pet will depend on you, as much about the personality your dog grows into will depend on how it is managed during the first few months of its life.

The ethical, responsible breeder you sourced your puppy from will have your and your dog's best interests at heart and have done all they could to start your new puppy off right. The rest is up to you. Let this manual be your guide.

Thank you for choosing us to be along on this journey with you.

We appreciate you.

Pittsford Puppies Staff

The advice and suggestions in this manual are no more than the author's personal opinions as an experienced dog breeder. This document is for information only and not meant to be substituted for personalized veterinary attention for your dog nor for visits to your local veterinarian for diagnosis or treatment, and do not replace licensed, direct, professional, pet-specific, veterinary care.

The information presented here is based on the experience and knowledge of the author. However, neither the author nor Pittsford Puppies or its affiliates take any responsibility for, nor make any warranty with respect to results that may be obtained from the use of any of the information procedures, recommendations, or dosages presented in this manual.

Before any medical or treatment decisions are implemented, an evaluation of your pet's medical situation should be performed by a trained professional in your area.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this manual, especially as to decisions you may wish to make concerning the health or well-being of your dog, please consult your local veterinarian before continuing.

If your pet is seriously ill and especially if there is a potentially life-threatening emergency involving your pet, do not wait - take your dog immediately to a trained veterinarian or animal emergency center near you.

This is the protocol I follow and the veterinary care your puppy will have had.

Age	Veterinary Care
2 weeks	• Wormer
3 weeks	• Wormer
4 weeks	• Parvovirus
5 weeks	• Kennel Cough and Wormer
6 weeks	• 5 way no lepto
7 weeks	• Parvovirus
8 weeks	• Wormer

Follow up Care Required of YOU:

Age	Recommended Veterinary Care
Within 72 hours of taking your puppy home	• Veterinary Check: Arrange for your veterinarian to give the puppy a complete checkup within 72 hours of your purchase to ensure no health problems have been overlooked.
• 9 weeks	• Follow-up Vaccination at your veterinarian office and continue with their recommended veterinary protocol • All-wormer due • Heartworm prevention strategy begins • Your veterinarian will also make other recommendations appropriate in your

	region and be able to answer any health questions you may have.

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Pittsford Puppies Lifetime (10 Years) Limited Health Warranty

Caring for your puppy's health is a partnership. Once your puppy comes home, you and Pittsford Puppies share responsibility for keeping this little one healthy for life. That is why we ask you to activate the Trupanion coverage that comes with your puppy and strongly encourage you to book a veterinary visit right away. However smoothly the move goes, an early checkup is the responsible and healthy choice.

Our puppies are guaranteed against severe, life-threatening defects that are clearly hereditary and seriously affect a dog's quality of life for the rest of its life. (See Contract.)

Just as with children, we cannot promise that a puppy will never develop health problems, because some things cannot be predicted. We do, however, do everything we can to give your puppy the best chance at a long, healthy life. Our parent dogs are unrelated to each other and are free of diseases, disorders, and health problems; otherwise, we would not breed them.

If anything does occur, please let us know. We will evaluate the parents and the rest of the litter to try to find the cause and remove the issue from our breeding program.

When you pick up your puppy, we will sign a digital copy of the Genetic Health Guarantee together.

What to feed your pup when you get him home

Changing your puppy's diet suddenly can cause digestive problems such as diarrhea, constipation, or an upset stomach. To keep things consistent, here is what your puppy is used to eating:

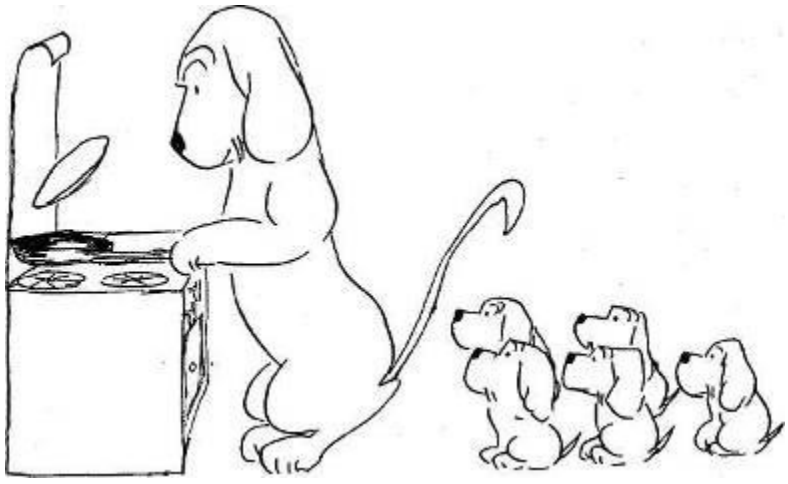
Royal Canin Puppy

Do not over-feed your puppy! Forcing rapid growth can lead to health problems later on, particularly with the joints. Keep him trim and let him feel hungry now and then.

Whatever he can eat in 15 minutes at each meal is the right amount. Take leftovers away until the next meal.

The healthy dog diet

At Pittsford Puppies we feed our puppies Royal Canin Puppy Food.



Bone eating is great exercise for a pup, and great for every muscle and bone in its body. In bracing, tackling, ripping and tearing its meaty bone the puppy works its jaws, neck, shoulders, back and both front and rear limbs, promoting toned, sound muscular and skeletal development.

How Much Should You Feed?

In the wild, natural state, wolf cubs were always a little hungry. Adult wolves did not hunt until motivated by hunger and often had to wait until a successful kill before sating their appetite. And so, it is natural and healthy for your dog to rest its digestive system occasionally.

You can simulate this by skipping a day's feeding once a week in the adult dog.

Many people see virtue in growing their puppies as fast as possible, and the end result is frequent problems with bones and joints in the adult dog. This is particularly so of the larger breeds. As a guide, keep your puppy slim and athletic rather than roly-poly by letting the pup eat its fill for 15 minutes at each meal, then take the food away (this also makes toilet training easier – see our section on House Training)

Feeding Frequency Guide

Feeding frequency depends upon the age of the pup or dog. Here is a general guide:

Age	Feeding Frequency
0 – 1 month	Pup suckles its mother exclusively (unless circumstances warrant earlier supplementation)
1 – 3 months	3 to 4 meals per day
3 – 6 months	2 to 3 meals per day
6 – 12 months	2 meals per day
After 12 months	1 meal per day

To further simulate natural conditions, vary the time of feeding, if your routine allows, and don't necessarily feed the dog according to when it is hungry.

The important exception to these guidelines is the lactating bitch. The breeding bitch is a production animal and needs to be cared for as such. Lactating bitches have very heavy demands on their nutritional and energy reserves and should be fed as much as they desire, often two to three times what they would normally require, particularly if the litter is a large one. Even under such a regime, many bitches will lose weight during lactation.

Trupanion

Why This Matters

Activating the 30-day Trupanion coverage means every puppy leaves your care with medical protection in place. It helps support your health guarantees, reduces risk of out-of-pocket reimbursements, and gives families confidence that their newest addition is covered—especially during that crucial first month.

Get 1 Month's FREE Pet Insurance for your new puppy.

Call 1-855-266-2156 Use code: BR1PP11226

The 3 Easy Steps

STEP 1 – Register your puppy with Trupanion

30 days of medical coverage through Trupanion at no upfront cost* and waived waiting periods.

No commitment, just peace of mind.

STEP 2 – Send the Activation Info

Pittsford Puppies will send a reminder to encourage you to call in—families that do are more likely to continue coverage long-term (and that's better for everyone).

Especially helpful for families who are traveling or having their pup delivered— if anything unexpected happens during that transition, their coverage will already be active.

STEP 3 – Ask for Confirmation

Once you've activated, you will get a confirmation email. Pittsford Puppies will ask to see the confirmation email and we will need a copy at pick-up. It's a small step that ensures nothing slips through the cracks—and gives you full peace of mind that each puppy is going home protected.

Puppy proof your home

Puppies explore their environment in much the way toddlers do – by chewing and getting into everything!

Be sure to remove hazardous items such as electric cords and put valuables like your best running shoes or expensive rug out of harm's way.

Ensure there are no escape routes around your boundary fence big enough for a small puppy, and if you have a swimming pool, you may need to twitch wire mesh at the bottom of the pool fence so your puppy can't get in and drown.

Make sure to put your glasses and the remote up. Puppies are attracted to these items.

Supervise an interaction with small children

Rule is, the child must have their bottom on the floor/ground to be allowed to cuddle/hold the puppy. Make sure all interactions are positive and gentle! Limit time to 10 minutes each play period or you will overwhelm your puppy.

Be Understanding

Having just been uprooted from his/her pack and everything familiar, your puppy is likely to be shy and insecure for the first few days with you. Give him time to explore and adjust.

How to introduce your new puppy to your existing dog(s)

Introducing a new puppy to your existing dog should be done gradually. The goal is to help your older dog feel comfortable and secure while allowing the puppy to learn how to interact appropriately.

The biggest mistake people make is putting the new puppy directly in the older dog's space and expecting them to become friends immediately.

Here is how I recommend doing it.

Step 1: Let them meet on neutral ground

- Choose a quiet outdoor area that your existing dog doesn't consider its territory.
- Have one person handle each dog.
- Keep both dogs on loose leashes.
- Allow them to sniff each other briefly.
- Keep the first interaction to about 5–10 minutes.
- Give both dogs praise and treats for calm behavior.

Don't force them to interact. If they want to sniff and then walk away, that's perfectly fine.

Step 2: Bring them into the house

Once they have had a positive introduction:

- Bring them inside with supervision.
- Keep the puppy in a separate area using a baby gate or exercise pen.
- Let your older dog approach when comfortable.
- Give your existing dog plenty of attention.
- Don't allow the puppy to constantly chase, jump on, or bother the older dog.

Your older dog needs to know that the new puppy isn't taking its place in the family.

Step 3: Keep their resources separate

For the first several weeks:

- Feed them separately.
- Give them separate water bowls.
- Keep favorite toys and bones separate.
- Give each dog its own sleeping area.
- Don't allow competition over treats or food.

Food and toys can trigger resource guarding, even in dogs that normally get along.

Step 4: Watch their body language

- Loose, wiggly bodies
- Relaxed facial expressions
- Sniffing and walking away
- Play bows
- Taking breaks

Signs of Aggression

Warning signs

- Stiff posture
- Hard staring
- Repeated snapping
- Lunging
- Cornering the puppy

A little growling from an older dog isn't necessarily bad. Sometimes it's communication telling a puppy that enough is enough. Don't punish warning growls. Instead, calmly separate them and give them a break.

Never leave them alone together until you are confident they are safe.

Step 5: Give your older dog special attention

This is extremely important!

- Greet your older dog first when possible.
- Maintain its normal feeding and walking routine.
- Spend individual time with each dog.
- Don't let the puppy take over its favorite sleeping spot.
- Reward your older dog for being calm around the puppy.

You want your existing dog to associate the puppy with good things.

What to do at bedtime!

Put the radio on low so the puppy doesn't feel too lonely. Take puppy out to toilet just before you go to bed at night then place in his bed. Ignore your puppy if it cries when you first put it into its crate/playpen for naps as it will soon settle down and you don't want it to train you to respond to crying or you'll be setting up a bad habit! But if it has been asleep for a few hours and then cries, it probably needs to toilet.

Though some puppies can "hold it" till morning some will need to be toileted once (or even twice) during the night. Any more than this is probably just attention seeking and could easily become a habit. Tell puppy to be quiet and ignore excessive interruptions during the night or put the crate in a situation where the puppy can toilet itself on newspaper or a litter tray (an old baking dish full of the same material as its toilet area) within a confined playpen area or has access to outside to toilet.

Puppy Training

Dogs are social animals, and the society in which they live is stratified by a hierarchy based on rank. In the society of a dog that has been thoroughly socialized to both humans and other dogs, the pack members include humans and dogs alike. No dog

can feel totally secure unless there is a distinct and definite “alpha” ranking, or dominant individual in the “pack” society. If you are not willing to establish yourself in the alpha position, then you might find your dog assuming that position.

The ramifications of this unhappy state of affairs are that your dog will never allow you to dominate it in any way. This may include urinating on you and other people, disobeying your commands, and threatening or biting you (and your veterinarian) whenever there is a need for restraint to facilitate necessary procedures. Now, as an owner you will frequently need to control and handle your animals – whether the purpose is simple restraint, grooming, removing grass seeds, ear plucking, dressing a wound, or what have you, you will often need to dominate your dogs in one way or another to effectively care for them.

Many dogs are naturally subordinate by nature and will be more than willing to delegate natural authority to you. However, with others, you may assume you have a healthy relationship with your dogs, until the true state of affairs is revealed when your loving mutt snaps at you the minute a “need to control” situation arises. The problem can be difficult to remedy without a series of physical battles with your dog in which you come out the clear victor – that is, without having to beat your poor doggy up!

Further, a dog without clear human leadership who therefore assumes himself the leader, will be prone to anxiety when you are away. To such a dog, its humans are puppies it needs to look after. If you “wander off” it can suffer separation anxiety out of worrying what harm may come of you out there in the world without a leader to protect you. So be the leader and save your poor dog from such worries.

Prevention remains the best approach here. So, establish yourself as the clear leader of your pack right from when you first bring your puppy home.

> A trick I teach all my clients is the lesson of restraint. The acceptance of restraint is a very important lesson, especially for larger breeds. Too many times, I see owners totally cowed by their dogs – where even little lapdogs have owners quivering in fear and too scared of their own pooch to even cut its hair! Don't let yourself be one of them! You are the boss, and this is a great way of teaching this to your dog without hurting it.

To be effective, the lesson needs to be established well before the dog is 3 months old. Ideally new owners should begin practicing restraint with their pups within a few days of taking them home (week 9). When your Great Dane weighs 80kg it will still remember the early lesson and accept restraint despite its size. This lesson is invaluable to successfully doing any of a multitude of necessary procedures on your dog throughout its life – from clipping toenails to pulling grass seeds out of ears. Your veterinarian too will love to see your dog – an easily handled dog is a pleasure for everyone it comes in contact with.

The method is simple: hold it firmly on its side on the ground (or in your arms) so that it cannot get away. You hold it there until it struggles, then don't release it until it stops!

Restrain the puppy firmly and gently, reassuring it and telling it how good it is. Maintain this for a count of 20 seconds. Most pups will struggle against this restraint within this timeframe. When it does, keep holding it down and gently but firmly tell it to "lie down" or "be still" in a deep, warning tone of voice. As soon as it ceases struggling immediately praise it and let it go. Repeat this several times a week so that the pup gets accustomed to the idea that it must succumb to restraint.

It's a lot easier to win the battle with a pup, than with an adult dog! The lesson is a short one and needs to be repeated a few times and it is learnt for life. While it is struggling you can soothe it with calm reassuring words and praise it mightily when it eventually succumbs to the restraint without fighting and calms down.

Be warned - the puppy may scream and shriek, wriggle like a worm or even try to bite, but maintain your gentle but insistent hold on it. Use the correct grip (as shown) and it will not be able to hurt itself or you. When it is calm, ease your grip, offer words of praise, and release the pup. You'll be glad you took the trouble to teach your pup this lesson for the rest of your lives together!!!

General Training Rules

The attention and care you put into the first few weeks of your puppy's life with you will pay off handsomely in the long term. So, while it is likely to be busy and demanding at first, keep your sense of humor and be patient, and things will go better for you and your pup. Begin teaching your puppy simple commands as soon as you get him home.

1. Use a consistent command for each behavior you expect, so your dog doesn't get confused. I use a combination of hand signals and voice or whistle commands.
2. Set your dog up to succeed. When setting out to train your puppy, do so in a small, enclosed area without major distractions so it will be easier for your dog to pay attention to you. Is Bozo an overenthusiastic youngster with energy to burn? Tire him out a bit before training so it will be easier for him to remain

calm. Do you train with treats? Schedule your training sessions before mealtime so he'll be hungry.

3. Use rewards to train your dogs – lots of pats and warm animated praise in a crooning tone of voice ("Gooooood dog! Gooooood doggie!") plus – especially in early training - small, yummy morsels (a fragment of dried liver for example) pack a lot of leverage when it comes to instilling good behavior in dogs.

4. Punishment should only take the form of growling if the dog refuses to obey – for example, if it starts to move after you have told it to STAY. If you bash your dog up for not doing what you asked, then chances are, it will not know why it is being bashed up and will instead grow fearful of you. This mistake is often made when people are trying to get a dog to COME, and all it wants to do is run around and play chase! They chase it and when they finally catch it, bash it up! Not surprisingly, the dog is even less willing to COME on the next occasion as it fears being beaten up again. And so a vicious cycle sets in…

5. Another secret to effective training is repetition. Through repetition, a dog develops understanding of the command, how it is expected to respond to it, and the pleasant reward it will get from obeying. Just spend a few minutes a couple of times a day and your puppy will rapidly learn anything if taught correctly.



6. Be consistent. Don't want Bozo on the couch on Wednesdays when Mom visits, but don't mind him on the furniture during the rest of the week? Not gonna happen, my friend. Dogs just don't get the "sometimes" rule. Be clear on what the house rules are for Bozo and make sure all members of your household stick to them.

7. Only say it once. If your dog does not comply, don't keep saying "Sit. Sit. Bozo sit! I SAID SIT!" Don't teach your dog that you only mean it if you say it four times and very loudly. Instead of giving your cue more than once, move to a slightly different location and try again, or physically push him into complying (e.g. make him sit). If your dog still doesn't comply, he is probably confused and needs a little help understanding what you want him to do. Once he does what is asked, even if you had to physically make him, remember to immediately reward him with positive feedback and a treat.

8. Give lots of feedback. When your dog first learns a new skill, he is pretty much guessing what to do. You can help him out by letting him know when he guesses right. How do you do this? Pick a word or sound like "yes"

or "good". Say your word then give your dog a pea-sized yummy treat. Repeat this about 10 to 20 times. You'll know your dog has caught on to the game when he hears the word and looks to you for the treat. Congratulations! You've just become a Dr. Doolittle and can "talk" with your dog in a language he'll understand. Now when you train, say your word at the exact moment he complies with your command and then reward him. Only use your word if you can follow it with a reward like attention, play or treats.

9. Catch him getting it right. Don't be like many who only notice when their dog makes mistakes. Bozo pulls on the leash, they punish him. Bozo jumps up on them, they punish him. Bozo breaks his stay, they punish him. Have a clear picture in your mind of what "getting it right" looks like. Make it a point to always look for instances of your dog "getting it right" and reward him with praise, play, attention or treats for doing a good job. When you are home, have him in the house with you and the rest of your household. Time with you is a great opportunity for him to learn. Notice when he is sitting quietly at your feet, and give him a pat. Again, don't reserve attention to only when he's doing something you don't approve of.

Practicing Basic Commands

Unless you are keenly interested in fully pursuing the training road, there are only a few things that you need to teach your dog by way of commands. I have found the most important to be: SIT, STAY, and COME.



Whenever I hand out tidbits (like the fat trimmed off of tonight's dinner) I insist that my dogs first sit.
If they don't sit, they don't get!

"SIT" is the foundation for all obedience. All other commands, learning and control branch from this one simple exercise. Even for those who don't care to teach "formal" obedience, "SIT" will still be a valuable tool.

Consider what happens when you take your dog for a walk. Going for a walk is usually very exciting for a dog. Often, he will jump and prance and perhaps bark while you are getting the leash and collar. By this time, the dog has gone so crazy that applying the leash and collar becomes all but impossible. Instead, put a firm "SIT" command to this craziness before it gets out of control: "Bozo SIT!" Use firm, short words (don't "ask").

Insist that the leash and collar will not go on a crazy dog. Your dog must get the message: "You must "SIT" before you go anywhere!"

Follow through by showing the dog what you want if he doesn't comply immediately. Don't forget to praise for a nice sit - even after you have made him do it. The sit will help to make him a thinking dog rather than a reacting dog. After you accomplish that, you can now attempt to go for that walk!

Now consider a dog who drags you toward the door, gasping and choking the entire way, jumps at the door, and rushes through the door as soon as you open it. This dog has no respect for you. Instead of allowing all the pulling and choking, insist again on

a "SIT" by the door, along with a "STAY". As leader, you must always be the one to go through the doorway first. After you have gone first, a cheerful release word "OK" signals that Bozo may follow. If you must lock the door, then another SIT should be required while the dog calmly waits to start the walk.

Jumping up on you or other people can also be controlled using "SIT". We can teach "OFF" (or another word, if you wish), but we must also give your dog an alternative for jumping - one that will bring praise. And that magic "something" is SIT.

When your dog becomes excited or appears worried during a trip to the veterinarian or groomer (or wherever, for that matter), "SIT" can be the key to calm your dog and, again, get him to think rather than react.

So, practice "SIT" - quick, small, fun sits to start. Ask the dog to SIT or STAY before he gets any treat – whether it be for his meal, a treat or a walk – use every opportunity to enforce yourself as leader and instill respect. Then practice longer sits, or sits not so close to you (on the leash helps you to reinforce the command if the SIT doesn't happen). Above all, "SIT" should always be praised and your dog must know that, in any unfamiliar situation, "SIT" will always make you happy. That is how you start to get respect and obedience from one simple command - "SIT"!

If teaching sit, have Bozo on a leash, say SIT, (you could also couple this with an accompanying hand signal, such as holding your hand palm down in front of you and sweeping it downward as you voice the command) and if she doesn't sit immediately, push her back end down into a sitting posture. Do so until she remains sitting for a

few seconds, then praise and reward her. Take her for a little walk around, and repeat the command, going through the same procedure several times each lesson.

For COME, you may pat your knee and crouch while calling her name, or the command "come". Start again in an enclosed area, when she is not too far from you. When she complies, give her a small treat and lavish cuddles and praise. Repeat often, gradually increasing the distance you call her from. You may also use a particular whistle. A good way to reinforce good coming habits is to use your "come" command to call your dogs in at every mealtime. Don't trust your dog to come in an open, public place until you are sure she has developed reliable compliance to this command in a confined place and start by only letting her off for a short distance, gradually increasing it as she shows she is ready.

Getting a dog to SIT or STAY before anything it finds rewarding is a super-easy way to assert yourself as leader of the pack. I make my dogs STAY at every opportunity. They must SIT and STAY successfully before I will put their leads on them for their beloved daily walkies. They must sit and stay at each roadside before we cross. When I get to the park or beach where they are allowed to run around free, they first must SIT and STAY, while I walk a short distance away, and wait till I give them a voice and hand signal that means they can go (I wave them forward and say "O you go!"). Start by getting your puppy to stay for a few seconds, or while you move away by a few meters. When they succeed, reward and praise them. Gradually increase the time and distance, until they reliably comply even if you leave their sight for a little while. Eventually your dog will faithfully stay and wait for you outside the shops while you go in for the paper (even if I tie my dogs up, I still make them SIT and ask them to STAY

– they have no other choice but take every opportunity you have to reinforce the learning!).

Lead Training

A collar needs to be one of the first things you deal with when a new puppy comes home.

Purchase a cheap nylon buckle collar long enough to allow room for the puppy to grow and put it on your pup within the first day or two home. To avoid the pup getting a limb caught in the strange and at first uncomfortable collar, it should be fitted only loose enough to allow a couple of your fingers under it. In older dogs, the collar can be fitted a little more loosely. Remember to check it every week so that it does not become too tight as your pup grows.

At first your pup will try to remove the offending collar, and worry and scratch at it, and the leash is likely to cause even more trauma to begin with. The best training leash is a narrow 6 foot leather type with a hand loop on one end and a strong clip on the other. Leather isn't apt to slip in the hands the way nylon and other fabrics do.

Introduce the leash by clipping it to the collar and allowing the pup to drag it around for a while, supervised so it does not come to grief. Then begin by holding the other end and introducing a little resistance. Hold firmly and quietly until all struggling ceases, then reward the pup and end the lesson. Once the pup has given up fighting the leash, encourage it to follow you with vocal encouragement, gentle tugs, and perhaps a few tiny treats. Encourage him to remain by your side as you walk and

respond to digressions by getting his attention back to you. You can do this by changing direction or coaxing him with a treat. Keep it light and fun.

To teach walking manners to a puppy, clip leash to buckle collar, put toys or treats in your pocket, and coax the pup to remain near your side as you walk. Whistle, clap your hands, pat your leg, and praise as you go. If he loses concentration as a butterfly flits by or the neighbor's cat entices him to chase, change direction, coax him with a treat, and get his attention back to you. Keep things bright and cheery – you want to teach the little dickens that being by your side is fun.

To teach older puppies and adults not to pull while on the leash use a dog halter, prong collar, or a training chain-slip collar that tightens and relaxes in response to pulling. While training, remove any other collars as they interfere with the action of the training collar. When your dog walks without pulling, don't forget to praise him. Start out by getting his attention by changing direction often while the leash is slack. If he pulls, give him a firm yank. Be persistent, consistent and determined to win! You may have to resort to a prong collar if he doesn't respond. Failing that, consider enrolling in a dog training school.

House-Training

Establishing good habits early on in housetraining your puppy is critical. Consider bringing your puppy home for the first time on a weekend so you have extra time to devote to settling in and housebreaking in those crucial first few days.

Your pup will not be reliably housetrained until it is about 6 months old, and if you are diligent in your training, will never eliminate in your house unless forced to do so by illness or excessively long confinement. However, if you at any time allow your puppy to eliminate indiscriminately in your home, the bad habit will be hard to break without having to resort to time-consuming, tedious retraining at a later date.

Housetraining is much easier when the puppy's meals, exercise and playtimes are on a regular schedule throughout the day, so work out a schedule for you and your puppy. What goes in at regular times will come out at regular times and be easier to manage! So don't have food available at all times of the day – give your puppy 10 to 15 minutes to finish each meal, then take any leftovers away.

To establish good toileting habits in a pup, it needs frequent access to the toilet area. When you are at home, take your puppy there every 30 to 45 minutes immediately following a play session, eating or drinking, and most importantly - upon waking. Be sure to offer enthusiastic praise and reward whenever he eliminates in the proper place. The more often you catch him doing it right and give him positive feedback, the quicker your pup will be toilet trained, so the more time you put into this early on, the better. Punishing him for mistakes can set his progress back – focus instead on noticing and reinforcing success and minimizing the possibility of errors.

NEVER allow your pup to roam the house unattended. When you are home to monitor him, either have him on a leash or confine him to a crate/play pen for gradually increasing periods of time, helping him to develop self-control. Immediately after he has pooped and peed in his proper toilet area you can allow him supervised freedom for short periods in your home, but don't let him out of your sight.

If you are not home or cannot tend to the puppy, then you must make sure he cannot make a mistake! Either confine him to a puppy-proofed room and line the entire floor with papers. Or if you live in a temperate climate, you can put him outside in a small, secure and comfortable pen with good shelter from the elements. Ideally the pen will be surfaced with something like his toilet area and unlike the flooring in your home - dirt, grass, gravel or concrete. Put his bed, toys and food/water bowls there.
Let puppy follow you back to the house so he/she knows the way. Once your puppy has bonded to you and is happy to follow you, let it chase you to the toilet spot thereafter (don't carry puppy). Transfer any soiling's away from less-than-ideal placements over to your chosen spot to help puppy "get it". Clean up any mistakes with cheap white vinegar.

Paper training method

Paper training is ideal for apartments. If using a room, replace the papers with clean ones when you get home. You will notice with time that he will begin to favor toileting in a particular area. Begin gradually removing papers from areas he never uses that are furthest away from his favorite spots. If he makes a mistake, you have been a bit too quick for him and need to go back to repapering a larger area or even the whole room. Once he is reliably using a small area of paper without mistakes, you can start moving the papered area to a corner, just an inch a day. If he makes a mistake, it means again you have progressed too rapidly and may need to go back to papering the room again. Just be patient! Over time he will become accustomed to toileting in a small, papered area, and learn not to use the floor.

Crate Training method

This involves confining your puppy in a crate when you cannot directly supervise him indoors to prevent him from soiling in the house. The crate must be just big enough for him to sleep comfortably in. Associate it with positive things by putting his favorite treat inside, lining it with a sheepskin rug if possible, and leaving it open as a sleeping bed within a playpen a lot of the time. Puppies will not toilet inside a correctly sized crate, so when you let him out you can take him directly to where you want him to toilet and reward and praise lavishly once the deed is done.

Of course, never leave your puppy inside a crate for hours at a time unless it is nighttime and you are there to release him to go potty when he cries. With consistency and patience your pup will gradually develop better and better control of his bowels and bladder and become a successfully housetrained pet.

Puppy socializing

The best matched puppy still needs training, TLC and great socialization to reach its potential to be an amazing canine companion for you. A sociable, friendly dog that is happy to meet new people, and unfazed by different experiences, is a product of two things – genetically predisposed temperament, and positive exposure and conditioning as a young pup. As a breeder we gained a good idea of the pup's genetic or natural temperament from doing the Puppy Personality tests. And you can do a lot to modify and optimize its natural temperament through thorough and positive socialization.

There is a narrow window of opportunities to successfully socialize your puppy that begins at 5 weeks of age and continues to 16 weeks of age (some say 12 weeks of

age). As you will not be getting him home until he is 8 ½ weeks old, that only leaves a very short period where you will have to make every day count if you want a psychologically sound, well-adjusted dog for the rest of its life with you.

If you neglect this important period, you have lost the opportunity forever... It is not something you can come back to and fix later any more than adult therapy can fully correct issues inflicted by negative childhood experiences in humans. Improperly socialized pups develop into maladjusted adults (our dog shelters are full of them) and attempts to re-socialize them later in life often only result in small gains.

Unfortunately, this critical period in your pup's life also coincides with its peak vulnerability to serious infectious diseases. The potential danger of picking up a life-threatening illness causes some veterinarians to advise owners to lock their puppies away from the world until it is fully immunized. This is a serious mistake and can lead to lifelong behavioral issues! Depending on the vaccination protocol you follow, your pup will not be completely protected from common infectious diseases until at least 11 weeks of age and possibly up to 16 weeks of age. If you fail to socialize it up until then you've pretty much missed your chance and will have to put up with the consequences for the rest of your dog's life with you.

You'll be glad to know that there are ways of safely socializing with your puppy while it is still vulnerable to disease. For a start, raise your puppy in your home as part of the household rather than having them live outside. Studies suggest this is the best way to produce a dog that is friendly, playful and well bonded to humans. Of course, pay close attention to achieve successful potty training during this time. Dogs that are walked, exercised and otherwise interacted with daily by their owners are less

likely to develop undesirable behaviors linked with loneliness and boredom such as being uncontrollable, or engaging in destructive chewing or digging.

It's also a must to take your puppy to "Puppy Pre-School" which provides the opportunity for it to mix with other vaccinated pups in a disease-safe environment. Dogs that attend puppy socialization classes are less likely to show undesirable reactions to unknown dogs. They are also more relaxed at the vet, more obedient and less likely to be surrendered to shelters. It also helps you learn how to manage basic training (so you get trained as well!) and understand how your dog's mind works. Additionally, it's a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have about raising your new fur kid.

On top of Puppy Pre-school, you should book out the first 4 weeks he lives with you with a full social calendar. For example, visits from friends and family including men, women, children and people with hats or beards! And visits to friends, family and school show and tell. Other dogs or backyards are fine so long as the dogs who live there are healthy and have been vaccinated. Arrange visits to or from other vaccinated dogs in a clean (non-public) environment (e.g. a friend's backyard whose pets are all vaccinated) so your puppy grows up as a well-balanced, sociable, and sexually normal member of the canine race!

Unless you want your puppy to grow into a savage guard dog or nervous wreck that freaks out at every new experience, person or animal, I strongly advise you to ensure that it gets plenty of positive contact of all kinds of dogs during the imprinting period. Poorly socialized dogs often end up in dog pounds where their disposition makes them almost impossible to rehome.

So, expose your pups to positive varied experiences with as many different kinds of folks and critters as possible while it is still young enough to imprint familiarity with them. It also includes experiences like rides in the car, noisy traffic, umbrellas, shopping carts, skateboarders, busy marketplaces, horses or any other animal your puppy will be exposed to as an adult dog, other dogs, swimming at the beach, etc.

Sit outside a busy area with your pup, such as a shopping center or library, and invite different kinds and ages of people to give your pup a treat and pet him. Do this gradually with only one or two people at a time so that he is not overwhelmed. Take him (carried) into your veterinary clinic and invite the staff to give him his favorite treats while you are there. Give him treats while you hang out near a busy thoroughfare where he can be exposed to a range of vehicular and foot traffic.

There is an element of risk of disease in exposing your young pup to the world, so carry your pup through public places and other areas that may be contaminated with dog diseases such as dog parks and footpaths, and don't allow him contact with dogs whose vaccination status is unknown to you.

Grooming

If your puppy is a type that needs grooming, make sure it gets plenty of exposure to the grooming experience from an early age. Give it a bath every few weeks starting with a few days after you bring it home and it has had a chance to settle in a little to its new abode. Praise and reassure it but brook no nonsense – if it resists you must always win by gently but firmly insisting on your way. But ensure the experience is short and as positive as possible. Offer lavish praise and encouragement and always quit at a moment when your pup has behaved well. Puppy's first experience with the

clipper will hopefully have happened in a kind way with the breeder before you even bring her home. In any case, show the puppy the working clipper before starting the clip, reassure her, and – with help if necessary – carry through with the experience. It is wisest to make the first few lessons with the clipper as positive and non-traumatic as possible – don't insist on doing a salon quality job, just focus on exposing your puppy to familiarity with being groomed without scaring them!

Worming

Worming should therefore begin at 2 weeks of age and continue fortnightly until the puppy is 8 weeks old. Thereafter it is commonly recommended to worm the puppy again at 12 weeks of age, then every 3 months throughout its lifetime. As I said earlier, once a puppy is 6 months old I would only worm it yearly, if at all.

Better I believe to dramatically reduce the contamination burden in your dog areas through basic hygiene. Clean up and remove all feces before they have been there 7 days or more. After 7 days, the stages of many common parasites will leave the feces and no longer be amenable to easy removal. All public places frequented by dogs will be heavily loaded with hookworm larvae (especially during warm, moist conditions) and most particularly roundworm eggs, which are long lasting in the environment under all conditions and tend to adhere to fur and shoes by which means they can invade your home space.

Vaccination

Up until it is about 7 weeks of age, a puppy suckling off a vaccinated bitch has received reasonable levels of antibodies to common diseases from the colostrum – the first milk from its mom and thus have some measure of protection.

Current recommendation is to vaccinate at 6 weeks of age (your breeder routinely does this) and then once again at 9 weeks using an "early finish" puppy vaccine such as Protech, Canigen, Duramune or Nobivac. The advantage of using an early finish vaccine at 9 weeks is that your puppy is free to go out in the world 7 – 14 days later (i.e. at 10-11 weeks of age). This allows more thorough socialization that will help him or her become the best dog for you they can be. It also minimizes the number of vaccines (and toxic preservatives and adjuvants they contain) injected into your pet.

Early finish vaccines are proven to be effective in the possible presence of lingering maternal antibodies. Request this from your veterinarian when you make your appointment for the 9-week vaccination. You may have to shop around.

The next vaccine (any brand) after this is due a year later and this is all they need to be protected for life. However, to be sure take your dog in every 3 years for a booster or antibody serum level check first to see if it's needed.

The most commonly vaccinated for diseases are Canine Distemper, Canine Hepatitis, Parvo and kennel cough.

In wet areas Leptospirosis is commonly vaccinated for. In rabies endemic areas, rabies is naturally also on the list. Ask your veterinarian about diseases common in your area and vaccinate accordingly.

If you plan to board your dog in a kennel one day while you go on holidays, then you should also ensure it is vaccinated against Kennel Cough ahead of time. Reputable kennels insist on this as though not usually a serious illness, it is extremely infectious.

Some immunity will develop after two weeks from their first vaccination. And given the importance of proper socialization during the puppy stage to the temperament of the adult dog, careful exposure to vaccinated dogs in clean environments should be risked by the new owner (see above section on socialization).

Once they are 3 months old you can take your dogs out into the public arena every day for a good solid bout of exercise. In this way they will be exposed to what is known as "street boosters". Every post, dog or poo they sniff will be a potential source of exposure to infection, acting in much the same way as a vaccination. As such, they will be able to maintain a strong immunity status to most common diseases.

Heartworm

If you live in a heartworm endemic area, you will also need to provide your puppy with heartworm prevention medication to destroy the larval stages – the microfilaria – before they develop into adults in the heart and pulmonary artery (the main artery from the heart to the lungs). This protection should start well before the dog reaches 5 months of age and continue every few months (the drug companies and your vet will say every month) for the life of the dog.

If you get a dog that has not had such a treatment regime maintained, then you must not give it heartworm prevention medication! That is because it may have adult

worms already living in the heart. If you medicate, these can die and float off into the arteries of the lungs, to lodge in and block the smaller arterioles, leading to massive death of lung tissue and a possibly fatal outcome!

Flea Control

Fleas are carriers of many diseases, including tapeworms, epidemic typhus and bubonic plague. Allergy to fleas is also the most common skin disease afflicting dogs and cats. In dogs, apart from evident frenzied scratching, flea-bite allergy shows up as a tell-tale loss of hair on the lower back just above the tail.

The first principle to understand in effectively controlling fleas is that the adult fleas you see on your dog are only the tip of the iceberg of your flea infestation. So control aimed only at killing the adult fleas on the dog – such as with collars, sprays, spotons, powders and shampoos - is utterly flawed. Apart from leaving unscathed the 95% of your flea population that will exist as eggs, larvae or pupae off your dog they also rarely kill every flea on your pet, nor prevent them all from breeding.

Given the difficulty of getting at immature flea stages, prevention of flea population buildup is by far the best strategy.

Fleas breed mainly during warm, moist times of the year – typically in late winter and spring. This is when intervention is most important as without it, enormous flea populations can establish themselves by mid to late summer and control can be a losing battle.

Three-pronged strategy

Your flea control strategy must deal with all stages of flea infestation, and include:

- Treating your pet
- Preventing fleas from laying viable eggs
- Reducing numbers of immature stages in the environment

1. Treating your pet and preventing fleas from laying viable eggs:

To be effective, any control program must prevent future generations by eliminating the egg-laying adults and/or by killing the eggs as they are laid on the pet. Taking action before flea problems get out of control is the easiest way to do this. Timely breaking of the cycle of flea development on the pet may also avoid any need to apply toxic insecticides throughout the home environment. There are several convenient and effective products available to achieve one or both of these aims.

Forget old-fashioned flea powders and flea rinses. New generation products are both better and safer. However, no matter what product you use check the label to see if the product is considered safe to use on young puppies.

REMEMBER: Use all insecticides cautiously, follow all safety precautions, read the label directions, and only use those products registered for use by your local authority!

Note:

If the treatment chemical is ineffective, suspect flea resistance. It is wise to rotate between different chemicals on a regular basis (e.g. yearly) as fleas can develop resistance and thus become immune to any chemical used for prolonged periods.

2. Reducing numbers of immature stages in the environment:

As you now know, the immature stages of the flea are the eggs, larvae and pupae. You will never be able to eradicate them. However, while they can be difficult to dislodge from the base of carpet fibers, daily vacuuming will certainly both reduce their numbers and prevent massive population buildup. The vibration produced will also stimulate the hatching of pupae into adult fleas – a stage more amenable to control measures. After vacuuming the dust collected should be placed into a closed plastic bag and immediately disposed of into the garbage.

Ensure that you vacuum thoroughly, including your pet's bedding plus household mattresses, cushions, curtains, doormats and lounge chairs in rooms that your pet visits. Your dog's bedding can also be further decontaminated by regular washing in bleach and air drying.

If your infestation is already out-of-control, you may want to consider knocking it down to manageable levels by using a flea bomb (which is available from supermarkets and hardware stores). However, such drastic measures should not be considered lightly. Flea bombs are highly toxic and should only be used with extreme care. They are only suited to enclosed spaces such as inside your home.

Precautions include:

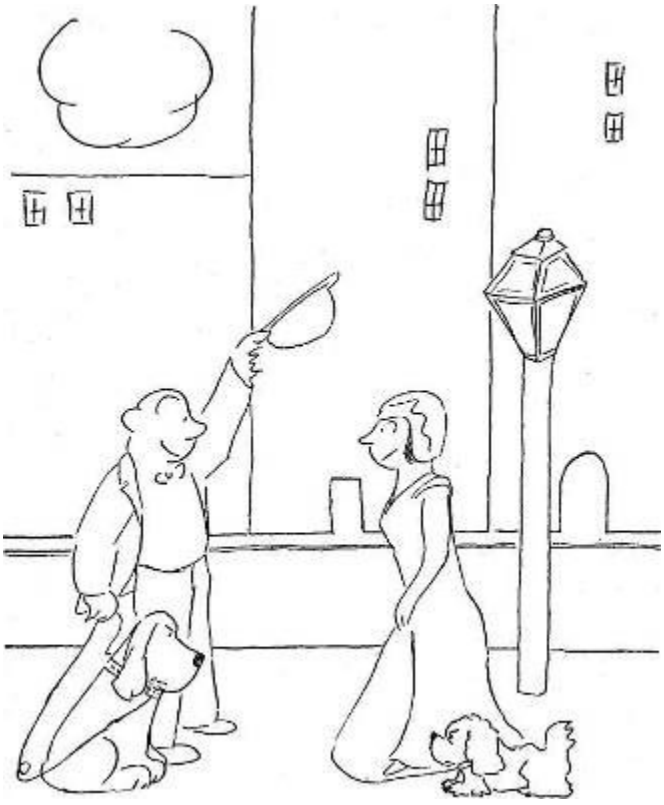
- Closely follow all directions that come with the flea bomb.
- Turn off all naked flames.
- Remove all pets and cover fish tanks.
- Evacuate your family from the building for at least 2 hours.
- Put all food away before using the bomb and cleanse food preparation areas after using the bomb.

- Dust and vacuum the house after using the bomb, once the dust has settled.

To increase their effectiveness, open all inside doors and cupboards, and close (and seal if necessary) all outside doors and windows.

Exercise

To be healthy and happy, your puppy (and you!) requires daily exercise. So, chuck in your gym membership, and commit yourself to at least 20 minutes of brisk walking with your dog every day. Make daily exercise a routine and you and your puppy will enjoy greater health and fewer medical bills for the rest of your life!



There are other benefits too. Did you know that walking a dog is the best way to meet other people? They'll often say hello to him and give him a pat, totally ignoring you! But such meetings can and do lead to getting to know the other people in your community and sometimes even the development of valuable new friendships.

Returns and Contact

Otherwise in the event that a situation arises, and you cannot or do not want to keep your puppy, we will always take the puppy back. In this case, we are not obligated to refund any money paid towards the dog (initial cost, vet bills, travel costs, etc.) but require the surrendering of all health records, registration papers, or any other corresponding info for the dog. We can either take the dog back or assist you in finding an appropriate home.

If you have any other questions please contact us we will be happy to chat with you.

Pittsford Puppies

517-607-5272