



TRAINING YOUR NEW DOG, BEFORE IT TRAINS YOU!!!!

It is very exciting to get a new puppy and we have great expectations of what life will be with your new pet. Too soon, reality sets in. Routines of feeding, exercise and play to be established. Health and an education regime must be started.

After the first few days of fun many discover that the puppy is quite a handful and too often behaviour problems are allowed to compound, eventually leading to a very unhappy situation within the household and possible the puppy being passed on to someone else. Yet caring for and training a dog at an early age is easy and fun. Anyone can do it with a little expert guidance, the key is taking care of potential problems before they arise at the earliest of ages.

Ask your Veterinarian about speying/neutering. These routine sterilization procedures are your dogs contribution to keeping the pet population under control. They also bestow significant long term health benefits on your dog. The only reason not to spey or neuter is if you have plans to show your Mini Schnauzer at Breed Dog Shows as Obedience dogs are permitted (actually encouraged) to be speyed/neutered. This is part of the Sale Agreement -see for conditions.

Training should begin as soon as your new puppy is brought home. Start a housetraining program right away but keep in mind that a puppy may not be reliable until about **5 months of age**. The younger the puppy the less likely he will be able to go for long periods. One of the first things to do when housetraining is to establish an outdoor toilet spot. This should be a small area just big enough for him to move around a little. First thing in the morning is the time of utmost urgency, a young puppy will not be able to make it all the way to the spot on his own and will therefore relieve himself in the first convenient place. You want to train him to use his spot, as it keeps your yard cleaner and makes cleaning up easier. Take pup outside, tell it to go to toilet and be quick and wait with the pup he will soon learn why he has gone outside. When he uses his spot, point to it and praise your dog making a big fuss over it and give him a small treat and take pup back inside. You have to let him know that he did the right thing. Do not play with him on the way to his designated spot as his business comes before pleasure. Walk your puppy outside on a regular schedule. Young pups on three meals a day will need to go out regularly and you must watch him and anticipate his needs. Pup will soon indicate the need to go outside by going to the door, walking back and forth in obvious distress or walking in a circle and sniffing the floor.

Taking him to his spot first thing in the morning (even before you go to the bathroom), 10 - 15 minutes after eating and when he wakes from a nap, plus whenever he is excited or active or has not been outside for some time.

THE KEY IS REGULARITY. Put puppy outside last thing at night and you may find he will be clean right through to morning. Even better if you can let him out during the night or first thing in the morning and puppy should learn quickly to be clean.

As a backup, you can paper train your puppy. Confine your dog to a small area such as a laundry or bathroom when he is very small (**never allow the puppy total run of the house especially unsupervised**). A gate across the doorway works well yet keeps the puppy from feeling isolated. Put paper all over the floor in case of an emergency.

If he gets accustomed to using the paper you can move the paper gradually toward the door and finally have half outside the door and a few sheets inside the door. The puppy will get the idea to go to the door if he needs to go outside. Actually when you collect your puppy he will have been using paper so this method should just be carried on with success.

What to do if you puppy has an accident? Never scold the pup for the mess and should you catch the puppy in the act you can tell him **NO** in a firm voice and tell him to **GO OUT** as you take him outside. If you encounter the mess after the fact **DO NOT RUB HIS NOSE IN IT** as it is counter productive, as dogs are not bothered by the smell but it will probably encourage him to take off when he sees you coming. Your actions are seen as giving attention which reinforces the behavior.

Clean up any mess thoroughly but not in front of the puppy, place him outside until you have finished. Dogs use smell as a guide to where to do their duty. They will go back to the same spot again and again.

YOU WANT THAT FRAGRANT SPOT TO BE OUTSIDE NOT INSIDE. Do not use any cleaning agent that is ammonia based as it will smell like urine to a dog. You can use white vinegar, one part to three water, in a spray bottle. Clean affected area first by picking up and then spray with the solution and blot up (never rub as this spreads the scent) repeat and blot very very well with paper towel. Do the same with urine stains by first blotting as much as you can and then soak well with the vinegar and water solution, blot well and repeat, this way you will have no stain and no smell.



Enroll your puppy in a Puppy Kindergarten class (usually at local vets) as this is excellent for socialization. These classes are basis classes for your puppy and are great for dogs as young as eight weeks of age. The weekly classes offer the training basics of sitting, staying and coming when called and general good manners towards other puppies and people. They help build the bond between you and your dog and help teach your dog the canine social graces to help them in their future lives of being good canine citizens. When your puppy completes his kindy classes he should be ready for adult obedience classes should you decide to continue.

Ask you Vet or Breeder about classes in your area and start as soon as possible. The critical time for training is the first six months when puppy is eager to learn and will learn quickly. Personality and character will be determined by habits you allow him to develop in those first crucial months. It is **YOUR ACTIONS OR LACK OF** that will determine the personality you will have to live with **FOR LIFE.**

If puppy starts biting or chewing stop this immediately by taking him by the scruff of the neck and **GROWLING “NO”** at him and staring him in the eye and keep staring until he looks away first. This must be done as some dogs try to be dominant and you must remind him you are the dominant leader not him. Never allow your puppy to disobey you and you must correct him immediately. Anything the dog “gets away with” is considered by him to be allowed. Animals do not understand ENGLISH they only understand actions and permission granted by you, inaction or by praise. If you have difficulty training your dog or it shows any aggression toward you or anyone, phone me or a professional dog trainer or behaviourist. Puppies are like two year old children, you cannot reason with them and everytime you let them get away with something you will make it harder to correct next time. **REMEMBER CONSISTENCY AT ALL TIMES.** Do not allow something one time and not another and the puppy must know its place in the family at all times.



LEAD TRAINING

This should start as soon as puppy gets home. Buy an inexpensive collar (slip collars not check chains), large enough for the first few months growth. Put the collar on him just to get him used to wearing it, let pup drag lead around for a while. Perhaps this will result in protests and attempts to remove, but if you provide other distractions they will soon forget about it. Once pup accepts this, be gently and do not frighten, pick up lead and keep lead short, talk to pup, tickle him under the chin, pet him and coax him to walk by giving gentle jerks on lead and praising pup when it does walk. Stop frequently to give reassurance. Bribery often helps, cooked liver or cheese will usually provide an incentive to walk. Once puppy gets the general idea try walking round the lawn or garden. At first pup may leap and jerk but reassure it and this will soon be overcome. When you first go on to the road or street, do not overdo it. Do not let pup be frightened by traffic or rush of life but give time to absorb everything, plenty of encouragement and reassurance.

EXERCISE

While small puppy will not require any specific exercise as pup will get all needs while running about the house and garden. If the weather is too cold do not let him stay outside too long, it is very important to keep pup warm and dry if he is to stay healthy. Do not let them stay in the rain longer than necessary. If they get too wet towel dry with old towel, mini schnauzers may need hair dryer if terribly wet. Exercise is not needed until your pup is about four months old and up to eight months should be limited. Never attempt to go too far, little and often is best. Between four and eight months, the bone is largely cartilage and as puppy grows this cartilage is replaced by bone and until this happens, over exercise can cause front legs to bend and pasterns to soften.



KEEPING FIT

Once puppy reaches eight months old, you are reasonably safe in increasing the amount of exercise it gets.

Most Schnauzers will free exercise themselves. They are busy little dogs but half an hour a day of walking on lead will be sufficient to keep them fit. Although they are capable of much more and if you desire they can go as much as you. Ball games and any other games are favorites with these animals.

ALWAYS arrange to walk dogs before a meal, never after as it is dangerous to let them take violent exercise on a full stomach as this can cause **gastric torsion "BLOAT"**. Also let them be quiet for a least an hour after a meal.

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