



DECEMBER 2023 VOL 6 NEWSLETTER



Bringing Home a New Puppy

by Taylor Shmyr



Pups & Tots a story of our recent experiences

by Kali Lukin

1. Vet Visit

Book an appointment with your veterinarian (even before you pick up your new pup) to get a check up, vaccines and dewormer.

2. Baby Proof

Puppies are just like babies! Put away all plants, cords, breakable items, food, shoes, valuables and anything else you don't want the puppy to get into. Puppies like to chew and don't care how much your belongings cost.

3. Potty Break Again?!

Puppies have tiny little bladders, they will need to pee very frequently. Take them out when they wake up, after every meal, after playtime, before bed, before you leave them and when you come back, and every 45 minutes in between.

4. Positive Reinforcement

Reward, reward reward!

Give treats to reward when they are doing something right! To avoid using a bunch of high calorie treats per day, use their kibble as treats (they won't know the difference!)

5. Play Time!

Make sure your puppy has lots of toys that they can play with and chew on. This can be used as a training tool for puppies who like to chew on furniture and belongings you don't want them to wreck.

6. Socialization

Introduce your puppy to other dogs, people and new surroundings. Try and do this process slowly to not overwhelm your pup, but it's important to expose them to new experiences before they're full grown. Puppies who miss out on the opportunity to learn about new surroundings and how to interact with people and other dogs often grow up to have behavioural issues such as aggression, separation anxiety and social anxiety.

Recently our family of five adopted a 9 week old chocolate Labrador Retriever pup, named Bandit. Even though we have had dogs before, we have clearly forgotten the many trials and tribulations that come with young puppies. My youngest child, Henry, is 2 1/2 and it has been a challenge to potty train both a child and a puppy at the same time. Henry loves kitten cuddles and purrs but was not prepared for piranha teeth and constant toy thievery.

A challenge that we were not prepared for is toy sharing! Our house is already baby proofed for Henry, but we did not realize that no matter the quality of dog toy, Bandit always wants the baby toys! Henry is not a fan of sharing and are working very hard to teach Henry that Bandit is learning just like him and patience is important. Our household has amassed quite a selection of dog toys that we keep close at hand; one of our new family rules is: when the puppy chews/bites, redirect with a toy immediately. This is certainly easier said than done at moments but it is certainly helping with Bandit and Henry's sharing.

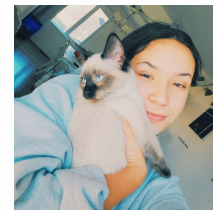
A major milestone that Henry is now attempting is potty training and if you have ever tried potty training a child then you are very well aware that patience repetition and persistence is key. With a puppy, the above is needed with an extra large helping of constant observation. Whenever we see Bandit standing by the door that is his sign that he needs to go to the bathroom. If we are late, even by a couple minutes of noticing, we will be rewarded with a puddle of urine or even a nice pile of something else that no one in our house is excited to clean up.

Even though the adjustment to having a puppy has been challenging, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel! We have been making progress with training our two-legged and four-legged family members and we are looking forward to many years of friendship, adventures and love.



THE TOY REVIEW

by Sierra Maddever



Why are dog toys important?

Toys provide mental stimulation and allow for appropriate chewing. Physical exercise is important in caring for a dog but so is mental exercise; dogs that are bored often become disobedient, destructive and develop bad behavioural habits. Toys are a great way to help your pet stay stimulated, entertained, happy and healthy! Some toys have specific roles in helping keep you pet healthy; squeaky and crinkly toys can ignite a dog's prey drive and chew toys can help dental health by reducing plaque and tartar build up.

Why is quality important?

Good quality toys can prevent choking, intestinal blockages, oral or internal lacerations (cuts) and punctures, and fractured (broken) teeth. All of these consequences of bad quality toys can lead to an expensive vet bill! You want to look for toys that will suit your pets needs; dogs that love to chew need a durable toy that won't splinter or disintegrate into tiny pieces and large dogs need toys that they can't swallow whole.

Toys that I've Tried for My Tough Chewing Dog

Bark Super Chewer Pivot Dog Toy

Treat dispensing dog toy designed for a "super chewer". This product did not last more than 5 minutes in my house. I found bits of toy all over the floor. I wouldn't like to know what else he could do if I left it with him any longer. Way too overpriced for something that does not last a day. I was not impressed with the toy for the price I paid, not worth the money for an item labeled super chewer.

Medium Size: \$21.99

Durability: 1/10



SPOT Scent-sations Chew Toy

The price is great, and you know I love a good deal! It has held up to the super chewer in my house I couldn't be more pleased with chew toy. The only reason why it is not a 10/10 is the little bumps along the bone *can* be chewed off. It is not drastic concern for me as they are small enough pieces that it is not a worry. I am excited to try more products from their line.

One size: \$10

Durability: 7/10



West Paw Hurley Dog Toy

Hurley dog bone is very good quality, the multiple colours that you can chose from is also a bonus! Higher price but worth the money. Good for a game of fetch, dishwasher safe, and floats in the water. Highly recommended.

X-Small: \$13.99, Small: \$20.99, Large: \$24.99

Durability: 10/10



KONG Extreme Dog Toy - Treat Dispensing

Kong Extreme is the ultimate chew toy. It also comes in a bone where you can stick treats in the end. I don't think my dog has made a scratch in this toy. Bouncy and good sizing options.

Another worry-free toy you can leave alone with your dog.

Downside: Not the best to clean.

Small: \$11.99, Medium \$17.99, Large: \$19.99, X-Large: \$27.99, King: \$35.99

Durability: 10/10

