



THE DOGGY DIGEST

TRAINING TIPS BROUGHT TO YOU BY MUTTS WITH MANNERS

House Training Survival Tips

Your puppy is very similar to having a one and a half year old toddler in your house who just learned how to walk and is exploring his environment with his mouth. Dogs don't have hands, so they use their mouths and teeth to explore their environments. Chewing is important for dogs to keep their jaws and teeth strong and in good working order. Chewing also relieves stress, provides an overall sense of well-being and joy, and most importantly reduces boredom. Dogs expend mental energy when they chew, so investing in toys that your dog will love will not only save your furniture but also wear him out a little bit. Allowing bad chew habits to set in as puppies can last a lifetime, and can cause you not just stress, but also thousands of dollars.

When selecting toys for your puppy keep a few things in mind:

Trade cute for functional and practical by selecting toys for your dog, not you. There will be plenty of time for cute toys. Right now we are on a mission indestructible. We want to choose toys that will stand up to your puppy's strong jaws and sharp teeth, and items that will make him feel good while he is chewing them. If he feels good, he is more likely to choose that item again.

Get the most bang for your buck. Select toys that will last a long time. A lot of the toys on this list can last generations of puppies.

Keep confusion out of the training process. Select toys that do not resemble items in your home you do not want your dog to chew on. For example, a plush squeaky giraffe probably looks like a stuffed animal in your Childs room. It also could be similar to a throw pillow on your couch. A rope toy may entertain your dog, but also could be easily confused with the tassels on the corners of your throw rugs.

A quick list of items not to ever put in your puppy's toy box include old sneakers (even if he already destroyed them), children's stuffed animals, water bottles, house slippers, and rawhides. These items have ingestible parts, cause confusion, or can bind up your puppy's GI tract.

Label and Identify your dog's toys. After purchasing 15-20 toys for your puppy, observe the way he interacts with them. Note which ones are safe to leave him unsupervised with, which ones require little supervision, and which ones need 100% supervision. For example, rope toys and plush squeaky toys may be okay, but only if you are playing and interacting with your puppy. Otherwise, to eliminate confusion, these items should be inaccessible to your dog. By beginning with 15-20 toys, you can rotate them also. This is enriching for your dog and keeps him excited and interested in his toys.

So what can your puppy have anyway? The best toys include black, rubber Kongs, NylaBones, and Elk Antlers. The Classic Kong and the Kong Stuff-a-Ball are both great for stuffing. Anything that your dog can form a positive association with will increase the probability that he will do it again. So, by all means, use food. NylaBone's are great to get puppies hooked on right away. The NylaBone Wishbone is a favorite among puppies. Elk Antlers are also very durable chew toys. Investing in good quality chew items for your dog and will save your furniture, turn him into a chew-toy-aholic, and teach him good house manners.

The more toys around the house means the less likely your puppy will make less desirable choices. Your house should look like a puppy lives there. Remember, you wouldn't adopt a one and a half year old child and expect an immaculate house, would you? Of course not, Children require supervision, potty training, and house training. They need mental and physical stimulation and need to establish social bonds. So, your puppy and Mikey aren't that different after all, are they?

Remember that your puppy is growing fast and you will soon wonder where your cute little puppy went. So take a lot of pictures and keep it pawssitive! www.muttswithmanners.com

For safe toy options: www.bonevoyage.net www.texaswildchews.co

Until next time, keep it pawssitive!