



Our Top Puppy Tips

by Bubba's Dog Training



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Tip 1

Rotate Toys:

Puppies can get bored with the same toys quickly. Try rotating their toys daily to keep their environment fresh and stimulating. This not only keeps them entertained but also helps in mental development. Keep a few "special" toys that only come out during training sessions or when you need to distract them.



Tip 2

"Yes" Marker:

Alongside basic commands, teach your puppy a "yes" marker to reinforce positive behaviour. When your puppy does something right, say "yes" in a cheerful tone before giving a treat. This helps them understand what behaviours are being rewarded and can speed up training.



Tip 3

Early Crate Introduction:

Introduce your puppy to their crate in a positive way. Place treats, toys, and a comfy blanket inside. Let them explore it at their own pace with the door open. This creates a positive association with the crate and makes future crate training easier.



Noise Box Training:

Create a "noise box" by filling a cardboard box with different safe objects like crumpled paper, plastic bottles, and soft toys. Let your puppy explore it. This helps them get used to different textures and sounds, boosting their confidence and curiosity.



Interactive Feeding:

Turn mealtime into a fun challenge by using puzzle feeders or hiding kibble around the house. This encourages your puppy's natural hunting instincts, provides mental stimulation, and can slow down fast eaters.



Handling:

Get your puppy used to being handled by gently touching their paws, ears, and mouth regularly. Reward them with treats and praise to create positive associations. This is especially useful for future vet visits and grooming sessions.



Scavenger Hunts:

Hide treats or toys in different rooms or even outside (in a safe area) and let your puppy sniff them out. This activity engages their sense of smell, provides mental stimulation, and is a great way to tire them out.



Grooming Practice:

Introduce your puppy to grooming tools early. Let them sniff and explore brushes, combs, and nail clippers while rewarding them with treats. This makes grooming a positive experience and helps them feel more comfortable during actual grooming sessions.



Chewing Alternatives:

Redirect unwanted chewing to appropriate items. Offer a variety of chew toys with different textures and flavors. Praise your puppy when they choose their toys over furniture or shoes to reinforce good behaviour.



Scent Games:

Enhance your puppy's natural scenting abilities with scent games. Hide treats in different areas of a room or under cups and let your puppy use their nose to find them. This can be a fun and engaging activity that stimulates their brain.



Tip 11

Teach “Touch”:

Training your puppy to touch your hand with their nose on command can be a versatile and useful behavior. It can help with recall, redirecting attention, and building trust. Start by holding out your hand and rewarding them when they touch it with their nose.



Taste Testing:

Introduce your puppy to a variety of healthy foods and treats (like carrots, apples, and blueberries) to see what they like best. This can help you discover their preferences for training and ensure they get a balanced diet.



Two-Toy Fetch:

Teach your puppy to play fetch with two toys. When they bring one toy back, throw the second one. This keeps the game exciting and teaches them to drop the toy in anticipation of the next throw.



Car Acclimation:

Get your puppy used to car rides by taking them on short, positive trips. Start with a few minutes around the block and gradually increase the duration. Bring their favorite toy or blanket to make the car feel more familiar and comforting.



Body Language:

Spend time observing and learning your puppy's body language. Understanding their signals for happiness, anxiety, or discomfort can help you respond appropriately and strengthen your communication.



TIP 16

Safe Space:

Designate a quiet, comfortable area in your home as your puppy's safe space. Fill it with their bed, toys, and a water bowl. This gives them a place to retreat to when they need to relax or feel overwhelmed.



Teach Watch Me:

Train your puppy to look at you on command by holding a treat near your face and saying "watch me." Reward them when they make eye contact. This command is helpful for getting their attention in distracting environments.



Different Textures:

Expose your puppy to various textures under their paws by walking them on grass, sand, gravel, and different flooring types. This helps them become comfortable with different surfaces and builds their confidence. Reward them with praise and treats each new texture to build positive associations.



Vet Visits:

Take your puppy to the vet's office without any procedures, allowing them to meet the staff and get used to the environment. Sit with them in the waiting room with their favourite toy and treats. This reduces anxiety for future necessary visits.



TIP 20

Go to Bed Command:

Train your puppy to go to their bed on command. This can be useful for managing them during mealtime or when you need a break. Use treats to guide them to their bed and reward them for staying there.



Hand Signals:

Alongside verbal commands, teach your puppy hand signals for basic commands like sit, stay, and come. This can be useful in noisy environments or if they develop hearing issues as they age. It also enhances communication between you and your pup.



Desensitisation

Walks:

Take your puppy on short walks around different environments to expose them to various sights, sounds, and smells. Gradually increase the duration and complexity of the walks. This helps them become well-adjusted and less fearful of new experiences, but take it slow!



TIP 23

Puppy Journaling:

Keep a journal of your puppy's milestones, behaviours, and health notes. Documenting their growth, training progress, and any health issues can be useful for vet visits and tracking their development.



Incorporate Training into Play:

Integrate basic training commands like "sit," "stay," and "come" into playtime. This makes training fun and reinforces good behaviour in a playful context.



TIP 25

Don't Compare or Rush:

Most importantly, don't compare your pup to previous dogs or other pups you know. Take it at your puppy's pace and enjoy the training!



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