



Congratulations on your new puppy!

Whether you are experienced with dogs or a first-time dog owner, this packet will supply you with the most current information and advices on how to raise your new friend. If you have any questions during or after your visit, please feel free to ask. We're here to help!

Obedience / Deference Training

Obedience is not so much about the intelligence of the dog, but rather about the relationship between dog and human. In the canine world of social hierarchy, your dog must be on the bottom rung. The vast majority of canine behavioral problems are the result of having a dog that thinks he is in control. Deference training establishes a relationship that says we love you, we'll take care of you, we'll do fun things with you, but you must always listen to us. Simply put, deference training teaches the dog that he will get most anything he wants, but he must do something for you first. It is the equivalent of saying "please." The dog does this by deferring to you, which means sitting quietly and staying for a few moments, before getting what he wants.

Once you've taught your puppy to sit, you should implement the behavior on an ongoing basis. Before you, or anyone in your family, physically gives anything to the dog (toys, treats, dinner, play, affection, etc.), the dog must sit. If he wants a treat, he must sit. When he wants to play, he must sit before you engage with him/her. When you come into a room he must sit before you acknowledge him/her. Done correctly, the puppy will be sitting 50 times per day or more. Make sure everyone in the family, including the kids, enforces this behavior. Adding a stay to the behavior, once the dog has mastered the sit, reinforces his deference to you as his leader and provider.

Housebreaking & Crate Training

Follow these guidelines to make housebreaking as easy as possible for you and your dog:

- Take your dog out frequently - puppies should be taken out 8-10 times per day, especially after eating, drinking, playing and upon waking up.
- Be consistent with your routine – where you take him/her, when you take him/her, etc.
- Use a verbal cue (e.g. “go potty” or “hurry up”) every time he eliminates to reinforce the behavior.
- Immediately reward the dog with either food or praise for eliminating outside.
- If he does have an accident in the house, don’t punish after the fact. Gentle scolding is appropriate *only* when you catch him/her in the act.

Many people choose to crate train their dogs. When trained correctly, dogs see their crate as a safe happy place to relax. Make the crate a pleasant place for your dog to be. While housebreaking, dogs should be in a crate or puppy-proof pen when you’re not directly supervising them. That means if you’re having dinner or watching TV, he/she should be in the crate. Many dogs enjoy soft bedding in their crates (avoid bedding in the crate until the dog is potty trained). Vary the amount of time he/she spends in the crate (30 minutes, 2 minutes, 15 seconds, etc.) so he/she doesn’t think he/she is going to be locked up for 8 hours every time you put him/her in there. Provide the dog with safe toys and chew toys to occupy him/her while he/she is in the crate. Food toys (like Kong and Buster Cube) stuffed with treats and snacks are a great way to get the dog to enjoy his/her crate. Avoid sending your dog to its crate as a punishment.

Body Handling

Throughout your dog’s entire life he will need to be handled on various parts of his body - vet exams, toenail trims, grooming appointments, a simple sticker in his foot while you are on a hike with him/her, etc. Whenever you are having a sit-and-snuggle session with your dog, use it as a training session. Try to touch every part of his body. Get him/her used to having every part of his body handled. Some dogs don’t like their feet touched, some don’t like their ears touched. Get as close as you can to these areas but stop if your dog shows signs of being nervous.

Mouthing / Biting

As a general rule, we don't recommend allowing ANY biting or mouthing of people at all. Allowing any mouthing tells the puppy that he/she is allowed some control, which directly conflicts with what deference training is trying to tell him/her. As soon as your dog puts his/her mouth on you, tell him/her "no bite" in a low stern voice. Give him/her an appropriate chew toy as a substitute and praise him/her for putting his/her mouth on it. Mouthing is something that gradually gets better as you, and the family, continue to work on it. It may be weeks or months before it gets better, and sometimes requires the intervention of a trainer.

Diet & Nutrition

In general, we recommend using products produced by major manufacturers with "AAFCO" printed on the label. If you are feeding a high quality diet no supplements are necessary, as the diet has been formulated for optimal nutrition. Puppies should be fed a high quality puppy food until they are fully-grown, usually at 9 months for small dogs and 12 months for larger dogs. We recommend avoiding supplements and vitamins, especially for large breed puppies. Large breed puppies should be fed a large breed puppy food that is formulated for the special growth needs of a large breed dog. We recommend feeding a measured amount multiple times daily. Most dog foods have recommended feeding amounts on the bag. In general, we recommend feeding one cup of food per 10 pounds of body weight. This gives you a good idea of where to start, but often they overestimate the puppies' needs so you may need to alter the amount your feeding accordingly. It is important to try and prevent obesity to maintain health. A recent study indicates that dogs live an average of two years longer if kept slim.

Heartworm Preventatives

Heartworm disease is a preventable fatal condition that is transmitted by mosquitoes. We highly recommend using a heartworm preventative year-round throughout your pet's life. There are quite a few heartworm preventatives (both oral and topical) available. Some just prevent heartworms, some have intestinal parasite control and some offer flea control as well. We'd be happy to discuss your options with you and find the right product for you and your pet.

[Flea & Tick Preventatives](#)

Flea control is important year round in Georgia. Aside from creating itchy bites, fleas also can transmit diseases and intestinal parasites to both pets and humans. Besides the obvious “ick” factor, ticks are bad news because they may transmit diseases and even cause anemia or paralysis in both pets and humans. There are quite a few flea and tick preventatives (both oral and topical) available. We'd be happy to discuss your options with you and find the right product for you and your pet.

[Intestinal Parasites](#)

Dogs and cats have similar intestinal parasite problems. Although a high percentage of young animals present with intestinal parasites, most adults remain parasite free due to limited environmental exposure, the routine use of preventative medicines, and the nature of the parasites. Routine deworming and regular use of heartworm and flea preventatives should control these parasites. Occasionally you may see intestinal parasites in your dogs stool. If that happens, just give us a call. Several of the parasites do affect humans, but fortunately, routine sanitation helps limit the risk substantially.

[Grooming](#)

The frequency of bathing and grooming will vary with breed, lifestyle and levels of family interaction. If you plan to bathe frequently, once per week or more, we recommend a gentle soap-free shampoo. Regular use of a good quality drying ear rinse, will significantly decrease the occurrence of ear infections. You may choose to use a professional groomer to perform your pet's coat care. Feel free to ask us for groomer recommendations in the area.

[Dental Care](#)

Appropriate dental care is one of the most important things that you can do to improve the quality and longevity of your pet's life. For long term dental health a combination of home care (brushing and dental chews) and periodic professional cleanings is recommended. Teeth brushing should be done at least twice per week, but ideally every day. There are many dental chews available to help fight plaque and tartar. We offer C.E.T. Oral Hygiene Chews, which feature both a natural antiseptic plus a great tasting abrasive texture. You can also offer treats like compressed rawhides (not regular rawhides), bully sticks, etc. Avoid chew toys that are very hard or that are less than 3 inches in diameter. When considering a chew or toy, try the knee cap test – if you hit yourself in the knee cap with a toy or chew and it hurts, it's probably too hard for the dog and could fracture teeth. Always supervise your dog when he/she is chewing on bones and treats as it is very easy for them to try to swallow an un-chewed

piece that can easily become lodged in the esophagus or intestines. Be very careful of what your dog is allowed to chew and swallow as intestinal foreign bodies often require surgical removal.

Identification

Despite your best efforts, accidents can happen - someone leaves a door ajar, the landscaping crew leaves the gate open, etc. If he or she is wearing a collar and ID tag, chances are good that you'll get her back. But what if the collar comes off? Microchips are a permanent form of identification (about the size of a grain of rice) that are placed just under the skin between the shoulder blades. While placing a microchip doesn't require anesthesia, many clients opt to perform this procedure concurrently with a spay or neuter.

EMERGENCIES

For after-hours emergencies, contact either:

Animal Emergency Center of Sandy Springs

Monday – Friday: 6 PM – 8 AM

Weekends & Holidays: Open 24 hours

(Sandy Springs Pl & Roswell Rd)

404-252-7881

Blue Pearl Veterinary Partners

Open 24 hours

(Abernathy Rd)

404-459-0903