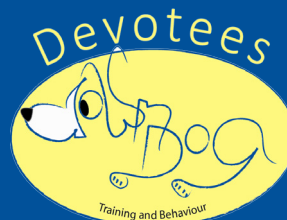


Down Dog Digest

£5 (where sold)

Issue 4



In this packed issue

Main feature: How to avoid five key mistakes with your new puppy

Carol's Challenge: No work, just rest and play

Education feature: What do you need to have ready for your new puppy?

How to avoid five key mistakes with your new puppy



Welcome to our latest Down Dog Digest.

Here I am with the cutest wee pup I met recently at a puppy party.

Getting it right and avoiding mistakes with your new puppy is hard. That's why I wrote "Pesky Puppy to Perfect Pet" to give you a blue print to follow.

My second book, "Chaos to Calmish: Diary of a Pesky Puppy's First Year", tells of the successes I had and of the mistakes I made with my latest puppy.

Both are available from Amazon on Kindle or in paperback.

Read on to see what five mistakes you need to avoid with your new puppy.

Being a good family pet is the hardest job your puppy will ever have to do.

We want our pups to be quiet and settle down when we're busy - but raring to go when we want to play or take them out.

We want them to be happy to meet our friends, family and visitors- but to bark at burglars.

We need them to cope happily with the myriad of things they'll see, hear, meet and smell outside our homes when we take them places with us - but we also need them to stay happily at home when we go out.

It really is a tough job. Read on to find out about the FIVE biggest mistakes new puppy owners make so you can avoid them with your puppy.

The number one big mistake new puppy owners make is with **SOCIALISATION**. Too many people just throw their puppy into the maelstrom of everyday life without much thought.

You need your puppy to have positive, happy experiences with everybody and everything she sees, hears and meets.

Most importantly, your puppy needs to be happy and comfortable with people of all ages and types, from babies to older adults; people with glasses, beards, or hats; loud, confident people; shy people - the list is huge.

And the clock is ticking. Puppies who meet very few humans before they are 12 weeks old may never cope well with strangers.

Five puppy mistakes you should avoid



Just because your puppy is happy with your primary schoolage children, doesn't mean she'll cope with babies.

Just because she's happy with your gran and grandad doesn't mean she understands young men with beards.

Go to our website (www.downdog.co.uk/Help) to download our free socialisation checklist so you can tick off what your pup has experienced so far and plan what you still need to do. There's lots more free stuff there too.

Another big socialisation mistake is to allow your new puppy to play with other dogs. Your aim is for her to be happy and relaxed in the presence of other dogs.



Allowing puppies to play freely with other puppies and dogs creates an adult dog that is fixated with running up to any other dogs she sees – and she becomes a pest to others.

And it will mean training a reliable recall becomes a nightmare.

Your puppy needs to meet or see all sorts of other animals too and experience different surfaces, including slippery and shiny surfaces, stairs and steps. She needs to hear household and outside noises and to experience lots of different places. Download and check that list!

Using puppy pads for **HOUSETRAINING** is the second big mistake. Puppy pads encourage your puppy to eliminate on them - it's what they're for. But think about it - what you are actually training your pup to do is to pee and poo in your house.



Remember, puppies need to toilet very regularly - following play, exercise, meals, naps, and being released from a crate. Or every 60-90 minutes anyway!

The third big mistake involves something very normal for puppies, **BITING**. Oh, those sharp puppy teeth. All puppies bite. It's **NORMAL**. And some bite more than others.

Shouting at your puppy, smacking her on the nose, yelping or growling at her won't stop her biting - but it will spoil your relationship with her, and the damage might take many months or years to repair.

Instead, keep your hands still. Movement is likely to trigger more biting. Encourage her to bite toys and chews instead of you.



Five puppy mistakes you should avoid

The fourth big mistake is **NOT TOUCHING AND HANDLING** your puppy.

It doesn't take long for puppies to start to object to being touched around their tails and hindquarters, or messing about when you try to dry them.

This creates a problem that will cause you and your vet and groomer headaches for the rest of your puppy's life.

Make sure you touch, hold, massage and stroke her all over every day so she'll accept and enjoy all types of handling from friends, family members, vets and groomers.

The fifth and perhaps second biggest mistake is to **FEED YOUR PUP FROM A BOWL**. Food is essential for your puppy - and most puppies are ravenous when it comes to food.



Use this precious resource wisely. Don't waste it by feeding in a bowl.

Hand feed your puppy to build your relationship. Use food to reward her for toileting in the right place, for letting you brush her, for coming when called, and for anything she does that you like.

Carol's Challenge

This time your challenge, should you wish to accept it, is: **PLAY** with your puppy - but balance it with enough **REST**.

PLAY is the best (and most fun) way to build your relationship with your puppy. Encourage her to play with toys with you - tug games are great fun - let her do the tugging and shaking if she wants.



Roll balls around and let her chase them. Just have **FUN**.

At our signature Perfect Pet course, we use games to help you train your puppy to become a great family pet.

Out of control dogs are annoying and dangerous. And it's so easy to teach your dog that you are the best thing in her world, which then makes training easy.

Make sure she gets enough **REST** too. When she's tired, put her in a quiet, safe place such as a crate to have a snooze.

Tempting though it is to cuddle her all the time, it's important that you practice leaving your puppy alone from an early age.

There's more about all this in my book, *Pesky Puppy to Perfect Pet*, available from Amazon on Kindle or in paperback.

What do you need for a new pup?

Less than you think! You'll need:

- a soft collar and flat, 3 or 4 foot lead rather than an extending lead
- some soft bedding - old towels or blankets are fine, unless you want a pretty dog bed of course
- a cardboard box for the first few nights, then a crate is a great idea. Let your pup get used



to her crate with all doors open at first. Give her a filled Kong or other food toy and she'll soon love it!

- some food - try to feed the best quality you can afford
- a bowl for water (ditch the food bowl!)
- some toys, especially toys you can stuff with food, such as those in the pictures below



You'll also need:

- some pet cleaner and pet deoderiser to make sure you get rid of any scent after those little accidents.
- puppy pads - for the first few nights in the crate only
- my book, *Pesky Puppy to Perfect Pet* which tells you all you need to know about bringing up your puppy to be your perfect pet - buy it from Amazon in paperback or Kindle.

Get it right from the start by booking our Premier Puppy Package of three visits and walks and get a free copy of my book. All the details and booking are at www.downdog.co.uk/PuppyPackage.

What our Proud Puppy clients have said:

"Thank you for your visit to us yesterday. It was such a great help, and very reassuring to us as complete novices that the zoomies are not unique to our puppy. We really appreciated your patience and how long you stayed for. We will definitely be reading your book at the weekend! Teatime was much easier as the girls were able to keep the puppy constructively entertained while I was busy."

"We are all feeling much more confident and our puppy seems to be learning fast."

"Your sessions with Robbie when he was a pup really helped him set a good foundation of behaviour."

We hope you've enjoyed this Down Dog Digest.

Please feel free to share it with any friends, neighbours or family members you think might find it interesting.

Our website has loads of free advice and help sheets and details of all the help we can offer you with your new puppy. We'll hold your hand through our Premier Puppy Package in those first weeks with your new pup and we'll teach you how to train your pup for life through our signature Perfect Pet courses.

Become a Down Dog Devotee to get on-going, personal help and advice and get future Down Dog Digests delivered to your door, as well as reduced prices on our courses and packages.

Go to our website www.downdog.co.uk to find out more.