

WHIPPET CENTRAL

# 37 WHIPPET PUPPY TRAINING TIPS



# General Puppy Training

1. Think of your puppy as a toddler who has no concept of right or wrong, and needs to be taught. Repetition and consistency are key.
2. Have a calm, assertive energy when training.
3. A crate is an invaluable tool when housebreaking a puppy. It provides your young dog with a sense of security when you are busy or away. Never leave a puppy in a crate for too long because they need regular bathroom breaks.
4. Baby gates can also serve as a great training tool to block off “restricted areas” of the house and help to teach your puppy what areas are off limits.
5. Teach the command “watch me.” Essentially, you train the dog to look at you on command. Good for if they are too distracted by a squirrel, another dog, cars they want to chase, etc.
6. Teach “Go to your spot” with a mat, crate, or rug. Useful for dogs that jump on guests at the door.
7. Don’t get upset when your puppy does something wrong or has an accident. Even though you might be convinced at the time he/she is doing it just to get on your nerves, they really don’t know any better.

8. Make sure to distract them with something you want them to do, as opposed to just telling them no.
9. Avoid giving in to things that will be a big no-no when they're older and bigger. Example: jumping on people might be cute and tolerable when they're still small and tiny, but if they're going to get bigger, it won't be cute then.
10. Enrol in puppy manners and home obedience classes! This can be one of the most valuable things you can do to get the dog's behaviour to be what you desire.
11. (Corollary to 10) It's never too early to start training. The earlier the better.
12. Determine what motivates your dog—food, attention—and train him/her accordingly.
13. A tired puppy is a well-behaved puppy.
14. Puppies want nothing more than to please you, they just need to know how. Be consistent!
15. To encourage your puppy to use the crate in the beginning, a Kong toy filled with peanut butter works great. Use the command, "In your crate" and as soon as they go in on their own, and reward them with the Kong.
16. Get used to them taking up the entire bed if you are not going to crate them.

# Unwanted Behaviour: Chewing and Barking

17. Bitter apple spray will stop your pup from chewing.

18. Best advice to keep them from chewing stuff was to buy a variety of textures of toys and put one of their toys in their mouth literally every time they had a hold of something you didn't want them to chew.

19. If you don't want a barking puppy, take time to go out when they bark, tell them it's okay, and comfort them. Now my beagles don't bark at the neighbours (just at the strangers and mocking squirrels).

## Leads

20. Harnesses that connect to the lead in the front of the chest are a godsend. They help prevent pulling.

# Socialising

21. You want your puppy to be affectionate and well socialised, but you also want him or her to be independent enough to not be stressed when left alone.

22. Socialise and expose your puppy to people and other dogs! Introduce your puppy to as many places as you can, and to as many people and other dogs as you can.

23. Do some research to find local Whippet groups. Meetup.com allows you to find and attend local meetups with other dog owners and can be a great resource if you have questions, concerns or need advice.

24. Introduce your puppy to everything. All shapes and sizes so they are comfortable with their surroundings. This includes people wearing hats, backpacks, carrying things, other dogs, people of all races, children, other animals and noises.

25. Introduce to all kinds of people in all kinds of clothing & appearances (including hat, beards, and glasses), and have yummy treats on hand for rewarding your pup.

# Potty Training

26. For the first month or so, if your puppy is small, carry them to the grass to eliminate instead of letting them walk to the grass. This prevents any accidents that may happen on the way outside and lets you place them where you'd like them to go.

27. Use positive reinforcement for potty training. When they use the restroom outside, give them a 'potty party' which you give them a little treat, lots of scratches and pets, and say, "good boy/girl!" in a high-pitched, excited tone.

28. Put a bell on the door for potty training.

29. Make sure your dog learns to do their business on lead and off lead. Working at a vet clinic you see so many dogs who don't know how to go to the toilet on a lead because it wasn't told to them at their puppy visits.

30. For potty training, don't scold for mistakes. It's on you if the dog goes inside, you probably aren't taking him or her outside frequently enough. Praise and treat every time they go outside. Associate a term with it such as, "Go pee" or "Hurry up!" as soon as the dog starts going.

# Health, Exercise, and Grooming

31. Naps are important for your puppy. Be sure to give him the space and time he needs to relax. Try not to overwhelm him. Like a baby, he'll need frequent naps during the day.

32. Fill a Kong with food and natural peanut butter, then freeze it. This is great for teething puppies and separation anxiety. Puzzle toys are wonderful.

33. Exercise your puppy regularly, but not too much too soon. Exercise can tire her out, but training can provide mental exercise which can also be tiring.

34. When you take your puppy to puppy classes, make sure the other dogs there are up-to-date on vaccinations.

35. Get your whippet accustomed to being touched on its feet, face, legs, mouth, etc., will help when you need to bring him or her to the vet or groomer.

36. Keep your puppy out of large shops or public places when they're little. The Parvo virus can live on surfaces if they're not cleaned properly.

37. Start driving your puppy in the car early if you want them to like the car and not get car sick.

**Want to learn more? Then get my whippet puppy handbook**



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