**Things that will help with a new puppy.**

1. Teach your puppy basic commands.
2. **Sit**-this will get your puppy to focus on you and listen to what you have to say. Use a piece of their kibble as a reward.
3. **Stay**-The puppy needs to understand that it must not run away whenever it wants to. You must be in control. Again, kibble works great.
4. **Come**-could literally save the dogs life. If your dog is chasing someone or something and runs into oncoming traffic it would be lights out. Also, can very quickly before a bad habit that is hard to break.
5. **Heel or here**. Also, very important so that you don’t have a terrible time walking your dog. Never allow them to pull you. Read how to prevent this on the internet. Nothing worse than landing on your head when you are out for a walk or the dog charging at others.
6. **Leave It**-I use this command to teach them what they are and are not allowed to have or chew. I take item away and replace it with what they can have.
7. **No Bite**-this one is a big one. Puppies are like sharks and their little teeth can hurt you. They are not doing this to be aggressive however it left unchecked it can turn into aggression. I don’t allow my puppies to mouth me…some trainers do. I give them what they are allowed to have and say firmly…NO BITE and give them one of their toys. I have tied them to the leg of the couch and sat and played with them. If they bite me, I move just out of their reach and say NO BITE and then ignore them for a minute. I keep repeating it over and over and they eventually get it.
8. This gets a number of its own. **CLAIM YOUR DOOR!!!**

Nothing on earth annoys me more than dogs jumping on people when they come to visit or jumping on me when I come home. We often create this behaviour. People come home from work or school and start talking in an excited tone or baby talk to our pets ie. “Mommy missed you so much!!!.”

You have now amped up their level of excitement instead of creating a calm environment for homecoming. Dogs will actually jump up and bite your hand or your companies hands for attention and out of sheer excitement. You have done this….

When you get a puppy everyone in the house must be consistent. Create boundaries and be consistent.

Put a sign on your door-**Ignore my Puppy!**

**Everyone must follow this rule including yourself.** An added bonus would be to have someone work with the puppy to sit at this time and give them a treat and also practice your stay.

Everyone should come in calmly, get themselves situated and then calmly address the puppy and pet them. You would be surprised at how well this works.

1. I want you to play with your puppy while it eats. Put your hand in the bowl and hand feed it some kibbles. Get it used to you touching and being in the food bowl. Do not allow the puppy to become possessive. Do the same with toys. You take it and play with the puppy and give it back. You can use kibble as treats and reward the puppy when it gives you the toy. It will see this as positive play.
2. Introducing your new puppy to another pet. Dog, cat etc. Never allow your new puppy to torture your older pet. This can be bad for both. Intervene please. Allow short intervals of interaction in the beginning and teach the puppy the same as you are teaching for yourself.

 “No Bite.”

1. **DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN TO CRAWL ALL OVER YOUR DOG ESPECIALLY TODDLERS!!!**

I see videos of this on the internet. Toddlers sitting on the dog or punching the dog, lying on it and the owner thinks it is cute. It makes my blood boil. It is far from cute and even a good-natured dog can have enough and bite the child. Then whose fault is it? It is the adults, period.

Shame on them. Also never allow a child or adult to creep up on a sleeping dog. You can startle them and they instinctively bite. Remember their teeth is their only defence if someone hurts them even if it is accidentally. BE SMART!

I also want to address animal abuse. If you are in a home where the abuse it taking place and you do not step in, you are just as guilty as the abuser.

1. **Put away your marijuana and edibles out of reach of your puppy/dog.** Also do not throw the butts in the yard. We are getting several reports of dogs/puppies being stoned. This is not a joke. Your animal can die. Be responsible if that is your jam.