

# PUPPY PROBLEM SOLVER



Me & Win-Wood's Delight  
(at 8 weeks old)

## Win-Wood Kennel

A.K.C Registered Labrador Retrievers & Beagles

**Dogs bred for**

*Temperament, Intelligence, and Trainability*

## The Biggie I: housetraining

made in the house when you were not

Until the puppy is about 3 months old, your puppy has to relieve itself quite frequently. If you are not quite sure how to go about house training him, this might not bode well for you carpet. Understanding a few important factors can make for a much speedier and easier housetraining process.

**Timing is everything.** Your puppy will probably need to "go" right after eating or playing, right after waking up, and every few hours during the day. Be prepared to walk him promptly at these times, before he has a chance to make a mistake in the house. Remember keeping your puppy on a regular schedule of meals and walks will make house-training easier for both of you. Here's a tip: Don't end the walk abruptly as soon as he relieves himself. This teaches him that relieving himself ends the fun outing - and he may figure out that "holding it" will result in more time spent outside.

**Always let your pup know when he has been good.** On your walks, praise him lavishly (for example say " Good puppy! Good puppy! In a happy voice) as soon as he eliminates. The basis of speedy, easy puppy training is clear and immediate communication on your part.

Use the same simple words and phrases to mean certain things. Don't expect the puppy to understand long rambling sentences. Tone of voice is "very" important too. Your puppy will learn more quickly that "good dog" means you are pleased with what he has done, if the words are said cheerfully.

**A watchful eye is key.** Watch your puppy every minute that it



is loose inside your home. If you notice it acting like it is going to eliminate, say "NO" right away in a stern but calm voice, quickly take him out, then praise him when he relieves himself outside.

Think of it this way: Every mistake your puppy makes in the house is a step backward in his housetraining - every time he relieves himself outside is a step forward.

**Never give "delayed punishment".** You should never punish your puppy for mistakes he

watching. As with all training, the feedback that's communicated to your puppy - whether positive or negative must always coincide with or immediately follow the puppy's action. This allows him to make a clear connection between the action and the feedback it causes, ensuring speedier learning.

If you were to punish your puppy hours afterwards for a mistake he made in the house, he would probably hang his head and look sad while you admonished him. Many people think it is "acting guilty", and therefore think the puppy understands what he did wrong. But all this behavior really means is that the puppy knows because of it's owner's tone of voice and body language that the person is angry and upset. It does not understand why. Punishing a puppy for reasons he does not understand, will only leave him confused and unhappy. This will lessen his trust in you and damage the bond that is developing between the two of you, and it will surely slow the housetraining process.

**Provide your pup with his own special place.** Finally, until he is completely housetrained it is most important not to let your puppy have the run of the house unattended. Have him stay in a confined area, a part of the kitchen fenced off with a baby gate perhaps, or ideally a crate (den), anytime you are not watching him. A puppy is less likely to relieve itself in a confined space. Because of this instinct, he is more likely to "hold it" until it's time for his next walk.

### Special points of interest:

- Timing is everything.
- Always let your puppy know when he has been good.
- A watchful eye is the key.
- Never give delayed punishment.
- Provide your pup with his own special place.

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## THE BIGGIE II: CHEWING

**Something to Chew On:** Because of the new teeth developing in his jaws, your young puppy has a very strong urge to chew on things. In fact he needs to chew. Like a human baby who is teething, your puppy chews to help his new teeth emerge through his gums.

Rather than punishing your puppy repeatedly for chewing on things he finds around the house, give him plenty of toys that he is allowed to chew, and praise him when he is happily gnawing on these. Hard nylon chew toys are excellent for this. Avoid rawhide chews, because swallowed pieces of rawhide cause digestive problems for some

dogs.

Sharp fragments of cooked poultry or pork bones from the dinner table can also spell serious tummy trouble as well.

The best bets are durable chew toys equipped with a recess for hiding bits of his dry food or



favorite biscuits. These toys can keep your puppy entertained and busy for hours. Still be sure to stow valuable items, like your purse or your favorite pair of shoes away from the puppy when he is not being watched. Even many non-valuable items such as socks, tee shirts, etc..... have been known to cause ..... Problems. Also be sure that harmful chemicals and electrical cords are kept out of harms way, when your puppy is not being attended to. Remember that especially with the retriever breeds they just love to have something in their mouth.

## THE BIGGIE III: DIGGING

**Digging It.** Puppies and dogs dig for different reasons. Some dig to make a cozy bed, and some dig for the pure joy of it. Ever see a kid having fun with a pail and shovel at the beach or in a sand box? Now you get the idea, they just do it. Most trainers feel that digging is done from instinct or that the most common reason for digging is that the puppy is bored and lonely. So an important first step is to prevent boredom and loneliness

Your puppy needs companionship. If he is left alone in a yard all day with

nothing to do, he is sure to be unhappy and he might turn to digging for comfort. If you have to be away for most of

*This garden looks to be a great place to dig a cozy bed. HMMMMMMMM "Nice Fresh Cool Dirt"*

the day, try to see that he has company for at least several short periods during that time. Have a neighbor or pet sitter

come over for play visits or to take him for a walk. Provide him with plenty of toys that will keep him safety occupied. Better still if you have an older dog or another puppy to be kept with him, they will both find plenty to do and not be bored or lonely.

If he still delights in making holes in the lawn or flower bed, you can create his own special digging area in a corner of the yard. By burying a few of his toys there and making a game of it, you can teach him it is OK for him to practice his earth moving skills in this special place.

## THE BIGGIE IV: JUMPING

**Jumping Up for Joy.** It is perfectly natural for your puppy to jump up in excitement and put his paws up on you as he greets you, and other people. After all he is as happy to see you as you are to see him! But although this is cute when he does it now, it might not be so cute when he is grown up, especially if he is a large breed, such as a retriever. Two things can help ensure that as an adult dog he will not make a habit of "saying hello" with his wet or muddy paws, or to an even a greater extent knock you or someone else down.

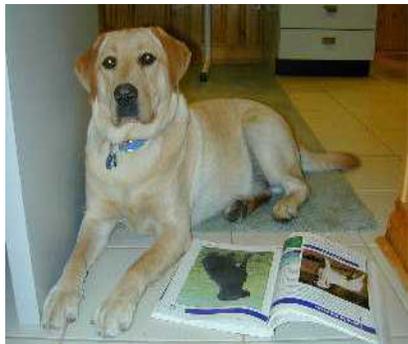
1. Be sure not to encourage your puppy to put his paws up on you, unless giving a command to do so.
2. Teach your puppy to greet people calmly right from the start. Rather than punishing him, teach him to sit whenever



you come in the door, or when a friend approaches him. Give him praise or a treat every time he sits, and simply ignore him when he jumps. This way he figure out pretty quickly which behavior is more rewarding. He will soon be sitting every time he sees you coming.

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**A Final Word.** Training your puppy and raising him to be the well-behaved, happy companion you've hoped for involves a serious commitment of your time, effort, and attention. Just as with raising a child, there may be ups and downs, but sharing your life with this loving (and loved) family member is all



worth it in the long run. If you have any questions regarding your puppy's behavior, do not hesitate to ask the breeder where you purchased the puppy, your veterinarian, or local boarding kennel to recommend a reputable trainer in your area. Information on local dog-training clubs can be obtained from the American Kennel Club (AKC) at (919) 233-9767 or [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org). Excellent advice can also be found in a number of good books and

videos about raising your puppy, including American Kennel Club Dog Care and Training (Howell Book House, \$11.50). Most of all, enjoy your new puppy! Spend time with him and give him your best, and he will reward you with years of devoted companionship



## THE Importance Of Socialization

### ATTENTION NEW PUPPY OWNERS!

Training and socialization are essential parts of caring for a new puppy. Start training your puppy "NOW", before little Fido makes the Tasmanian Devil look like a couch potato.

### A Poorly Socialized Dog:

- Jumps on people
- Drags you down the street
- Bothers neighbors
- Soils inside your house
- Aggressively protects food dishes and toys
- Rips apart your house or yard

- Acts "Out Of Control"
- Is an embarrassment



Little Fido

*" Start Training Your Puppy Now, before little Fido makes the Tasmanian Devil look like a couch potato "*

### A Well Socialized Puppy

- Is much easier to train
- Is less likely to bite
- Is comfortable with new people, places, pets, or things
- Is easier to groom, board, and medically treat
- Is more predictable and safer to be around people or to be left alone
- Is more enjoyable for the whole family, friends and neighbors
- Is a better all around companion and buddy

## Choosing to microchip your pet

**Pet Identification!** You know you love your pet and so does your family. "What would you do if your puppy was lost or stolen"?

Every day police departments, dog pounds, and animal officers receive calls about lost or stolen pets. This is where your local veterinarian can help by safely and permanently implanting a microchip in your dog or puppy. A simple injection of a tiny microchip under the skin gives your pet a "Lifetime Of Protection". Most

animal shelters, animal control officers, and area veterinarians now have the scanners necessary to check stray

animals for ownership. It could save your pet's life. The microchip is approximately the size of a grain of rice, and is placed painlessly,



under the skin between the shoulder blades of your pet. The identification code is unalterable and will last for the life of the pet. When a lost pet is brought to an animal shelter or animal hospital, a special hand held scanner is passed over the dog's shoulder blades, and the pet's identification code on the chip identifies the owner, who is then contacted.