

CONTACT: LAURA CHRISTIANSEN, CPDT 760-931-1834
LAURA@K9LRNG.COM

BEFORE YOU BRING HOME THAT PUPPY ...

Laura Christiansen, certified dog trainer and owner of Canine Learning Centers gives insight on what you'll need and how to survive your new puppy's first night.

Few things in life equal the excitement and joyful anticipation of a new puppy. Good preparation is the key to a sound nights sleep for your family and its new member. This article offers a bit of advice to ensure things run smoothly on the day your new puppy arrives.

On day one start him off on the right paw! First consider how you can best keep him safe and avoid his getting into mischief as you would for a crawling baby.

Here are a few items to get before his arrival:

- Water & Food Dish (stainless steel is best)
- Supply of food
- Cardboard box or foldout pen
- Nylon leash and collar
- Bed, blanket* or piece of carpet

Ask your breeder to put a small blanket* in with mother and littermates for a couple of days to sponge up odors, seal it in Ziploc bag, then after removing it from the bag place it in the puppies bed. He will find the familiar smells comforting. It may also be helpful to have a DAP diffuser next to the sleeping area, they give off pheromones. DAP diffusers can be purchased at most pet stores.

It is helpful to make your puppy as sleepy as possible before bedtime. Puppy's will howl or cry when they are separated from whatever they are most attached to. Initially it is the mother and littermates but this attachment will quickly transfer to you and the other family members. It is ideal to bring the puppy into the bedroom of the person that will be the primary caregiver. Being isolated is not a natural state for pack animals therefore puppies should learn to be alone gradually. If you don't plan on putting him in a bedroom, but rather the kitchen or laundry room, then the entire family and puppy will have to tough it out. Puppy will be a bit unsettled but do not go to him if he howls or cries; this just trains him to do it even more. Put some newspaper down in the pen, ignore him completely and he should get used to sleeping alone by the end of the 1st week.

Put him in a tall cardboard box he cannot climb out of or pen with his special blanket. Only use a crate if the breeder preconditioned him for one. If sleeping in your bedroom any whimpering can be hushed by a reassuring pat or quiet word. Do not over-fuss or

respond to every whimper. If he cries loudly and tries to get out he may have to relieve himself. Take him out, praise him when he goes, and put him back into his bed. He should quickly adjust and sleep through the night within the first few nights.

With lots of patience and persistence your puppy will adjust to the routine. Enjoy your new pet!!

Canine Learning Centers offers puppy kindergarten, basic and advanced obedience for pups 9wks on up. You may contact Laura Christiansen, CPDT at 760-931-1834, WWW.K9LRNG.COM