

PUPPY CLASS HANDBOOK

RED BEARD DOG TRAINING

Puppies aren't for the faint of heart. They are newborns that need to be taught how to appropriately interact with their world. The more you invest in this stage, the better you will have it in the long run.



STRUCTURE

Play. Eat. Sleep. Repeat.

Most puppy issues stem from being given too much freedom too soon. If your puppy isn't being supervised, they should be in the crate. Take time out of your day to play, train, and provide a bit of supervised free time. The more we are present to guide their choices, the more we will be able to set them up for success.



POTTY TRAINING

Set a schedule and stick to it.

The crate is your best friend! Most puppies won't go to the bathroom in their sleeping quarters. Take them straight from the crate to outside, and wait for them to go potty.

If they don't go, it's back in the crate for 15 minutes and try again. Once they go, reward them with a high value treat and take some time for some supervised play or training.



ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

When in doubt, take them out!

Inside, if they start to sniff and wander away assume they are sneaking off to go potty. The more opportunities outside the better.

If you witness an accident, try and interrupt it with a loud sound and immediately take them out. If it happens out of sight, don't punish after the fact. Take it as a sign that you gave them a bit too much freedom.



PUPPIES vs THE WORLD

Exposure & Advocacy

As they grow, it's our job to teach them how to safely interact with the world. Advocate, challenge, and expose your puppy! If you don't you'll end up with fears, anxiety, and undersocialization issues that are much harder to reverse in adulthood.



SOCIALIZATION

Keep your social circles small

You'll get a lot of people wanting to fawn over your puppy. Don't hesitate to say no to on leash greetings with strange dogs or pushy strangers wanting to get in your puppy's face. It's our job to protect them and help form positive associations with the world. Choose trusted people, and balanced dogs to socialize your dog with. Not just any joe shmoe on the street. Even if they mean well.



EXPOSURE

Explore the world in a safe way.

The more sights, sounds, and surfaces they are exposed to the better. Think shopping carts, construction, traffic, elevators, public parks etc. Seek out sidewalk grates, uneven surfaces or bubble wrap to train around. This will help them learn to overcome their fears. Don't force it, take it slow and use lots of rewards.



PROBLEM BEHAVIORS

Puppies aren't for the faint of heart.

The behaviors you allow as a young pup, are the behaviors you'll see in an adult dog. It feels good when your pup is so excited to see you when you come back from getting the mail right? Now picture your 70 lb lab breaking grandma's hip at Thanksgiving. Be very aware of what behaviors you are allowing your puppy to get away with. It might not always be so cute.



JUMPING BEANS

#savegrandma

If you love on your puppy when they jump on you, you are teaching them that paws on mom = praise and love. First try ignoring the jumping... once they settle only THEN give your love. If they don't show any signs of stopping you can give them a poke on their chest, or use a leash to pop them down. This makes it slightly uncomfortable to jump, and they also don't get what they are hoping for. Affection.



BABY SHARKS

Avoiding the puppy razor teeth.

Puppies learn to interact with their environment with their mouths. Give them an appropriate outlet to use their teeth by giving them chews and toys. If they are on mission to gnaw on your hand, you can give them a small correction by pushing your thumb down on their tongue. If you make it uncomfortable for them to put teeth on you, they will usually opt for a lick instead.



DEMAND BARKING

Who is the most stubborn?

When your dog is bored or wants out of the kennel they bark until they get what they want. Sound familiar? Be ready for this, and make sure to never give your dog what they want if they are barking at you. This is assuming all of their basic needs are met. Wait them out and once they are quiet give them what they want on YOUR terms. If they are driving you insane and show no signs of stopping, you can interrupt with a pet corrector or a squirt bottle.



TRAINING

Take all the advantages you can get

Puppies LOVE their food. Use this to your advantage. Hand feed their kibble to teach simple commands and to mark and reward good choices. Reward your excited engaged puppy, but don't forget to reward your puppies calm choices too. Bonus points if you take their meal out in public to train in distracting environments. Get creative, the world is your oyster!



PLACE COMMAND

Doggy Meditation.

Teaching the “off switch” begins now. Place is a stay command on an object that is a different height or texture than the ground. Think dog bed, park bench etc. It is important to teach our puppy to have calm downtime. This will not only keep you sane, but can be used to help solve problem behaviors and work on impulse control down the road.



RECALL

Practice makes progress.

Recall is one of the most important skills that your dog will need to know. Whether it's because you want them to come in and stop barking at the neighbor's dog, or need to keep them from running into traffic, a solid recall is a must. Practice, practice, practice and don't ditch the longline too early.



LEASH MANNERS

To sniff or not to sniff?

We want the puppy to be able to sniff and explore their environment, but it's not very fun for either of you to be dragged around on the leash with full tension. You can do both! Work on focused loose leash walking in short spurts with a slip lead. When you are ready for them to explore, switch them to a harness and a long line to work on recall.

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COME: Come all they way back to me.

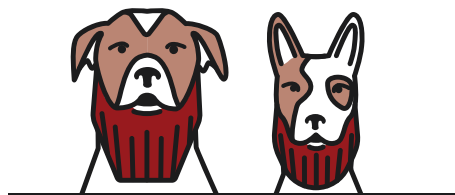
PLACE: Stay on this suface until I release you.

BREAK: You are free to do whatever you want.

SIT/DOWN: Stay in this position until you are released.

OFF: Stop doing what you are doing (barking, digging, jumping, etc).

MARKER WORDS



RED BEARD

- DOG TRAINING -

WELCOME TO THE PACK