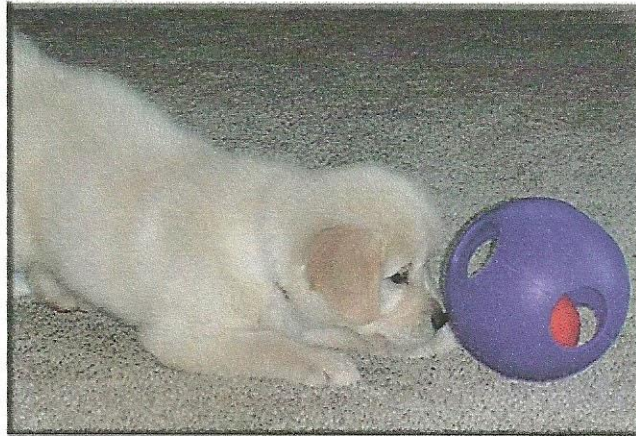


Preparing Your Home For A New Puppy



"The truth is, if there is trouble to be found you can be sure that your cheeky little puppy will find it!"

General Rules For Puppy Proofing Your Home

Get down on the floor and crawl around your home to experience how it will look from your puppy's perspective - go on do it! I'll wait.....

- Put all **dangerous objects and items that can be damaged safely out of your puppy's reach**
- When you are away from home or otherwise distracted **ALWAYS confine your young puppy** in a safe area, free from danger. You can use a crate, pen area or a small secure room for this purpose.
- **Closely supervise** your pup when he is loose in the house.
- Provide some chew toys for your puppy to chew on.
- Use a bitter taste deterrent spray if needed on furniture legs that could be considered tasty by your dog (don't laugh this does happen!).
- If your dog gets into something inappropriate it is your fault - you can't expect your puppy to distinguish between an expensive pair of shoes and an old worthless rag.

Preparing For A New Puppy - Indoors

- Electrical cords, computer cables and phone cords represent a **major hazard** to young teething puppies. Do your best to put all these cords out of reach. At the very least wrap them in pvc tubing (or similar) and apply a bitter taste deterrent spray. Remember, puppies can get into very small places.

- **Clear all benches and tables** of breakables and other items which your pup could find interesting. Including anything made of paper! Paper products are a prime target. Also the TV remote, thumb drives and cell phones!!
- Don't leave food around on tables. Clear the food away as soon as you have finished with it. If a puppy hits the jackpot by stealing some food off a table he is very likely to continue to search these areas in the future - his behavior has been reinforced.
- If you have a balcony or raised patio area ensure that the railing is sufficient for keeping your puppy in. You may need to add a temporary barrier which secures the area.
- Be careful with household items you wouldn't normally consider to be dangerous. I'm talking about things such as a **rocking chair or a door that bangs shut in the wind**. The consequences of such an accident can be devastating - for you and your puppy.
- Check that your **indoor plants are non toxic**.
- Puppies love to play with (which means destroy) the **drawstrings that dangle from indoor blinds**. If possible tie these strings up well out of reach!
- Buy trash bins that are impossible for your puppy to get into.
- Keep ashtrays out of reach and **never burn candles** in a spot where your puppy could get at them.
- If you have any **poisons or baits out** for rodents or ants make sure they are inaccessible to your little pup. Mothballs should also be placed well out of reach.
- Fireplaces are dangerous areas for inquisitive young pups. When the fire is on there are obvious dangers and the stacked wood also presents its own danger.
- Keep toilet doors closed.
- Be careful of hot coffee and medications.

Preparing For a New Puppy - Outdoors

- Be especially careful with any **fertilizers, potting mix and weed killers** you are using in your garden. It may mean that you switch over to organic products or a safer alternative.
- Garages and sheds are chock full of potential hazards, make sure they are always locked up when your puppy is on the prowl.
- **Antifreeze is highly toxic** and at the same time attractive to your puppy which is a very dangerous mix.
- Clean up the yard from all **tools, hoses, lawn mowers and kids toys**. Throw a few of your puppy's toys out there instead.
- Check all fences and gates for holes. **Gates that close automatically** are a good safety measure (especially if you have kids or guests coming in and out).
- Check for any **nails, screws or sharp pieces of wire** protruding from the fence and other structures.
- Swimming pools must be securely fenced off. I have a veterinarian friend in Florida who lost a new puppy who fell in a pool. So it can happen to anyone!!