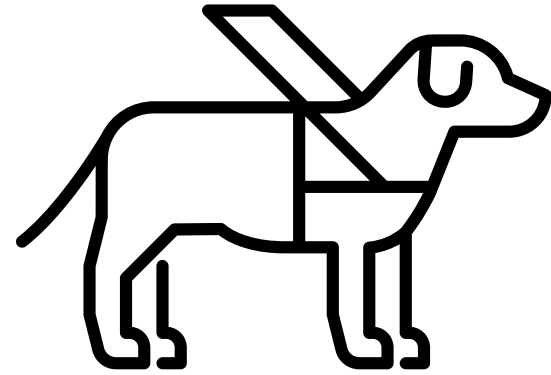
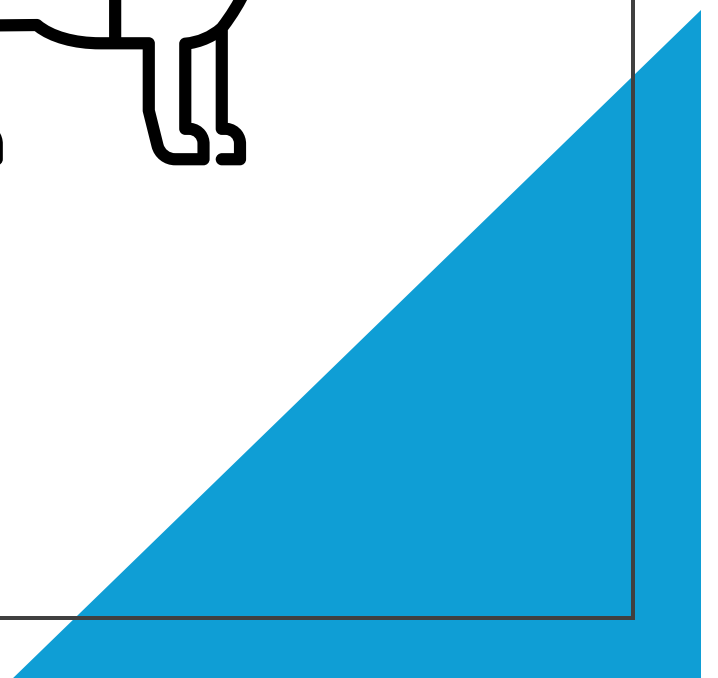


Puppy Training Guide

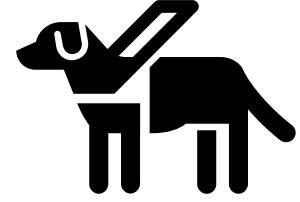


A Basic Guide for Puppies Ages 8-16 weeks.

Written by Savannah Morgan



Preparing For Your Puppy



- *Read the puppy manual!**

- *Display it somewhere in your home where you can see it.

- *Attend classes to learn more about Occupaws training practices and techniques.**

- *Talk to other household members about expectations.**

- *Share Occupaws puppy rules with other household members.

- *Share your training plan with household members- especially potty and crate training plans.

Preparing For Your Puppy cont.

- ✿ **Make a training game plan and schedule.**
 - ✿ Your puppy should be worked with throughout the day. There is an outline of commands you should focus on specific to your puppy's age in the puppy manual.
 - ✿ Optimal training time in minutes = Puppy's age in months + 7. Ex. A 2-month-old puppy can work for about 9 minutes before getting tired and losing focus.



Bringing Your Puppy Home

- * Wait to introduce your puppy to another dog in the household.**
 - * Keep other dogs separate from your puppy for the first few days to a week. This will help decrease the initial excitement over meeting for the first time. Let them sniff through the crate or through a fence but wait to allow them to play.
 - * Once you allow them to play, monitor it! If one dog is harassing the other, that's your cue to step in and separate them. You can redirect with a toy, training, or crate time.
 - * Do not EVER leave your puppy alone and/or unsupervised with another dog (being on your phone in the same room does not count as supervising!)

Bringing Your Puppy Home cont.

***Hand feed your puppy's meals to build your relationship.**

* Take advantage of your puppy's mealtime to train. Hand feed the puppy's meal to him so he starts to see you as the source of everything fun!

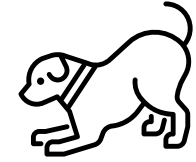
***Keep attending classes (minimum 2x/month, recommended 1x/week)!**

***Occupaws puppy rules:**

- * Four feet on the floor (no lap sitting)
- * No furniture
- * Sleep overnight in the crate
- * Add water to kibble
- * No people food

- * No escalators
- * Puppies must remain leashed outside unless in a securely fenced area
- * **Additional rules can be found in the puppy manual.**

Socialize, Socialize, Socialize!



What Socializing IS:

- ✓ Teaching your puppy to be neutral in response to new stimuli.
- ✓ Teaching your puppy to be neutral around other dogs and people.

What Socializing IS NOT:

- ✗ Allowing your puppy to play with every new dog and person he comes across.
- ✗ Immediately throwing your puppy into new, overwhelming situations such as large and noisy crowds and really busy stores.

Socialize, Socialize, Socialize! cont.

- **Take your puppy everywhere with you.**
 - Since your puppy is a service dog in training, he can come with you to work, shopping, out to eat, and other outings.
 - Take your puppy to new places with different floors, elevators, new noises, and new experiences.



Socialize, Socialize, Socialize! cont.

*🐾 Socializing With Other Dogs

- *🐾 It is important for your puppy to learn to be neutral around other dogs. Introducing your puppy to your own dog is okay, however too many play times with other dogs can result in overexcitement around dogs in the future. Puppies who are over-socialized to other dogs may display signs such as: lunging towards other dogs, barking at other dogs, or even fear of other dogs if they have had a bad experience.
- *🐾 Great ways to socialize your puppy to other dogs without letting them play are:
 - *🐾 Taking him to class
 - *🐾 Sitting in the car with him near high dog traffic areas and letting him look out the window
 - *🐾 Training in the house with dog videos and sounds playing on the TV
 - *🐾 Remember: **No dog parks!**

Socialize, Socialize, Socialize! cont.

***Socializing With Other People**

- ***As with dogs, people can become a problem for your puppy if he is introduced to every person he sees. With very social breeds (such as Labs and Golden Retrievers) meeting too many people can cause overexcitement. Puppies who are over-socialized with people may also lunge toward people and bark, thinking they will get to say hi and play.**
- ***Creating neutrality around people is very important, especially for guide dogs. Allow your puppy to say hi to a very select few people (preferably people you know who will say hi in a calm and neutral manner), but not while he is in his vest or out working in new places.**
- ***When you do allow your puppy to say hi, try to keep your puppy's attention on you as much as possible by using treats and heavy praise. Ask those petting your puppy to do so calmly and neutrally so as not to get him too excited around new people.**
- ***Remember: YOU should be the most exciting and interesting person to your puppy.**
- ***When your puppy is older, you may work on polite greetings with new people. But for the first couple months of your puppy's life, his handler should be the most important and exciting interaction.**

Socialize, Socialize, Socialize! cont.

***Socialize your puppy to new noises.**

- * Start introducing new noises inside of your home. While you are training, playing, or during mealtime, play noises quietly on the tv. Slowly increase the volume over time.

- * Some good sounds to play are barking, birds, sirens, fireworks, gunshots, door knocking, doorbells, and other sounds your puppy may struggle with.

***When your puppy is scared:**

- * **Do not comfort him.** This only reinforces and encourages the fear. Try to redirect with treats, toys, or training. Your puppy may not want toys or treats, so try playing with him and making it fun. Make yourself exciting!

- * If they are scared of a specific place, room, or object, start from farther away. Play with your puppy from a distance, then close the distance over time.

***Remember to act confident and neutral. If you are nervous or unsure, your puppy will be too!**

***Get your puppy used to being handled. Handle his paws, tail, ears, look at his teeth, etc. Do this every day.**

Potty Training

***Crate training is key!**

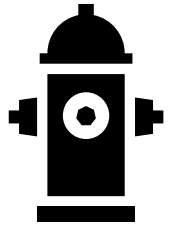
- * Puppies naturally want to keep their sleeping and eating space clean, so they are less likely to soil the crate.

***When to take your puppy out:**

- * 10-15 minutes after eating or drinking
- * Immediately in the morning
- * Immediately after coming out of the crate
- * Every 20-30 minutes when he is outside of the crate



Potty Training cont.



***Note times**

- * Keep a potty log. If your puppy is consistently pooping at certain times (Ex. the morning, evening, or right after mealtimes), he will likely continue to do so.
- * Noting if your puppy has peed or pooped is also a great way of keeping track of his health. Puppy poop can tell us a lot about how they are feeling!

***Carry out, walk in.**

- * When you know your puppy really needs to go, carry him outside. He is much more likely to hold it until he gets outside if you carry him out.

***Pottying on command**

- * When you take your puppy potty, take him to the same spot each time and allow him the length of the leash to go potty. Right when he squats, say “potty.” After he is finished, say “yes! Good potty!” and give him treats and heavy praise. Make it exciting!
- * If your puppy does not potty within five minutes of being outside, put him back in the crate. Then take him outside again after 10-15 minutes. Repeat this until he goes potty.

Potty Training cont.

***Other potty-training tips**

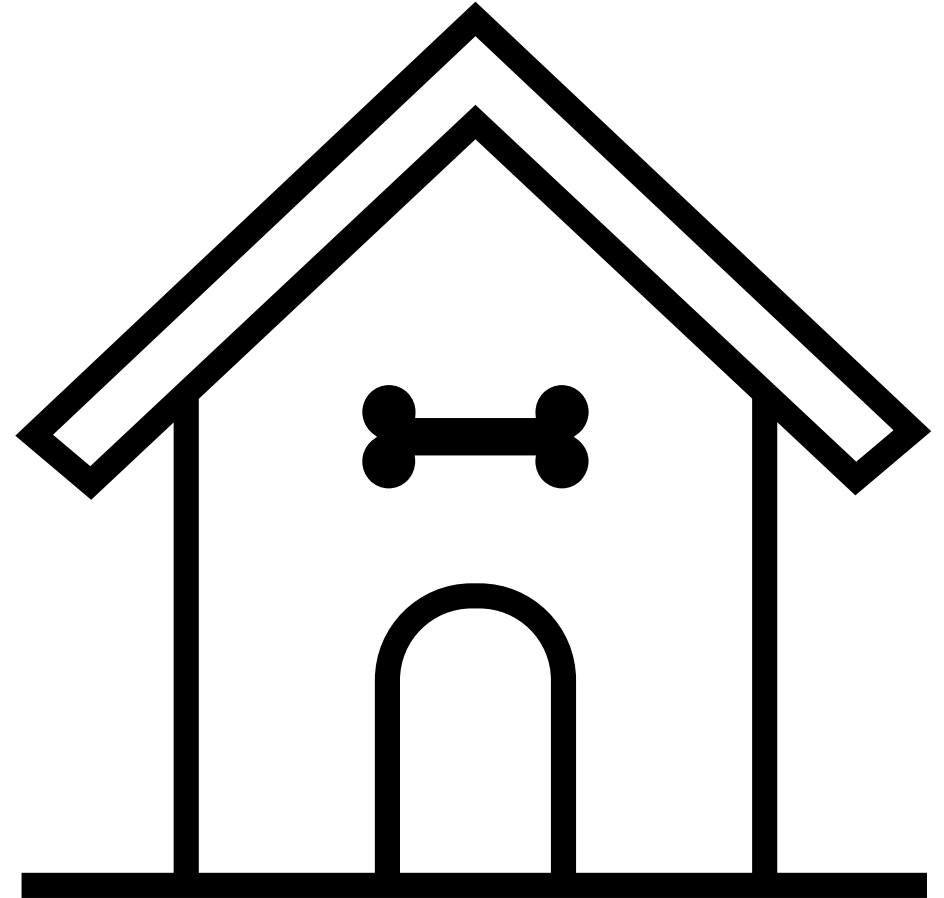
- * Limit water at night (1-2 hours before bedtime) to help your puppy hold it longer overnight.
- * Limit your puppy's access to certain areas of the house.
- * Guide dogs need to be touched on their back so their handlers can tell if they are peeing or pooping. Start doing this with your puppy when he goes by petting his head with two fingers.
- * Keep your puppy with you on a leash throughout your house. Your puppy is less likely to potty with you standing right there, and you are more likely to notice the signs. He won't be able to wander off to an unseen corner to relieve himself, either.

***Accidents will happen, and that's okay!**

- * **Do not punish your puppy.** If it happened without you noticing, he will not know why you are punishing him. Or he will be afraid to potty in front of you.
- * If you catch him in the act, interrupt him with a loud noise ("Hey!" or clapping) and immediately carry him outside to his potty spot.
- * Use cleaners that get rid of the scent, or your puppy will be drawn back to that same spot. A mixture of vinegar and water works great for getting rid of the scent (and doesn't stain the carpet!)

Crate Training

- ❗ **Crate training is one of the very first things you should work on with your puppy. He will be sleeping in the crate and will be crated when unsupervised. The sooner he is crate trained, the easier your life will be.**
- ❗ **The crate should be a safe place for your puppy.**
- ❗ **The space in your puppy's crate should be enough for him to stand, turn around, lay down, and nothing more.**



Crate Training cont.

🐾 Tips and techniques for crate training:

- 🐾 Feed your puppy meals in the crate.
- 🐾 Start crate training by tossing treats in the crate. When your puppy enters the crate, mark “yes” and reward him. Do not close the door at first. After he has done this consistently, start saying “crate” when you toss in the treat. Once he has entered the crate consistently without hesitation, shut the door while he is eating the treat you tossed in. When he turns around, toss another treat in. Open the door while he is eating the treat. Slowly build up the amount of time you have the door shut.
- 🐾 When your puppy is out and about, toss treats in the crate when he isn’t looking. He will eventually find his way to the treats and over time will enter the crate of his own accord looking for treats.
- 🐾 When you put your puppy in the crate, make sure he has gone potty.
- 🐾 Ignore your puppy if he is crying in the crate. Even talking to your puppy can encourage him to cry more. Only let your puppy out when he is crying if you think he needs to go potty (this is where having a potty log can come in handy, if you know he goes at a certain time, chances are that is why he is crying), then put him back in the crate again. Toss treats in when he is quiet in the crate or release him from the crate.
- 🐾 Covering your puppy’s crate with a towel or blanket can also create a more soothing environment inside the crate.

Crate Training cont.

🐾 **Remember: The quantity of time your puppy spends outside of the crate is not as important as the quality of time outside the crate. In the beginning, it is more important to have successful outings that involve basic training, socializing, and potty training.**

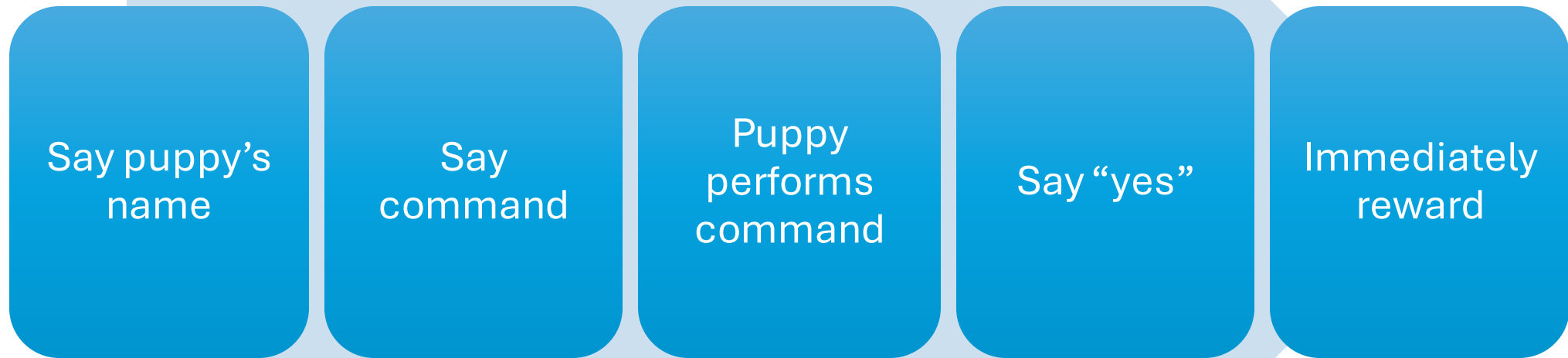


Basic Training

*🐾 Markers

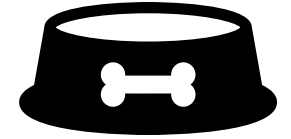
- *🐾 **Markers** are ways of telling your puppy if he has done something right or wrong. It is your way of communicating with your puppy in a way he will come to understand.
- *🐾 Start all commands by saying your puppy's name. ("Puppy, sit!")
- *🐾 When you give your puppy a command and he follows through, or he offers a behavior you want him to repeat, mark it by saying "yes." This should be followed up immediately with a treat.
- *🐾 When teaching stay, wait, place, or coming out of the crate or car, the release word is "free."
- *🐾 When your puppy isn't doing something right, mark it by saying "uh uh."
- *🐾 If your puppy is doing something bad (like getting into the trash, jumping up on counters, etc.) mark it by saying "No!" (Make it really intimidating! "No" should not be a pleasant experience.)

Basic Training cont.



- 🐾 Don't forget to use a commanding tone when giving commands. We are not asking our puppies to sit; we are telling them.

Basic Training cont.



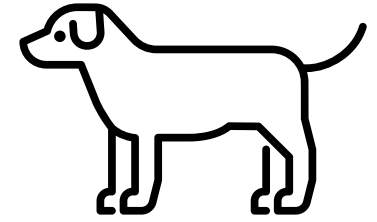
* Use kibble as treats.

- * Puppies can be overfed very easily. Use your puppy's meal for training and give him the leftovers at mealtime. This will also help your dog food last longer.
- * If your puppy doesn't respond very well to kibble, use higher value treats (in moderation) like dehydrated beef lung (or other dehydrated organs), boiled chicken, or cheese.

* Luring

- * We can teach basic commands like sit, down, place, and the heel position by using luring.
- * "Luring" is using a treat and putting it right in front of your puppy's nose (he should be able to lick at the lure). Using the treat, you can essentially steer or "lure" the puppy into desired positions. For example, to lure a puppy into a down, you bring the treat straight to the ground. Their head will follow you down, then the rest of their body.

Basic Training cont.



***Engagement/ Name Recognition**

- * This is essential for puppies to learn before any other command!
- * Engagement: when he makes eye contact with you or is focusing on you or a lure, mark “yes” and give him a treat. Practice engagement by luring your puppy around and making yourself the most exciting thing in his environment during training.
- * Name Recognition: say your puppy’s name then mark “yes” when he looks at you or comes towards you.

***Recall**

- * Practice on a leash so your puppy has nowhere else to go.
- * Make yourself exciting! Say your puppy’s name, then “come.” Use fun, high-pitched noises to encourage your puppy to come toward you and keep his attention on you.
- * When he gets to you, mark “yes” and give him heavy praise. Lots of high value treats, pets, and play.
- * If he doesn’t come to you, use the leash to draw him in.

The Big Takeaways

- * Come to classes! Write down questions and issues with your puppy as they arise and bring them to class.**
- * Socialize, socialize, socialize! Take your puppy everywhere with you.**
- * Use the crate as a resource for potty training and as a safe place for your puppy to sleep and take breaks in.**
- * It is very important to be consistent with your training. Train your puppy every day at least a couple of times a day. If you aren't sure what to work on, ask about it in class or refer to the puppy manual.**

And Above All...

***Let your puppy be a puppy! Have fun with him and give him lots of love!**

