

Puppy Mouthing and Nipping and Acclimatizing To Future Grooming Progress Chart

A head to toe examination intended to discourage mouthing and prepare a dog for the veterinarian experience, the grooming experience, rough handling by children too young to know better etc.

Instructions

In The Early Stages Don't Do This:

Anymore than one step at time and a few seconds at a time. Consistent success with one level before moving on. Otherwise you can frustrate your puppy and set the puppy and yourself up for failure.

When your puppy is hungry, after meals is better than shortly before meals.

When your puppy is physically or mentally over tired or is over stimulated.

With children or guests (until success has been achieved with the adult members of the puppy's household).

Anymore than one step at time. Consistent success with one level before moving on. Otherwise you can frustrate your puppy and set the puppy and yourself up for failure triggered by frustration rather than a lack of potential.

Do Do This:

Click To Review: - [Safe Use Of Leashes And Collars, Rule Of Three, What Is A Correction?](#)

Make sure leash is on and work through the exercises one by one using the leash to abruptly interrupt mouthing and acquire puppy's attention so that when you use, 'You're Warm!/You're Cold!', tone and body language your puppy is given a clear sense of whether he or she is warm or cold. It shouldn't take more than 3 consecutive immediate repetitions to provide clarity. Give the puppy a break before moving on to another body part.

Start off with a minimum of 6 sessions per day. (During television commercials for example.) It's far better to be proactive than reacting to a puppy initiated bout of mouthing or nipping.

Stick to the order the exercises.

Stick to the order of the people doing the exercises. **The last group/step is particularly important. (Children, particularly 8 year old males.)** Adult members of the household must succeed first, then younger members of the household can start with the adult handling the dog, then non-resident family and friends and the last category may seem strange but one out of two children are bitten by dogs (their own or a dog in a home they are visiting) by the time they reach the age of 12 and 8 year old males make up a large portion of those. This is almost always due to poor early socialization of the puppy (**[Review The Socialization Cheat Sheet](#)**) and not preparing dogs for the clumsy handling and curiosity, not to mention the perfectly normal tendency in an eight year old to wonder why they're being told not to do something.

Allow your puppy to grasp the concept before moving on to another body part. For example, if you're pretending to put ear drops in the first ear it's only when you are able to do so with three immediate 1, 2, 3 ('Rule of Three') attempts before you'd ask the same of the next ear. The pup mustn't overly fidget or mouth or nip with one ear consistently with that body part before going on to the next. The first few times are the hardest but you'll get there.

Set your phone up to video your first few steps and send to me and I'll reply with a personalized tutorial based on what I see in the video.

Tip

Keep one of **[The Brain Drain Toys](#)** handy and the dots have been connected in each step ('Rule of Three') offer the designated for chewing brain drain toy as an option.

Can you use treats? Treats are used to distract a dog as opposed to teach the dog what he or she is doing correctly or incorrectly and they often don't have the impact we want when the situation is so stressful that treats are the last thing on the puppies mind. For example, an injury or ongoing care related to that injury. If the groomer wants to give your dog treats when it gets to them, that's fine, although stick to something your dog's digestive tract has been previously adapted to. I recommend dried liver over anything else.

Apply The Rule of Three (Review)

The rule of three is used to help a dog recognize a pattern. In the early stages of training whether they 'get it' right away or not, always provide 3 consecutive attempts. In other words, using the leash if you need to acquire attention, using your tone and body language to provide a recognizable "You're Cold., 'You're Warm' pattern three times in a row.

The purpose behind the 'Rule of Three' is to give a dog enough information to connect the dots (understand) correctly.

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		Level															
		I				II				III				IV			
		Adult Member Of Household Applying the 'Rule of Three' and Handles The Puppy				Adult Member Of Household Applying the 'Rule of Three' While Younger Members Of Household Handle The Puppy				Adult Member Of Household Applying the 'Rule of Three' While Adult Non Resident Family And Friends Handle The Puppy				<i>(Make Sure Your Puppy is Rock Solid Before Attempting)</i> Adult Member Of Household Applying the 'Rule of Three' While Children (Particularly Eight Year Old Males) Handle The Puppy			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Pretend Drops in the Ears and Eyes																	
1	Left Ear																
2	Right Ear																
3	Left Eye																
4	Right Eye																
Pilling and Dental Exam																	
5	Gum Massage																
6	Pretend Pill or Placebo Pilling (tiny treat)																
Injured Paw Examination/Simulation																	
7	Hold The The Left Front Paw Still																
8	Hold The Right Front Paw Still																
9	Hold The Left Rear Paw Still																
10	Hold The Right Rear Paw Still																
Injured Paw Examination/Simulation																	
11	Count the Toes On The Left Front Paw																
12	Count the Toes On The Right Front Paw																
13	Count the Toes On The Left Rear Paw																
14	Count the Toes On The Right Front Paw																
Feet Wiping With Towel																	
15	Pretend Wipe The Left Front Paw With Towel																
16	Pretend Wipe The Right Front Paw With Towel																
17	Pretend Wipe The Left Rear Paw With Towel																
18	Pretend Wipe The Right Rear Paw With Towel																
Leash Chewing/Tug Of War Avoidance																	
	Dangle Leash Temptingly																
	Make A ' Leashette ' For Frequently Chewed Through Leashes																
Nail Clipping Simulation (A)																	
19	Tap Each Toe On The Left Front Paw With Clippers Or Dremel																
20	Tap Each Toe On The Right Front Paw With Clippers Or Dremel																
21	Tap Each Toe On The Left Rear Paw With Clippers Or Dremel																
22	Tap Each Toe On The Right Rear Paw With Clippers Or Dremel																
Nail Clipping Simulation (B)																	
23	Pretend Clip The Left Front Paw With Clippers Or Dremel																
24	Pretend Clip The Right Front Paw With Clippers Or Dremel																
25	Pretend Clip The Left Rear Paw With Clippers Or Dremel																
	Pretend Clip The Right Rear Paw With Clippers Or Dremel																
Flank Grab																	
26	Grasp The Left Flank																
27	Grasp the Right Flank																
Wag Your Dog's Tail																	
28	Grasp Your Dog's Tail To Hold and Gently Wag																

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		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Grooming Experience																	
Brushing and Combing																	
29	Introduce Brush and Comb While Discouraging Attempts to Grasp With Mouth																
30	Gently Run The Comb Or Brush For A Few Seconds (Just Long Enough To Elicit A Reaction) Immediately Responding To Attempts To Bite At The Comb Or Brush ('Rule of Three')																
31	Increase Above To A Few Seconds Longer But Same Area																
32	Change Body Areas																
Scissors																	
33	As With Above Introduce The Scissors and Scissors Opening And Closing For A Few Seconds (Just Long Enough To Elicit A Reaction) Immediately Responding To Attempts To Bite At The Scissors ('Rule of Three')																
34	In small bursts simulate (carefully) clipping of the hair around the face and feet if that's something your breed will require.																
Electric Clippers																	
35	As With Above Introduce The Clippers Without Turning Them On (It doesn't have to be dog groomer clippers, any personal grooming appliance that hums similarly will do) For A Few Seconds (Just Long Enough To Elicit A Reaction) Immediately Responding To Attempts To Bite At The Clippers ('Rule of Three')																
36	In small bursts simulate (carefully) clipping of the hair around the face and feet and body if that's something your breed will require.																
Blow Drying																	
37	As With Above Introduce A Blow Dryer Without Turning It On) For A Few Seconds (Just Long Enough To Elicit A Reaction) Immediately Responding To Attempts To Bite At The Blow Dryer ('Rule of Three')																
38	As Above But Turned On At Lower Speed And From Greater Distance																
39	As Above But Close Enough That The 'Wash/Air' Can Be Felt																
40	As Above But With Low Speed Direct Contact On The Body, Avoid The Face																
Standing/Sitting Still On A Table																	
41	Practice Staying Put Without Fidgeting On An Elevated Table Similar To The Height And Experience Found At The Groomer And Veterinarian Clinic																