



# Puppies are cute, but they can be difficult!

Secret Lake  
Dog Training,  
LLC

## Does your puppy sometimes look like the puppy above? Do you sometimes feel like you are at the end of your leash? Don't give up!

### Puppies are amazing creatures!

They are funny, smart, annoying, destructive, sweet, fresh, calm and tireless. Owning and training a puppy requires the ultimate patience, commitment, responsibility, and a sense of humor.

Puppies are quick learners. That is both the good news and the bad news. They will learn good habits and bad habits equally well. If you don't train them right from the start; they will simply train themselves. What they learn may not turn out to be what you want to live with. Untrained puppies can learn bad habits including:

- Jumping on everything.
- Chewing inappropriate items such as your leather couch.
- Stealing food and anything else they want.

- Barking.
- Peeing and pooping wherever they like.
- Dragging you down the street.
- Ignoring you when you call them.
- Growling and biting.
- Protecting food and/or toys.

Puppies are like toddlers – into everything and don't know right from wrong. You wouldn't leave a toddler alone in a room to do what he/she wanted, would you? Of course not!

Supervise your puppy at all times. Always crate your puppy when you cannot supervise. Puppy proof your house. Teach your puppy what is acceptable behavior.

Raising a puppy is hard work, but if you put the time, effort and patience



This smiling dog once was the snarling puppy above.!

into the puppy now, you will have an awesome adult dog.

Puppies and dogs who behave perfectly at home behave quite differently out in public. No amount of training in your home can prepare your puppy for behaving in the real world.

Working in a class with other puppies, people and distractions will help your puppy learn to ignore distractions and behave in many different situations.

*Socializing and training your puppy is vital to your puppy's development.*

## Crate Training Your Puppy

**Crate training is the easiest and quickest way to housebreak your puppy and keep your puppy out of trouble when you cannot supervise her.**

Crates are wonderful. You will be able to leave your puppy home alone and know that your house will not be destroyed and that your puppy is safe.

The most practical dog crate is the collapsible wire

type that is available in many sizes. A wire crate is lightweight, easily transported, allows total ventilation, and lets the dog see everything going on around him.

*(Continued on page 2)*

Karen J. Moulton,  
Owner & Instructor

- 1994 Graduate CT K-9 Professional Training Course.
- Association of Pet Dog Trainers Member.
- AKC Approved - Canine Good Citizen Evaluator.
- Shelter Volunteer.
- Trained/certified Sienna as a search and rescue dog.
- Sienna & Mattie - AKC Canine Good Citizens.
- Has 5 dogs (4 from shelters) and 1 cat.
- Vet recommended!



### Puppy Tips

- Be consistent and fair.
- Never hit or yell at your puppy. You will teach him fear.
- All puppies chew because they have a physical need to chew.
- Puppies don't "know better." You need to teach them what is acceptable.
- Don't allow jumping on you, furniture, counters—it won't be cute when puppy is grown up.
- Start training right away.

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*"Dog Training is Not a Secret."*

The crate should be large enough for the puppy to lie down and stand up in when he is fully grown. However, if the crate is too large and your puppy eliminates in one end of it, either section off part of the crate or get a smaller crate for the house-training process.

Place the crate in a "people area," such as a kitchen, or family room or bedroom. Don't put the crate in the garage or basement because you are isolating the dog!

Place some old towels or blankets in the crate. Don't buy an expensive dog bed because most likely your puppy will chew it apart! Don't put newspaper in the crate because it may encourage the puppy to go to the bathroom in the crate. Don't put food and water in the crate.

*Never open the crate if your puppy is barking or whining.* If you do, you will reward the barking/whining and have created a dog that barks/whines to get his way. Instead, ignore the puppy, don't make eye contact and wait for a break in the barking/whining. At that instant, open

the crate. Your timing must be perfect to avoid rewarding the barking/whining. Your goal is to reward the quiet behavior.

If he continues for several minutes and you think he has to go to the bathroom, use the phrase he associates with a bathroom break. If he responds, take him outside to eliminate. No playing. This is a bathroom break only. If he goes, praise him. If you intended to let him out anyway, don't put him back in the crate. If you intended for him to stay in the crate when you initially crated him, put him back.. If he doesn't go, simply bring him inside and crate him. You don't want him to get the idea that barking and whining gets him out of the crate whenever he wants.

If he barks and whines again, ignore it. Do not yell at the pup to stop making noise. It will just make it worse. Either he will think you are barking too and/or he will enjoy the attention. Just ignore the puppy. It may take a long time, but the puppy will stop barking.

### Puppy Classes Offered

**Puppy Kindergarten** introduces your puppy to important life skills such as basic commands, socialization, and appropriate play. The class teaches you how to effectively train your puppy and have fun in the process.

You will also learn how to prevent, stop, and manage behavior issues such as; mouthiness, chewing, jumping, barking, aggressive and fear behaviors, and inattention.

Puppies will be introduced to fun obstacles such as tunnels, hoops, and dog walks. Also they will meet new puppies and people!

### Adult Dog Classes Offered

**Elementary School** includes learning and working on basic commands such as: sit, down, stay, stand, come, and learning to concentrate around distractions.

**Middle School** is a 4 week class for dogs who completed Elementary School.

**High School** continues to challenge your dog with increased distractions, more difficult exercises, and fun games for both owners and dogs.

**Canine Good Citizen Class & Test**

**Private Lessons and Behavior Consultations** are available at the training center.

**Schedule and enrollment information are on the web site.**