The information in this document is from a visit that I had with

Irina from http://red-star-kennel.com

I had her come for a home visit so that I could get some puppy training information and questions answered for our puppy families.

She has been very helpful to me training my doodle.

She knows the breed well---knows all dogs well and is very professional.

I really want your family and your new dog to know how to get along in the best way possible. It will take a lot of work and patience on your part but it is so much easier to train good behavior than to correct bad!!!

**Now let’s get started:**

**The first thing that Irina had me do with my dog is to keep her on a leash. Yes, even in the house. Get a small thin lease and keep it on the puppy when they are not in the enclosure or crate. This way you will always be able to have access to correct them or keep them from getting hurt.**

#1 --- Introducing your puppy to new people.

The best way to prevent your puppy from becoming a dog who jumps and freaks out every time they meet a new person is to never let them get that habit. The first thing that you should ask people to do when they come to see your new puppy is to

IGNORE IT!!!! ---what? YES!!! You simply tell people. “please ignore my dog he is in training” They can come up to you and talk, say hi but not even LOOK at the dog. Once the dog has relaxed, then they can bend down and say hi to the dog. The reason is that we want the puppy to slowly become aware of the new person and come to them. “No big deal.” This will help to keep them from having a lot of emotion over meeting new people, whether it be excitement or anxiety.

Once your puppy approaches the person, then BEND DOWN and from

**below their chin** give some affection and pet them.

Never pet from the top of their head. ESPECIALLY KIDS!!!!

That will lead to jumping up and hand biting.

#2-----Crate training.

*–I have someone’s puppy in a crate while I am typing this and it’s doing GREAT----*

Your puppy needs to be comfortable in a crate. Even if they sleep in an alternative controlled environment, they will eventually be crated and it needs to be a good experience for you and for them.

-Have the crate a little out of the way. –ours is in the mud room—

- Do not coax them into the crate with a treat. It is great to pre-plant treats in there without your puppy seeing them, but do not use them to coax them in.

\*Pre-plant the treats 3-4 times and then after that to let the puppy go in the crate, turn around and sit. Then you can give them a treat if you want while they are in there. Also, you do not have to keep giving them treats because this is a normal behavior that they should just do.

- Do not release your puppy for wining. It is difficult, but let them do all the screaming they need to until they relax. As soon as they are quiet (even for one second) let them out but WITHOUT emotion!! Simply open the door and walk away. Don’t act like you just saved their life. Just open the door and let them walk out on their own and take them right outside for a potty break.

**Again--- You do not want to act like you are saving their life.**

#3---Car rides.

It is good to start taking your puppy for short car rides. Just a mile or so on an EMPTY stomach is the best way to start. You want them to start associating it as a fun thing to do. Put the crate in the car, bury some treats in there, drive for 5-10 minutes and then come home, let them out and play outside for a few minutes with them. They will really get a fun association with the car and not anxiety over the motion or movement.

She said that you can also take little/young dogs and carry them around in a handled tote bag to get used to some motion.

My dog always got car sick, even in the crate. I bought a harness that tethers onto the seat belt and now she never gets sick and does great in the car. Also….SAFER!!

#4- Potty training ---ahh yes!! If they only came potty trained!!-----

Take your puppy outside at least every 25-30 minutes when you are first training it. Put on a coat and go out there with them!! Walk around and show them where you want them to do their business. Make sure they are done. Praise them and go back inside.

-------Handling accidents: As we discussed, your puppy should always be on a leash when it is out of the crate or enclosure. One of the biggest reasons is to make sure that accidents do not go unnoticed! If you do not notice the accident or the puppy about to squat, you cannot prevent it and then you will have to CORRECT a bad behavior and that it TWICE as difficult. If you see you puppy going to squat, 3 jerks on the lease, and take them outside. DO NOT just pick them up in the squat position and run them out the door!!! You first need to interrupt the behavior so that they get it in their head that doing that here is a bad idea.

Also, this is another time where we are not going to get all emotional and yelling and scolding.

Just 3-jerks ---get their attention and outside.

#5- Biting- Nipping

When you puppy nips at your ankle, hand let whatever you are simply going to grad their muzzle –FIRMLY- hold it and let them pull away.

If you have young children, you are going to be with them and the puppy to make sure that you are right there to do this correction.

The child is going to help you out by not waving their hands above their head!

You can also try Bitter Spray but this has to be used correctly!!

#6- Jumping

This is another behavior that you have to stop before it starts because it is nearly IMPOSSIBLE to change once it begins.

Puppy jumps up on you. You simply grab the back of their neck and pull STRAIGHT UP. Do not pull back, straight UP Hold them back for an instant and release.

If they come back or go back to the child and jump on them again, same thing again and again until they stop.

You chose a smart breed of dog, they are not going to come back too many times.

**REMEMBER:**

**You can say NO!! That is all the emotion you can do.**

**It is best to say or re-act as LITTLE as possible when correct these behaviors. She recommends not even making eye contact.**

**The last thing we want is for your puppy to start cowering or being scared of you. They are very emotional little dogs so that can easily happen.**

**The idea is to surprise them and to interrupt them from doing the jumping, biting, having the accident. We want them to figure out**

**“Oh wait, Bad things happen when I do that”**

**You do not want to make them feel bad.**

**Then you will have other issues and habits to break.**

**Hope this helps. Good luck!!!**