



We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

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Issue 79

Living With Dogs: 4 Tips on Surviving Puppies + Toddlers

Ah, puppies. Is there anything more adorable? The thrill of bringing a new puppy into your life is big. And it's just as thrilling for children. When done right, it can also be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. The challenge is getting things right from the start.

1. First impressions matter

Leaving their home, mom, and siblings is a huge undertaking for puppies. It's natural that they will be disoriented. While you may want to share your puppy excitement with everyone you know, hold off. Give your puppy time to settle in and get used to their new surroundings. Spend time with them, don't isolate them for long periods, and allow them to get plenty of sleep.

2. Supervise, supervise, supervise

Young children can get pretty hysterical about puppies, with lots of hugging, picking them up and grabbing. There's no bad intent here, but it can be scary for dogs! Canine communication is very different to ours, which is why active supervision is essential to keep everyone safe. Intervene early and model behaviours you want to see.



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Dog quotes

“The best thing about a man is his dog.” - French proverb

cont.

... puppies & toddlers

3. Set everyone up for success

It's impossible to supervise toddlers and puppies 100% of the time. This is why safe zones are so important. Puppies need social contact. Rather than excluding them consider options like play pens and baby gates. While you're busy cooking dinner, puppy can happily chew on a toy or treat nearby without small humans trying to climb into their bed with them.

4. Low stress interactions

Puppies shouldn't just cope with children - they should enjoy them! Children often desperately want to play with puppies but may need guidance. Teaching them about body language is essential and a force-free trainer can help you do this. Encourage interactions from afar - things like blowing a kiss, waving, or tossing treats over a barrier reinforces the idea that not all exchanges have to be up close and personal.



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Did You Know: Day of the dogs

While you've probably heard the saying 'every dog has his day', did you know that in Nepal all dogs are celebrated on one day each year?

Kukur Tihar is an annual Hindu festival which honours dogs, who are considered messengers for the god of death and justice, Yama. Not only is it considered sinful to disrespect dogs on this day, but they are also offered food such as milk, eggs, and meat. They are blessed with a red mark on their forehead known as a tilaka, and flower garlands are placed around their necks.



And it's not just pet dogs who are recognized - police dogs and stray dogs are also honoured on this special day.

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