

Alone Time—YOU must train your pup to be alone

Being alone is not natural for dogs. If you ever plan to leave your puppy home alone you must begin training alone time from day one and **while you are home**

Start with short sessions in the crate with a stuffed Kong or other chew item. Ideal times to crate your puppy are endless.... while watching TV, paying bills, talking on the phone, eating dinner etc... Having her in the crate while you are home allows her to experience zillions of short absences, instead of one long scary one. It's nice having her follow you everywhere but you don't want her doing that forever (it gets old fast when she is 3 years old and still following you every time you go to the bathroom, get a drink from the kitchen, wash your hands, answer the phone... you get the idea).

Never, EVER leave her unattended with unsupervised free run in the house. If you do, and she pees or poops or destroys something--and she will-- you will get upset and that is not fair to her. Don't set her up for failure. When you have your puppy out and about in the house attach a thin 6-foot nylon lead to her collar and let it drag as she plays with you in the house. This allows for managed and controlled free time in the house. Owners often worry that it will get caught on something, which will definitely happen, but it won't matter because you are right there to untangle her!!! The idea behind leaving a leash dragging is when your puppy begins running away from you--you will be able to catch her. It is much easier to catch a puppy with a leash dragging. In addition, you are teaching your puppy that it is futile to try to run from you. You want her to think you are faster than she is--which of course you are not, but your pup need never learn that, ever!

Remember leaving your puppy unattended (even second) is setting him up for failure.

It is natural for puppies to bite, chew, pee and poop. Don't keep it a secret where the pup should eliminate and what to chomp...the only way to do that is to confine the puppy with the appropriate chew toys and take him to the appropriate potty area every single time.

