

## PUPPY/DOG PROOFING YOUR HOME

This information will work for making your home safer for bringing a new puppy or dog home. Even if you already have dogs a new puppy or dog may have a different personality and require different precautions.

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### HOUSE PLANTS

Many houseplants can be poisonous or toxic to dogs (see “Poisonous Plants for Pets” care sheet). Even if they are not poisonous, a lot of dogs find them irresistible to chew or destroy. The best method for preventing this is to remove from the areas the dog is allowed in or make sure they are high off the ground so the dog cannot get them.

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### TRASH CANS

Trash cans are highly attractive to most dogs because they contain all sorts of smells and tastes. The best place for trash cans is in a cupboard (kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, or anywhere else you have one). If this is not an option a large trash can that the dog can't tip over and with a dog-proof lid is a good idea.

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### FOREIGN OBJECTS

Puppies, like small children, like to put things in their mouths. New owners should train themselves to pick up any items that fall on the floor that could be a potential hazard if swallowed. Items like paper clips, pens/pencils, elastics, etc can pose not only a choking hazard but if they do swallow them and they get lodged in the digestive tract can lead to a very expensive vet visit and surgery.

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### FOUR ON THE FLOOR

An easy exercise that the whole family can do is to walk around the house on your hands and knees. This way you have a dogs eye view of your home and spot potential hazards you might not have noticed before. Things like power cords or curtain/blind cords could be a potential hazard to your dog. Removing or making sure these items are not accessible will make your home much safer for your dog. Another option is only allowing your dog into certain rooms which are safe.

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## HOUSE RULES

Now that your house is safe for a new puppy or dog a set of house rules is the next step. Each family will have their own set of rules, but it is important for **every family member to be consistent** and follow the rules. Rules will set in a pattern of behavior that will last the lifetime of your dog.

Here are some examples of house rules, have a family meeting and decide what rules you want for your home.

1. The dog will not be allowed up on the furniture.
2. To discourage mealtime begging, the dog will not be fed from the table.
3. The dog will not be allowed to jump up on people.
4. The dog will not be encouraged to bark.
5. The dog will sleep in a crate.

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## TRAINING

It is always a great idea to do some training. The earlier training is started the better, but avoid socializing with other dogs until after the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of shots (puppies immune system is not strong enough prior to shots). Training collars (choke chains) shouldn't be used until the puppy is about **4 months old** or when starting a training class.

A professional trainer can teach you how to train your dog. You can tie training in with your set of house rules; this will lead to a much better relationship and much happier house!

Paradise Pet Centre offers dog training classes which take place in store. It is a 6 week program with an hour class each week. See the dog training binder at the front counter for dates/times and prices.