

# Puppy Handbook

## Swashbuckle Schnauzers



**R Litter – Born 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 to Swashbuckle Helen Mirren**



**S Litter – Born 28<sup>th</sup> January to Swashbuckle Joanna Lumley**

# Swashbuckle Schnauzers

## Welcoming a Schnauzer into your Family

Congratulations, you have welcomed a beautiful Standard Schnauzer into your family. To make the transition for your puppy to its new home as smooth as possible, a few basic hints will help.

### Vaccinations

Your puppy has received its first vaccination and the certificate is located in the folder. You must take note of the date due of the next vaccination as the first vaccine is only temporary! Therefore, until your puppy receives its second vaccination, it is wise to keep your puppy away from other dogs, and it is wise to avoid areas frequented by unknown dogs, such as off-leash dog parks. If for some reason you wish to take the puppy with you, make sure you do not put it down in public places (e.g. parks). If your puppy must mix with other dogs in a yard, only do so if all the dogs have been vaccinated and have had no illnesses in the last few months.

### Worming

Your puppy has been wormed at 3, 5, and 7 weeks and will need worming at 12 weeks of age. We have used 'Milbemax' tablets for your puppy, available from your Vet or online. You may wish to consider **Drontal Worming Suspension for Puppies** as an alternative. We do not recommend **Troy**, as it does not cover all common worms.

### Heartworm

Consult your Vet for an appropriate Heartworm Treatment.

### Ticks

Ticks are a major problem in many parts of Australia, especially in areas close to bushland. **Consult your Vet for appropriate Tick Treatment.**

**Also consider tick treatments if you travel** with your pets. While your locality may be relatively safe from ticks, the places you visit for holiday, and the family and friends you visit, may be areas of high risk from ticks. Always consult your Vet for appropriate Tick Treatments when you plan to travel.

## Feeding

Firstly, **ALWAYS LEAVE WATER** for your pets. Consider locating the water bowl close to a door or exit you want your puppy to use when going outside for toileting – a walk to the water bowl then becomes a ‘trigger’ to take your puppy outside for toileting.

**From 8 to 16 weeks**, feed a meal three times a day.

Your puppy has been raised on a combination of **Black Hawke Kibble, Plain Greek Yoghurt or Plain Cottage Cheese, along with some 2-Star Beef Mince**. This is the foundation of your puppy’s diet. We have been mixing the kibble with a variety of foods to add interest to the diet and have your puppy become familiar with a range of foods. You may mix the dry kibble with good-quality tinned Puppy food. You can mix the kibble with cooked or fresh raw mince (regular mince is better than lean mince.) You may add some Puppy Milk or a spoonful of plain Greek Yoghurt or Cottage Cheese to the dry mix with some mince.

We have only recently moved your puppy from a ‘softened’ mix, of kibble and warm water, to a drier mix. If you find your puppy eating reluctantly, try moving back to a softened mixture, then move gradually back to a dry mix at 10-12 weeks of age.

Your puppy has also been receiving ‘Di-Vetelact’ Hi Calcium Milk every few days. We have been feeding about 100ml-200ml. **Do not feed normal milk** to your puppy as this may cause diarrhoea.

Of course, consult with your Vet, watch how your puppy is developing and make your own judgment on the feeding regime best suited to your puppy.

**From 4 to 6 months**, slowly reduce three meals to two a day. Remember,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup good quality puppy dry food mixed with a small amount of regular mince, yoghurt or cottage cheese, or good quality canned food, is a solid base, with an occasional bone, dried pigs ear or ‘Dental Treat’ type snack is excellent.

Once your puppy has adult teeth - in about 2-3 months your puppy will lose it’s puppy teeth, and the adult teeth will grow through - we recommend a ‘Dentastix’ chew or similar every evening or every few days for dental health. Bones are also very good for keeping teeth clean, eg. mutton flaps or brisket bones. **Avoid cooked bones, and always watch your dogs when they have been given bones. Never leave a dog unattended with a bone.** Remove the bones immediately if you see any splintering or sharp edges.

We recommend continuing your growing dog from 9-12 months with a diet based on high-high-quality puppy kibble. The best way to select quality kibble is to consult <https://www.petfoodreviews.com.au> and select from the 4-5 star brands. The following is a list of their recommendations for best dry puppy kibble.

Puppies have different nutritional requirements to adult dogs, which is why we find most manufacturers offer a puppy formula. These are recommended for the first 12 months.

## Recommended Puppy Kibble

A La Carte  
Black Hawk  
Canidae Pure Foundations  
Ivory Coat

Meals for Pups  
Earthborn Holistics Puppy Vantage  
Holistic Select Puppy Nourish  
Applaws Puppy

## Recommended Adult Kibble

Once your puppy has reached 12 months of age you have a much wider range of options. We recommend you continue with a 4-5 star adult kibble. Many of the cheaper pet foods have lower protein levels, which can be associated with behavioural problems, and lower quality ingredients. However, you do not necessarily need to use the most expensive kibble either – find a balance between quality and price. At Swashbuckle Schnauzers we usually use 'A La Carte' or Blackhawk.

OEM A La Carte  
Absolute Holistic (Air Dried)  
Applaws It's All Good  
Artemis  
Balanced Life (by Vets All Natural)  
BIOpet Grain Free  
Black Hawk  
Canidae All Life Stages  
Canidae PURE (Grain Free)  
Earthborn Holistic  
Farmers Market  
Frontier Pets  
Hill's Ideal Balance Grain Free  
Holistic Select  
Ivory Coat  
K9 Natural

Kirkland Signature Nature's Domain  
Kiwi Kitchens  
LifeWise  
Man's Best  
Meals for Mutts  
Nutra Gold (Grain Free)  
Pet Food Australia  
SavourLife  
Stay Loyal Grain Free  
Sunday Pets Raw Chow  
Taste of the Wild  
ZiwiPeak

## Registration and Pedigree

Your puppy's registration and pedigree papers will be sent to you in due course. All registrations come back to the breeder for each individual puppy, and this will then be forwarded to you so that you may complete the transfer of the registration to your own name.

## Local Government Registration

Your puppy will be registered with NSW Local Government through the on-line PetRegistry, which can be found at [www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au) Your puppy will be registered on this site by Swashbuckle Schnauzers, and you will receive an email at your nominated email address providing instructions on how to 'claim' your puppy and ensure registration with your local government.

For puppies in other states, your puppy's registration will be 'transferred out' of the NSW PetRegistry, but **this does not transfer the puppy into the system used in your state. You will need to register your puppy in accordance with your Local/State Government regulations and requirements.**

## Sleeping Area

Arrange to have your puppy sleep in its own special area. The first night may be traumatic for the whole family, but patience and perseverance will help your puppy settle more quickly. Leave the puppy with some old blankets and with the radio on softly. Try not to go and cuddle the puppy as this will make it cry harder. It may take a few days for the puppy to settle.

We highly recommend you consider 'Crate Training', as this also provides a safe and comforting place for your puppy to sleep and live.

## Grooming Your Schnauzer

Grooming a Schnauzer is a specialised task - more so if you plan to show your Schnauzer in conformation, or you wish to retain the distinctive 'Salt & Pepper' coat or a deep-black Black coat. We will provide separate, personalised advice for each Schnauzer family, depending on the lifestyle you plan for your new family member.

Regardless of whether you plan for a 'show coat' through 'stripping' or 'rolling', or a pet coat through clipping, starting your grooming regime very early will make life much easier for everyone!

If you plan to clip your puppy yourself, it is a good idea to acclimatise your puppy to clippers by just turning them on and stroking them over the puppy, well before you start clipping seriously. If you do not have clippers, or do not plan to clip your dogs, we recommend you help prepare your puppy for grooming by acclimating your puppy to the noise and vibration with an electric toothbrush, electric shaver, or clippers if you have some.

## **Cropping, Docking - and Dewclaws!**

While you may have seen pictures of Schnauzers with cropped ears and docked tails, these practices are now illegal in most Australian states. We are firm supporters of the philosophy of keeping Schnauzers more 'natural'. Therefore, your puppy will have lovely ears, a good tail, and these will help them communicate more effectively with your family and other dogs.

For similar reasons, we **retain the front dewclaws on all of our progeny**<sup>1</sup>. While most dog breeders routinely remove dewclaws, we believe the front dewclaws serve an important purpose for your Schnauzer. Please advise your groomer that your Schnauzer has dewclaws. When you clip your Schnauzers' toenails, also be sure to keep the dewclaws clipped as well.

## **House Training**

THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT.

**Always take the puppy outside as soon as it wakes up.** Give your puppy warm praise every time they toilet in your designated area.

**Always take the puppy outside immediately after it has been fed and wait till it goes.** Even if it is cold and wet. *Especially if it is cold and wet!* Many dogs have been accidentally trained to toilet inside because their owners don't like going outside in adverse weather.

Your puppy has been raised on newspaper, so put some newspaper by the door, and gradually move the paper out and away from the house. If you see the puppy making a mess, say "NO!" loudly and quickly take it outside or onto the newspaper. **DO NOT** smack your puppy - this only makes your puppy fearful.

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<sup>1</sup> While many dog owners and breeders see dewclaws as 'redundant', we believe they serve an important purpose similar to our 'thumbs', particularly when they manipulate food or objects with their front paws.

If you notice your puppy has made a mess previously, **DO NOT 'rub their nose in it.'** Puppies have short attention spans, and will not remember why they are being punished. Contrary to popular belief, when you yell at a puppy that has done the wrong thing some time in past, THEY ARE NOT SHOWING 'GUILT' - they are showing fear at your irrational behaviour. Here is an important piece of advice:

**"If your puppy has been to the toilet inside your house, within 10 minutes of waking up, or within 10 minutes of eating or drinking, then roll up a newspaper, and HIT YOURSELF OVER THE HEAD. This is your fault, not the puppy's fault."**

Puppies are very keen to please and do the right thing, so be aware that it will take some time for your beautiful new friend to understand what you expect. It will take approximately 3-6 months for the puppy to be confidently house-trained.

## **Socialisation**

Lastly SOCIALISE your PUPPY after it has settled and is vaccinated for the second time. Puppy classes are fun for your puppy, and more fun for you.

We will provide you with a 'Socialisation Chart'. There are many versions of Socialisation Checklists available on the internet. This is extremely important - DOGS DO NOT SEE THE WORLD THE SAME AS WE DO.

REMEMBER, IN THE FIRST 7-10 DAYS DO NOT SHOW THE PUPPY AROUND, LET IT SETTLE. DO NOT TAKE THE PUPPY VISITING, LEAVE IT AT HOME! STRESS IN ANY FORM IS TO BE MINIMISED.

## **Behavioural Problems - Puppy 'Fear Phase'**

Occasionally puppies can go through a 'fear phase' as they are growing up. While good socialisation can minimise this possibility, a small number of dogs will have a period of being fearful of different surroundings. This is an entirely normal part of puppy development - have a read through some of the articles we have included in this booklet on puppy development.

Please call us for advice should this happen - most dogs grow out of this phase with patience, some suitable interventions, and with love.

## **Rehoming Your Puppy**

If, for whatever reason, you find that the puppy no longer fits with your family circumstances, please contact Swashbuckle Schnauzers for assistance with re-homing. We have friends within the Schnauzer Rescue groups, and there is always a long wait-list for eager Schnauzer families. We don't expect this will happen, but if you need to say goodbye to your puppy or grown dog due to changed circumstances, we can help place the puppy into a suitable home.

## **Keep in Touch!**

We like to know that our puppies are having a great life - please stay in touch regularly and share a little about the adventures your puppy is having with your family.

**Swashbuckle Schnauzers wish you happiness and many years of friendship with your new best friend.**



# HELP! My Swashbuckle Bites!

## Teaching Your Puppy 'Manners'

*The following advice relates to normal puppy play-biting and mouthing - it is not a program for aggressive behaviour. If your dog shows aggressive behaviour toward you, your family or other people, please speak with a professional dog behaviouralist. Your Vet will be able to advise on a suitable professional.*

When you first bring a Swashbuckle puppy into your family, you will quickly learn that your puppy engages in the perfectly normal behaviour of play-biting and mouthing. This is a normal part of puppy behaviour, and natural. However, you want to teach your Swashbuckle puppy as quickly as we can that, while this is normal puppy behaviour, it is not acceptable human behaviour, and won't be tolerated in their new family home.

### Why isn't play biting acceptable?

As a puppy your Swashbuckle has very sharp teeth but only a weak jaw. This means that their puppy bite may be a little uncomfortable, but normally can't do any real damage. As an adult dog, however, your Swashbuckle has larger teeth and very powerful jaws. Other dogs may tolerate play bites because dog skin is generally tougher than human skin, so dogs aren't injured as easily. However, an adult dog that bites humans can cause a lot of damage - even if they are only 'playing.'

Adult Schnauzers are obviously bigger and stronger than a puppy - and are usually level with a child's face. So if a child is playing with your Swashbuckle puppy, and the dog bites, chances are it will be a bite to face. Even if the dog was provoked, and was biting in response to the child's behaviour, the child is traumatised, and the dog will receive the blame. While most dogs bite in response to danger or provocation, it is the dog who will bear the unintended consequences, and may even be euthanased.

This is why it is essential that your Swashbuckle learns not to bite while still a puppy. Puppies who play-bite each other or their family may be cute to watch, but this is a very dangerous game to play with humans.

### Why do puppies play-bite?

Puppies grow very quickly after they are born. They soon move around and come into contact with each other. As they grow older they begin to mouth and bite each other.

They spend a lot of time play-biting and grabbing each other with their mouths - this is all practice in survival skills. They have to learn to use their mouths appropriately, as this is their only means of grasping anything.

The puppies learn not to bite their litter-mates too hard. If you watch puppies playing and see that one puppy bites another too hard, the pup on the receiving end will let out a yelp and stop playing with the offending puppy. There may also be a minor squabble, and the puppy that was bitten will make it clear they are unhappy and will then ignore the offending puppy. This teaches the offending puppy that if it wants to keep playing, they must be softer with their mouth - this is called 'bite inhibition.'

When your Swashbuckle comes home to you as a new puppy they may well want to play-bite and mouth you. This is a natural extension of play with their litter mates. However, your Swashbuckle must learn that you will not accept this behaviour, and they must modify their behaviour to suit you.

Everyone has a different perception of what is acceptable. Some people are happy for their puppies to mouth them while they are playing, as long as they don't bear down with their teeth. However, we suggest that most people should not accept their puppy mouthing them at all, as they may become confused about who they can, and can't, be allowed to mouth.

## **How can we stop our Swashbuckle from biting?**

Here are some methods for teaching your Swashbuckle not to bite:

- **"OUCH" - That hurt!**
- **Withdraw attention.**
- **'Leave it'**
- **Settle or Calm**
- **Distraction**

We will explain each of these methods. We have found that a combination of these methods will work, and they must be used every time your Swashbuckle puppy bites, or you will be sending a message that it is OK to bite sometimes.

Consistency is the key to bite inhibition. Set your house rules and stick to them. Dogs appreciate knowing boundaries and they thrive with clear, consistent rules.

## 1. "OUCH" - That Hurt!

This is the same method used by your puppies' litter-mates and usually works well for unexpected mouthing or biting. Every time your puppy touches you with their teeth, squeak "OUCH" in a high-pitched, loud voice - like their litter-mates would. You must react the moment you feel their teeth and ensure you squeak loudly enough to cause them to withdraw air teeth. You should also withdraw your hand when you speak and ignore your Swashbuckle puppy for around 5-10 seconds.

In most cases your puppy will look a little startled and will often lick your hand in an appeasement gesture. If they do this you can resume playing, but remember to repeat your performance every time your puppy bites again.

If your puppy persists in biting - and Schnauzers can be very determined - you can move onto the "Withdraw attention" method.

## 2. Withdraw attention

This is simply withdrawing your attention from your puppy when they mouth or bite. This is an effective method when combined with "OUCH".

So if your puppy is biting, turn your back and ignore them for around 5-10 seconds to allow the puppy to settle. If your puppy is very persistent, you may have to go to another part of the room, or leave the room entirely. For this 5-10 seconds your Swashbuckle puppy should get no attention whatsoever.

At the end of this 5-10 second 'time-out' simply resume the activity you were engaged in. 5-10 seconds is normally long enough to give your puppy time to settle down - if you take much longer than this to return, your puppy may forget that they were playing with you and the lesson may be wasted!

Remember to keep the time short and ensure you return to your puppy when they are quiet and calm, not noisy and boisterous. This may have to be repeated many times for your puppy to understand, and is best used in combination with "OUCH! That Hurts."

## 3. "Leave"

This method is best introduced once you start teaching your puppy to "Come", "Sit" and "Drop." You may need assistance with this method, so talk to us at Swashbuckle Schnauzers, or consult an Obedience or Agility trainer.

Teaching your Swashbuckle to "Leave" will mean that they are to "Leave" when they start play-biting. This method works best when you can

anticipate that your puppy may bite - perhaps when a child has food, or they see something that has excited them, such as a lizard in the garden, or food dropped on the floor.

It is always best that you provide your puppy with an alternative behaviour once you ask them to "Leave" something. Try using "Leave" followed by "Come" or "Sit", and then provide a small reward for following your instructions. This way your puppy is not left wondering what they should do after they "Leave" something.

#### **4. "Settle" or "Be Calm"**

While this method is not actually targeting bite inhibition, teaching your Swashbuckle puppy to "Settle" or "be Calm", it can help if they are a very excitable puppy. The more excited a puppy becomes, the higher the chance of them biting, so it helps to ensure that not every activity or interaction is physically exciting.

This is another method that best taught with the help of a dog trainer or experienced dog handler.

#### **Other Ideas**

##### **Distraction**

In combination with "Ouch" and "Withdraw", you can transfer your puppies attention to a chew toy or bone. You can use Distraction to teach your puppy that you are not their personal chew-toy. If for example your puppy is biting your hand, offer a chew two after "Ouch."

##### **Quiet Games**

If your puppy is very excitable, consider starting play-times with quiet games, and don't work them into a frenzy. Start with gentle games and activities, don't launch immediately into a vigorous game of 'tug-o-war.'

#### **Why shouldn't I use physical punishment?**

Some people will tell you to smack your puppies' nose if they bite you, or grab their muzzle tightly shut and growl at them.

These methods can deter your puppy in the short-term, but can cause problems in the future, as your puppy will never be sure whether a hand coming towards them is going pat, or smack! If your puppy decides that the human hand coming towards is going to punish or hurt them, they may display aggressive behaviour toward that human to defend themselves from a perceived threat.

Young children in particular can become unintended victims of this behaviour, as they wave their hands around more than adults, and your puppy may perceive the child as a threat.



Humans punish with their hands, but dogs punish with their mouths, teeth, and biting - and they can cause major damage. Far better for your Swashbuckle puppy to learn that humans are friends, not dangerous enemies!

**So remember:**

**You MUST react EVERY time you feel your puppy's teeth!**

**If the touch is unexpected use "OUCH! That hurt!"**

**If you can anticipate the problem use "Leave"**

**If you still feel the sharp teeth it is time to withdraw.**

**And finally, ALWAYS supervise your puppy with children or visitors.**

# Come, Sit, Down, Stay and Stand

## The foundation for all training

Schnauzers are an extremely intelligent breed capable of wondrous tricks and impeccable behaviour - but only if you invest time in training your new friend. However much or little you want your dog to achieve, we recommend you master the basic commands of "Come, Sit, Down, Stay and Stand." These are the foundation of all dog training and good behaviour.

### How do I teach my puppy to "Come"?

With help from a few family members, there is a great little game you can use to teach your puppy to "Come." First, give everyone a small handful of high-quality treat, such as dried liver, or cheese, broken into very small pieces. Find a nice area of lawn or a big room, and form a rough triangle or square, with plenty of room between yourselves. Take turns calling the puppys' name, to get their attention, and follow quickly and firmly saying "Come", showing the treat. Treat your puppy when he comes, and then have your family randomly call "PuppyName" and "Come", treating your puppy each time. Do this for a minute or two each day, gradually replacing some of the treating with warm praise and pats. Within a week or two your puppy will reliably "Come" on command.

### How do I teach my puppy to "Sit"?

Using a treat, hold the food over the dog's nose and slowly move it up and back over the dog's head. As the puppy follows the food with its head it will sit down. Now couple the word "sit" with the action. The upward motion of the hand as you hold the food treat also serves as a visual command. If the pup lifts its' front legs you are holding the food treat too high. As soon as the puppy sits, say "good dog" and give the treat. Many repetitions will be necessary for the pup to learn the association. Gradually, as the puppy understands what you want them to do, only give the treats intermittently. Practice "sit" in many different places. It is especially important to teach your puppy to sit by the front door. A dog who readily sits by the front door will do better when greeting guests.

## **How do I teach my puppy to “Drop”?**

Start with your puppy in a sit position. To get the puppy to lie down, take a treat and lower it between the puppy's front paws and say "down", Usually the puppy will follow the treat and go down. If the puppy does not lie all the way down, slowly push the treat between the paws and if the puppy lies down give it the treat and of course add "good dog." If the puppy stands up, start over.

For some puppies, teaching the down command can be very difficult. An alternative method is instead of pushing the food treat backwards, slowly pull the treat forward. If that does not work, sit on the floor with your legs straight out in front of you and slightly bent at the knees. Take a hand with a treat in it and push it out under your knee from between your legs. As the puppy tries to get the food treat, slowly bring it back under your knee. As the puppy tries to follow, it will usually lie down.

Once the puppy understands the “Drop” command, make sure that you vary the starting position. You should try to get your puppy to “down” from both a stand and a sit.

## **How can I teach my puppy to “Stay”?**

Puppies can be taught to stay for short periods of time at a young age. Once they sit on command each and every time they are asked, training can proceed to more difficult concepts such as “stay”.

First the pup is taught to stay without moving as you stand in front for 1-2 seconds. Initially give the puppy the “sit” command, say “Stay” (using the hand as a stop sign can be a good visual cue), take one step away, and then return to the puppy and reward him or her for not moving. Be very careful that the puppy does not stand up or move as you present the reward because then you will have rewarded “getting up”. Gradually increase the distance by a step at a time, and the length of the stay by a few seconds at a time, until the puppy can stay for a minute or more with you standing at least 3 metres away. It is important to set up the puppy to succeed. Proceeding very slowly, and keeping a long lead attached to the puppy so that it can't run away can help ensure success. Be patient. It can take a week or more of daily training to get a puppy to sit and stay for 1-2 minutes.

Over a few months it should be possible to increase the stay to 15 minutes or more, and to be able to leave the room and return without the puppy rising from its stay. For these longer stays it may be better to use a "Drop-Stay" (lying down and staying in place) combination, and to train the dog in a favoured resting or sleeping area.

Once extended "Sit-Stays" are accomplished, the command can be used to prevent many potential behaviour problems. For example, if you practice "sit and stay" by the front door, this command can then be used to prevent rushing out the door and jumping on visitors. Have your puppy sit and stay while you place the food on the floor and then give him a "OK" or release command. This will help establish your leadership and control.

### **How can I teach my dog to "Stand"?**

Place your puppy in a sit position. Take the food treat palm facing up and move it forward and away from the pup as you say "stand". Your puppy should again follow his nose and stand up. Don't pull your hand so far away that the puppy follows you, but just until it stands up.

### **What else can I teach my dog?**

Using the concepts discussed above a dog can be trained to perform anything that it is physically capable of. A "Down" or "Sit" can be extended from several seconds to many minutes as long as we progress gradually or "shape" the dog's behaviour. In shaping, we determine our ultimate goal, such as a 2-minute stay, and reward successive increments of the behaviour until we reach that goal. For example, once the dog will sit for 3 seconds before the reward is given, we can repeat the command and when the puppy sits we wait for 4 seconds before the reward is given. Proceed very slowly, ensuring that the puppy is performing the behaviour properly a few times in a row before proceeding to the next step.

*This article was adapted from a newsletter by Dr Katrina Gregory, BVSc., MAVSc.*



# Puppy Training

## Taking Charge

Dogs are a highly social “pack” species. Each pack has a leader that the other members follow and look to for “direction.” When puppies enter our homes the family become the new pack. Puppies adapt to this artificial pack as long as the members of the family take on the role of leader. A pushy puppy receiving insufficient guidance and discipline and allowed to get its own way, may eventually emerge as a “pack leader” in the home.

### **When is the best time to begin training my puppy?**

Now.

Formal dog training has traditionally been delayed until 6 months of age. Actually, this juvenile stage is a poor time to begin training. The dog is beginning to solidify adult behavioural patterns, dominance behaviour is emerging and behaviours that they have learned in puppyhood may need to be changed. Therefore, it is best to begin teaching puppies from the time they first come home. One important task to begin early is to establish yourself as the leader. This can be done by control and the use of appropriate discipline and body handling techniques.

### **Are physical exercise necessary to gain control?**

Although there are many physical techniques that have been advocated for gaining control, it is the owners’ attitudes, actions, and responses to the new puppy (*along with the puppy’s genetics*) that are most important in the puppy becoming either well-mannered and responsive, or stubborn and disobedient.

Dog training literature has often discussed using scruff shakes and rollover techniques to discipline puppies. While these may change behaviour in the short-term, they are harsh and could lead to fear, anxiety and retaliation in the long term. It is much easier to teach what you want, rather than discipline what you don't want. This makes a positive, learning environment for the puppy to grow up in. There are advantages to teaching your puppy to assume subordinate postures and this can be accomplished with training the dog to obey commands for rewards. In addition to basic training, there are a number of physical exercises that can help to establish owner leadership. (*see body handling below*).

## How can I gain control without physical exercises?

The best way to show the puppy from the outset that each family member is in control, is to teach your puppy that each reward must be earned. The puppy should learn to display subordinate postures through reward training, rather than forcing the puppy to perform. Begin with some basic obedience training, teaching the puppy to sit, stay and lie down for. Practice short sessions, multiple times each day. Whenever the puppy is to receive anything of value (*affection, attention, food, play and walks*) the puppy should first be taught to learn its reward by performing a simple obedience task such as “sit” or “stay.” Teach the puppy that rewards of any sort will never be given on demand. Also known as “nothing in life is free”, a term coined by veterinary behaviourist, Victoria Voith, the puppy must be taught that vocalisation, nipping, mouthing, overly rambunctious, or demanding behaviours of any sort will never earn rewards. In fact, these behaviours should be met by intention or by confining the puppy for a few minutes until it settles down. Another option is to immediately control and calm the puppy with a head collar. Only when the puppy is performing appropriate responses should rewards be given.

You can also hold your puppy in submissive postures and give it rewards for compliance. Do this when the puppy is calm, such as after a nap. Avoid fear and struggling. Be gentle, and only make the puppy be still for a few seconds in the beginning. A submissive posture may be gently holding your puppy on its side in a down position. Gradually you can increase the time you make your puppy submit. These sessions also have the added benefit of teaching your puppy to be still for later activities like grooming, teeth brushing and other maintenance tasks.

Set limits on the puppy so that it can learn that you are in control. Having the puppies sleep in its own bed or own cage rather than in your bed or couch helps to keep it in a subordinate position. When the puppy is taking for walks it should be taught to follow. This should begin at the front door where the puppy should be taught to sit, wait, and follow, and never allowed to lead or pull you through the doorway.

## What can I do if my puppy misbehaves?

Undesirable misbehaviour must be prevented, or corrected in the act. Allowing the puppy, even once to perform an undesirable behaviour such as entering a restricted room, jumping up, mounting or jumping onto the couch will serve to reward and encourage the repetition of the behaviour.

There will be times when your new puppy misbehaves. How you reprimand your puppy will often influence later interactions. Young puppies are very impressionable and easily intimidated. Keep this in mind as you discipline your puppy. Harsh physical reprimands are contra-indicated and counter-productive. They only serve to frighten the puppy and perhaps make the hand shy. Unfortunately, animals can learn in one trial if something is aversive enough. We want young puppies to look toward a human hand as something pleasant that brings comfort, food and affection. Puppies are easily disciplined with vocal intonation and loud noises. What is equally important is to redirect the puppy to the correct behaviour after you interrupt what you do not like. **Remember that punishment must take place while the behaviour is occurring, not after.**

If you catch your puppy misbehaving, try a loud noise such as clapping your hands or a loud "Uh Uh!" Remember, reprimands need to occur while the behaviour is happening, preferably just as it begins, and never after. Often puppies will be startled when they hear these noises and temporarily stop the behaviour. At that time, you need to tell the puppy "good dog" and quickly redirect the dog to a more appropriate task.

*This article was adapted from a newsletter by Dr Katrina Gregory, BVSc., MAVSc.*

# Rewards

## Learning and Reinforcement for Dogs

The best way to train your dog is through the proper use of positive reinforcement, rewards and punishment. You need to understand which to use and when, how to use them and what will happen if they are improperly used. With training you want your dog to “learn” the proper task and/or behaviour.

### How does learning take place?

Learning occurs by establishing the relationship between behaviour and consequences. They can be different possible outcomes of behaviour. The relationship between behaviour and consequences can be positive or negative.

When there is a positive relationship between behaviour and consequences, the more your pet performed a certain behaviour, the more of the consequences it receives. When we increase a behaviour by removing a stimulus this is known as negative reinforcement. For example, when the dog barks at an intruder (*such as the postman*) the barking has been reinforced because the stimulus (*the postman*) was removed.

### What is positive reinforcement?

Positive reinforcement is anything that increases the likelihood of that behaviour will be repeated. There is a positive relationship between behaviour and consequences. The more the pet doesn't behaviour, the more consequences and what gets is good. This makes that behaviour increase.

### What kinds of things will a dog consider positive reinforcement?

This will differ from dog to dog. For some it may be a pat on the head, play, a fun toy, a walk, or a food treat. The key is to select the reward that motivates your pet. It can be useful to feed your dog, depending on its age, at one or two scheduled mealtimes. Training sessions can then be performed just prior to mealtime when the dog is at its hungriest. Most puppies can then be motivated with pieces of food. In the same way, toys, play sessions and affection can be withheld until training time so that the dog is “hungrier” for these rewards.

Some of the dogs that are hardest to train at those that are difficult to motivate. These dogs may do better with a few special treats that are saved specifically for training sessions (*eg sausage slices, roast chicken pieces or small cubes of cheese*), or pieces of liver treats.

**By the way, if there is no good reason to give your dog a treat don't - it feeds him or her up, and accomplishes nothing.** Consider these titbits and biscuits not as treats but as “training rewards”. If these rewards are saved for training they are more motivating, and your dog will learn to associate the rewards with the desired behaviour. Whenever you are giving your dog something of value, from food to a walk, first give your dog a command so that each reward can be earned.

The proper use of positive reinforcement is more than just give me a treat or a pat on the head. The timing of the reinforcement is very important. Remember, your pet is behaving all the time. So, you need to be sure to reinforce the behaviour that you want and not some other. Therefore, closely associate the reinforcement with the behaviour you wish to increase. Reinforcement must immediately follow the behaviour. Any longer and you run the risk of the dog engaging in another behaviour of while you are administering the reinforcement. A good example of this is when you teach the dog to sit. You tell your dog to sit, and manipulate her into the position. While you are saying “good dog” and giving a food treat, the dog stands up. What is just happened? You have rewarded sit and stand up.

## **Should I reward my dog every time?**

The frequency of reinforcement is important. The rate at which behaviour is reinforced is called the “schedule.” There are several different schedules of reinforcement.

**A. Continuous Reinforcement.** Every time your pet engages in the behaviour it is reinforced with reward. While this may sound like a good idea, it is actually less than ideal. If you reward behaviour continuously, once you cease rewarding the behaviour, it will often stop.

**B. Ratio or variable rate of reinforcement.** The reinforcement does not come after each performance of the behaviour but intermittently. This may mean that instead of the reward every time, the pet gets a reward every third time, then perhaps two in a row, then maybe not until your dog has performed the behaviour five more times. What happens if you reward this way? Behaviour tends to be stronger and last longer.

**C.** We recommend that you start training new commands or tasks with continuous reinforcement, then switch to the intermittent, variable rate as soon as your dog is responding consistently.

### **What if my rewards are not working?**

First, you may not be reinforcing the correct task. Remember the example of sit and stand up. Be sure that the timing of your reinforcement is correct and immediately after the behaviour you wish to increase. Second, you may be phasing out your reinforcement before your dog has adequately learn the new behaviour.

Go back to basics and be sure your dog understands what to do. Lastly, you may be repeating command several times, or in different ways and that's confusing your dog.

### **What types of rewards should I use?**

Rewards do not always have to be food. For many pets, own attention can be a reward, as kind of walk in the park, or a game of fetch. What is important is that it be appropriate and motivating for your pack. Remember, you need not give a “special” reward such as food each time your dog performs a task, but always acknowledge good behaviour, if only with praise or affection.

### **Is there a wrong way to reward my dog?**

Yes. We may reinforce behaviours that we do not look good. Remember, positive reinforcement makes behaviour increase. So, there may be times when you actually think you are punishing your dog when you are need reinforcing behaviours. Examples include scolding your dog in a friendly tone of voice, or patting your dog after it jumped up on you even though you do not like jumping. Giving any form of attention to a barking dog, the dog that is jumping up, a dog scratching at the back door, or even a fearful dog, only serves to reward the behaviour. Sometimes people even give a bit of food, pat the dog, will play with it in an attempt to calm it down. What they are really doing however is reinforcing the problem behaviour. What is worse is that when these behaviours are rewarded occasionally or intermittently, the behaviour becomes stronger and lasts longer, as mentioned earlier. A reward should never be given unless it is earned.

## **Are rewards only used for training?**

There are other situations where rewards can be very helpful. For example, it may help a puppy or even an adult dog to learn to accept new people if that greeting is always coupled with a food treat. This will help your dog learn that new people bring something good. In other cases, rewards can be used to encourage desirable behaviour. Food enhanced toys may encourage a dog to chew on them instead of the household possessions.

***This article was adapted from a newsletter by Dr Katrina Gregory, BVSc., MAVSc.***

# MOST IMPORTANT - SOCIALISATION

## Bringing up a happy, friendly puppy

It is absolutely crucial that you socialise your puppy - and start early.

Standard Schnauzers can be aloof and distrustful of strangers if not socialised to different experiences and different stimuli. With appropriate socialisation - at the pace your dog is comfortable with, and with care and patience - your dog will learn to be confident and happy in any situation. Using some of the skills mentioned earlier in your booklet - such as rewards - use the following checklist as starting point for socialisation.

### Socialisation Checklist

#### Places and Environments

- Your Vet
- Kennels
- Grooming Salons
- Pet Barn and pet shops
- Other people's houses
- Playgrounds and Parks
- Beach, River and Water
- Bushland
- Malls and Shops
- Stairs and Lifts
- Parties and BBQ's
- Roadsides
- Traffic Lights
- Overpasses and bridges
- Cars and carpark
- Walking trails
- Markets and Fetes
- Rural environments
- Grass, gravel and tarmac

- Freeways in the car
- Winding roads in the car

#### People

- Men
- Women
- Children
- People with glasses
- People with beards
- Pregnant women
- People in wheelchairs
- People with walking aids
- People with strollers
- People on skateboards
- People in uniforms
- Confident/loud people
- Shy people
- People in headgear
- People in hijabs, niqabs
- Delivery people
- People with umbrellas



### **Things to encounter**

- Brooms and Vacuums
- Washing Machines
- Lawnmowers
- Tumble Dryers
- Hair Dryers
- Wheelbarrows, Trolleys

### **Weather and Noise**

- Heavy Rain
- Thunderstorms
- Strong winds
- Fog and Mist
- Alarms and Sirens
- Construction noises
- Helicopters and planes

### **Activities to accept**

- Wearing collar
- Walking on lead
- Wearing chest harness

- Hoses and sprinklers
- Cars, bikes, motorcycles
- Televisions and radios
- Livestock - horses
- Cattle and sheep
- Cats and domestic pets
- Aquariums and ponds
- Being brushed
- Having mouth opened
- Having ears inspected
- Having toes touched
- Having tail touched
- Being bathed
- Having nails clipped
- Standing for inspection
- Being picked up
- Being crated
- Having teeth brushed
-

# About the Standard Schnauzer

## Origins of the Standard Schnauzer

The Standard Schnauzer (SS) is the oldest of the three Schnauzer breeds. Since the Middle Ages, dogs very like today's Standard Schnauzer performed household and farm duties in Germany: guarding the family and livestock, ridding the farmyard of vermin, and protecting their owners as they travelled to market. These rough-haired, medium-sized dogs were descended from early European herding and guardian breeds and were not related to the superficially similar terriers of Britain.

German dog fanciers began to take an interest in this useful native breed in the mid-19th century. Crosses were made with grey Wolfspitz and black German Poodle to produce the distinctive pepper and salt and black colours. At this time, the medium-sized dogs were also being crossed with other breeds to develop the Miniature and, later, the Giant Schnauzer\_

Wire-haired Pinschers, as the breed was originally known, were first exhibited in Germany in the 1870s. The official German breed standard of that era describes a dog very similar to the Standard Schnauzer of today.

By the turn of the century, the breed was becoming universally known as the Schnauzer, a reference to the breed's hallmark muzzle (German: *schnauze*) sporting a bristly beard and moustache, as well as to an early show winner of that name, The Standard Schnauzer is often called "the dog with the human brain", and is known as a family dog that thrives best on close interaction with his human family. The Standard Schnauzer possesses a very clever, inquisitive, creative and sometimes stubbornly determined mind along with a great sense of self-dignity.

Properly and carefully raised, they make an affectionate friend and confidante for the children of the immediate family.

The Standard Schnauzer can be territorial, and the family home is its castle. Visitors will be well announced but properly introduced, the Standard Schnauzer will accept close family friends into the home but warn away strangers with a deep bark.

## **Schnauzer Temperament**

The Schnauzer is a very adaptable dog. Many Standard Schnauzers will accept sharing the house with cats, especially if introduced to them at an early age. However, small members of the rodent family kept as pets should always be kept in secure cages to ensure their safety. The hereditary instincts of their origins as a rat-catcher are extremely strong in many of today's Standard Schnauzers.

The Standard Schnauzer is considered a high-energy dog. They need ample exercise not only for physical well-being, but for emotional well-being. The minimum amount an adult dog should get is a decent walk at least once a day. These walks should be brisk enough to keep the dog at a steady trotting pace in order to keep the dog in prime physical condition. The puppy is constantly exploring, learning and testing his limits. As adults, they are always ready for a walk, a ride in the car, a training session or any other activity that allows them to be with their owner.

Known as excellent family companions, the Standard Schnauzer also is outstanding as a working dog excelling in conformation, obedience, agility, tracking, herding and therapy.

# Reasons NOT to get a Standard Schnauzer

*Mary Giazman has had a Standard Schnauzer in her home for nearly six decades, since she was a small child. She has shown and bred Standards, and for the past 20 years has taught all-breed obedience classes.*

If you want spotless white carpets in your house, don't get a Standard. They are clean dogs who shed very little, but they love puddles and will leave big muddy paw-prints all over your floors. They drip water from their beards and enjoy cleaning themselves after dinner by rolling on the carpets and upholstered furniture.

If you believe dogs should snooze in some out-of-the-way corner until you're ready to do something with them, don't get a Standard. They are very energetic dogs who want to be a part of your family activities. They need a job, and if they're not given one, they'll find one of their own - and it may be one you won't like.

If you are someone who can't or won't stand up for your rights, don't get a Standard. They need an authority figure to look up to, otherwise they will take over. They do best in a living situation that is consistent and predictable, where they know their place and the place of everyone else in their immediate family.

If you think dogs should be friends with everyone, don't get a Standard. They are excellent instinctive watchdogs who will defend their family and home when necessary. Some are more outgoing than others, but all will first decide whether a stranger is friend or foe. A friend will be approached; a foe will be watched, growled at, and made very uncomfortable. You may have the friendliest Standard in the world, but you still must supervise your dog at all times.

Standards are a unique breed.

They are called “the dog with the human brain” for good reason. While there are many very intelligent breeds, the Standards intelligence is different. They were developed to be an all-purpose farm dog, herding livestock, killing vermin, guarding, and doing anything else a dog could do. A good herding dog (and Standards are among the best) must be able to read livestock and outsmart and outmanoeuvre them. A good herding dog relies partly on instinct and partly on taking orders from a human. Standards are very trainable and reliable, but they were also expected to be able to work independently, to keep their eyes and ears open, use their noses, and then take care of anything that needed taking care of, whether it was rabbits in the vegetable garden, mice in the grain bin, or a passer-by who wasn't passing by properly. For that, they needed to think on their own, and they do - all the time.

Probably the most unusual thing about Standards is that they are always looking for fun. They can be deadly serious when necessary, but they really prefer having fun - teasing, splashing in puddles, digging holes, racing around at full speed and bouncing off walls, chasing stuff. (They are a lot like kids.) Standards are the only dogs I know who will laugh at you when you do something dumb, and act embarrassed when they do something dumber.

*Written for the Standard Schnauzer column by - Mary Glazman AKC Gazette - January 2006*



# Swashbuckle Schnauzers

## Ensuring Happy, Healthy Puppies

Swashbuckle Schnauzers goes to great lengths to offer healthy, well-balanced and outstanding Standard Schnauzers.

### **Strong Bloodlines and Outstanding Pedigrees**

Every litter from Swashbuckle Schnauzers is carefully planned to further the outstanding characteristics of the Standard Schnauzer. Each potential mating is carefully considered to produce healthy, happy puppies, with great conformation (that is, as close to the Breed Standard as possible), and with careful regard to temperament.

We have sought the best of local Australian Schnauzers and imported great Schnauzers from around the world. To supplement the wonderful sires and dams we have at Swashbuckle, we regularly import frozen semen. Therefore, your puppy is a combination of the best we can source from around the world, and this is reflected in the pedigree of your puppy.

Your pedigree will be forwarded as soon as we receive it from Dogs NSW. We ask that you sign and date in the designated areas, and forward this pedigree to your state registering body to transfer ownership of the puppy pedigree to your family. **Please note, this is different and separate to registering your puppy under your local government and state government regulations.**

### **Health Tests and Genetic Testing**

We test all dogs within our control for all of the commonly known potential genetic and health issues associated with Standard Schnauzers, and only use dogs that are 'clear' in our breeding program. While we are unable to perform genetic test on any frozen semen used, we have tested the mothers and all the sires we have for the most commonly known issues. Many of our dogs are also hip-scored to rule out hip dysplasia.

Copies of the relevant parents' health certificates are included in your Puppy Folder.

## Further Learning

In this booklet we have covered many of the basics required to bring up a happy, healthy puppy. Of course, this is only the beginning!

You and your new best friend will learn a lot together as you go through life. Be calm, be patient and be understanding of your puppy - dogs ARE NOT just four-legged humans. Should you wish to learn more we highly recommend the following texts.

