

## NEW PUPPY OWNER... REALISTIC EXPECTATION TOWARD YOUR PUPPY

On the way to your puppy's new home, I would like to discuss common problems breeders face with the new puppy owner.

### **Realistics expectations**

You see pictures and vidos that the breeder posts of the puppies and they are all social and calm/ quiet in their pens. The breeder shows you videos of them completely relax, happy and playful. Everything seems wonderful and then you bring your new puppy home.

Then reality strikes. The first few nights, the puppy might cry in its crate, leaving you tired and cranky. A happy puppy refuses to be happy and cuddly with the half dozen of people you invited to meet the puppy or over excited and playful children you have at home The puppy refuses to walk on a leach. A lot of people wonder why my perfect puppy has become a nightmare.

Now, let's talk about the realistic expectations when a puppy is brought in a new home. At first, the puppy was at the breeder since birth. He had his mom and often siblings litter mates. He had a routine, have been taught how to act and was at ease in its environment.

Now, all of a sudden it has been brought to a completely new environment. Imagine if you were in an unknown country, in another part of the world. You only understand a few key words, trees, animals, smells, temperature and people can be frightening. In the meantime, we change your routine, organise a party with people you don't know and ask of you to behave and do things you have no idea how to do. It is overwhelming, wouldn't you say.

It is what every puppy experiences when they change environment. The stress can take on many forms, like not eating, not playing and avoiding people. They are anxious when they need to go to the veterinary or when people crowd them. diarrhea, throwing up and depression can also occur.

So, what can you do to help your puppy adjust?

- Most puppies take 3 to 4 weeks to adapt to a new environment. I repeat: **THREE TO FOUR WEEKS**, sometimes event longer. No only 1 to 2 days. I cannot insist more on the time a dog or puppy takes to feel at ease in its new home!
- Limit the presence of strangers in the first week. I understand you are excited to show you new puppy, but it will take time for it to adjust. Plan 1 to 2 weeks before inviting visitors.

Ask visitors to sit on the floor and let the puppy come to them and not grab the puppy.

- Establish a good routine
- Confine the puppy to a small zone in the house. Not only does it help the puppy not to be overwhelmed but also helps you supervise and observe.

- Don't expect an 8 to 13 week old puppy to walk on a leash. Instead, work with your puppy on a leash that feels comfortable for it in your home. Let him tug on the leash and bait him with treats to follow you.

If your puppy refuses to budge, give it time. One the first few trips with my puppy, a walk around the bloc, can take up to 1 hour ½. We move forward only when our puppy initiate the move because they need time to assess their new surroundings.

- Understand that your puppy need time to recognise you as a family. It is unrealistic to think i twill bound automatically to you.
- Educate your puppy. This will not only help to make a bond but also help you and him to focus on each other.
- Children are also a great stress factor due their fragility. Always supervise your puppy when children are present.
- Lastly, be patient. Don't way "something is wrong with this puppy". Nothing happens overnight. Outings should be schedule on the puppy's rhythm. Even if you imagine a nice walk around the lake, it is possible that your puppy can only walk a short distance that day.

For me, most of the outings with puppies take a lot of time, because I stand still often as the puppy explores its new surroundings. Patience is the key!

Remember this: if the puppy was wonderful at the breeder but has a hard time now, as an owner, you must help the puppy adapt which takes time, patience and please have realistic expectations and give the puppy positive new experiences. Each puppy is an individual. Don't compare this puppy to previous pets and don't judge its behavior to how another dog reacts. Please put yourself in the puppy's place and adjust to the situation accordingly.

Please be patient with your puppy!

It will fill you with happiness in a short while.