Your new puppy is NOT fully vaccinated. It can be tempting to them to the park, pet stores, or to meet extended family but this could prove to be a terrible mistake if your new family member gets sick with Parvovirus. Wait until they have had ALL their shots and their immune system is strong.

Chewing is a natural action for all dogs. In fact, chewing is an important activity for most dogs; it’s just a part of the way they are wired. However, excessive chewing can quickly become a behavior problem if your puppy causes destruction. The most common reasons dogs chew are: Puppy teething, Boredom or excess energy, Anxiety, and Curiosity.

Encourage your puppy to chew on the right things by providing plenty of appropriate chew toys. Keep personal items away from your puppy. When you are not home, keep your puppy crated or confined to an area where less destruction can be caused.

If you catch your dog chewing the wrong thing, quickly correct your dog with a sharp noise. Then, replace the item with a chew toy. One of the most important things you can do is to make sure your dog gets plenty of exercise so it can wear off energy and be stimulated in that way rather than turning to chewing.

Jumping up is a common and natural behavior in dogs. Puppies jump up to reach and greet their mothers. If not corrected when a puppy is young they will jump up when greeting people. A jumping dog can be annoying and even dangerous.

The best method is to simply turn away and ignore your puppy. Walk away if necessary. Do not make eye contact, speak, or touch the puppy. Go about your business. When he relaxes and remains still, calmly reward them. It won’t take long before your puppy gets the message.

Puppies bite and nip to explore the environment. Mother dogs teach their puppies not to bite too hard and discipline them when needed. This helps the puppy develop bite inhibition. Owners often need to show their puppies that mouthing and biting are not acceptable by continuing to teach bite inhibition.

When your puppy bites too hard, say "ouch" in a firm voice. If the puppy continues to bite hard, you can say "ouch" and then get up and step away from playing for a few minutes. Your puppy will quickly learn that it has to use its mouth gently if the pup wants games with you to continue. The puppy will only learn to use its mouth softly through repetitive and consistent training.

Puppy training can be a full time job! If you feel like you could use some professional help, PLEASE CALL US! Our Adoption Counselors and Animal Trainer are here for you and your family.