

Australian Terrier Handbook

By: Theresa A. Goiffon
AKC Breeder of Merit



The “Aussie” is essentially Australian. The Aussie is a low set, sturdy, rough-coated dog. It’s an even tempered dog, versatile in movement, good company for young and old, and a delightful human companion.

Preface

We hope you love this charming little dog as much as we do.

Today more than ever, our breed is facing serious concerns regarding its sustainability. Quality, ethical and responsible breeders who breed health tested and sound temperaments must work diligently and with purpose to change this unfortunate trend.

Please feel free to share this information. This was created by me in 2009, revised in 2019, based my personal years of experience in the breed to share with my new puppy families and others interested in the breed. Thank you to the Australian Terrier Club of South Australia who provided and approved the use of some of their material in this handbook.

Please call me anytime with questions about your Aussie!

*Dunham Lake Australian Terriers Northwestern Wisconsin
www.dunhamlakeaustralianterriers.com*

Dunham Lake Family FB Group

Feel free to “like” us or “follow” on our open FB group

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Disclaimer: Always consult with your own veterinarian, this is from a breeder’s perspective, years in the breed and lots of research.

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Theresa A. Goiffon

AKC Breeder of Merit, Breeding Multiple Best in Show Australian Terriers,

#1 Ranked Conformation and Top Performance Australian Terriers in the USA as well as wonderful family companions.

Brief History of the Australian Terrier



The “Aussie” Terrier essentially stands for Australian. It is the native breed of Australia. It is the only true terrier evolved outside the British Isles and should not be confused with the Australian Silky, although “cousins” they are in the Toy group.

The Australian Terrier

Origin:

Early free settlers in Australia needed a small, hardy and alert dog, keen enough to hunt and kill its own food, for killing vermin such as snakes, rats and rabbits and as a guard dog. Several terrier breeds were combined over a number of years to produce the hard-bitten “Aussie”.

Those believed used to create the Aussie Terrier, were the old Scotch (not to be confused with today’s Scottish Terrier), Dandie Dinmont, Black & Tan, and Yorkshire Terriers, amongst others. By the late 1880’s a definite new breed type had emerged, and a standard was set for it in 1896, since then slightly revised, but the breed remains virtually the same.

General Appearance

A low set, sturdy, rough-coated dog. Extremely well adapted for Australia's changing climates and protection when hunting by a double coat— a soft undercoat with a weather resistant harsher top coat with grows to a length of 2 1/2 inches. In maturity both sexes have a ruff framing the head at the neck with then extends into an apron covering the chest. It has a topknot of lighter color, finer texture to main body coat.

Health: Generally trouble free, average life span 12-16 years.

Height: At the shoulder to the floor is 10-11 inches high, body length 1 to 1 and 1/2 inches longer measuring from the base of the tail to the shoulders.

Weight: Average weight for males 16-20 pounds and females 14-18 pounds.

Tail: It was customarily docked, carried at 12:00 to 1:00; these days docking is still the standard in the USA, although no longer in Australia and most European countries. However, as a breeder in the USA, I no longer dock my puppies, for a variety of reasons including, it is inhumane and ONLY for cosmetic purposes. It is up to the breeder to make that decision and many more breeders in the USA are making the same choice., not to alter their dogs.

Ears: Are erect and mobile in their use. During teething it is common for ears to flop, but should stand erect after that stage. If ears are floppy, you can stabilize them by using nasal strips with adhesive to keep them erect until they do so on their own.

Eyes: Small and dark, keen expression, the desired shape is an almond shape, round or protruding eyes are not desired.

Mouth: Teeth should overlap top over bottom in a scissor bite.

Nails: Black. They are born with dewclaws on front feet, and at times rear dew claws.

Coat Color: The Aussie standard colors are Blue and Tan or Sandy to Red. Brown and Tan is also a color, but not recognized as a correct color in the standard. Any white markings are considered a fault which can be see most often on feet and chest.

Temperament: The Aussie is an even-tempered dog, versatile in movement, good company for young and old, and he de- lights in human



General Puppy Care

When your puppy arrives home, keep him safe while he is little by protecting him from harm by placing him in a safe run or gated area within your home. Somewhere he will not fall down stairs or be injured by someone opening the door. Make sure your yard is safe when letting him run and play outdoors. A fenced in yard is best, but we have placed puppies with families that live in condo's where daily multiple walks also work fine.

Place newspaper or puppy pads on the floor in one place, until he is house-trained. Take him outside at regular intervals for toilet breaks. First thing in the morning, after sleeping, and last thing at night. Never leave him inside alone unsupervised for long periods of time. DO NOT punish a puppy when he makes a mistake, merely show that such behavior is unacceptable. Remove him from the area and say "no no" in a firm voice. Warm praise should be given when the puppy does well. When he goes potty outside, give him lots of excited, loud, friendly praise! "Good Boy, Potty Outside!" Use simple consistent words, it will make a difference to your house-training.

Crate training is also a great way to quickly potty train your puppy. If you have received a puppy from us, they will already be crate trained.

Puppies like to play about 30 minutes, then have a long period for sleep. If young children are around teach them how to handle him carefully, and not long to play before he gets tired. Toys should not be too small, or have a felt or fur cover. That is too easy to chew and swallow. Rubber chewy toys or bones are the best. NEVER give them Rawhide Bones, they can choke, rather give them Bully Bones or Pig Ears. Puppies should not be pulled around on a lead or treated like a toy.

NEVER leave your puppy in a car in the summer— the terrier is small and will dehydrate easily. Heat stress can occur quickly.

For information on "Bell ringing" potty training visit this link here:

<http://dunhamlakeaustralianterriers.com/aussie-talk/ring-my-bell->

Make sure he has plenty of water available to drink at all times.

NEVER let your dog chew cooked bones, such as chops, chicken as they can fragment and tear intestines, or cause rectal bleeding. Raw chicken such as a back bone or leg, skin and all is fine and actually good for teeth as well as can assist in their immune system. There are varying reports on raw food diets for dogs, certainly discuss this with you vet before changing over from a kibble diet to a raw diet. Just use normal care, when handling raw chicken.

Should you have any problems or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the breeder immediately. If your breeder is not responsive or unwilling to provide you with assistance, feel free to contact me or consider joining active Facebook groups such as the Australian Terrier Health group that has many knowledgeable breeders and owners. If it is a health concern contact your veterinarian.

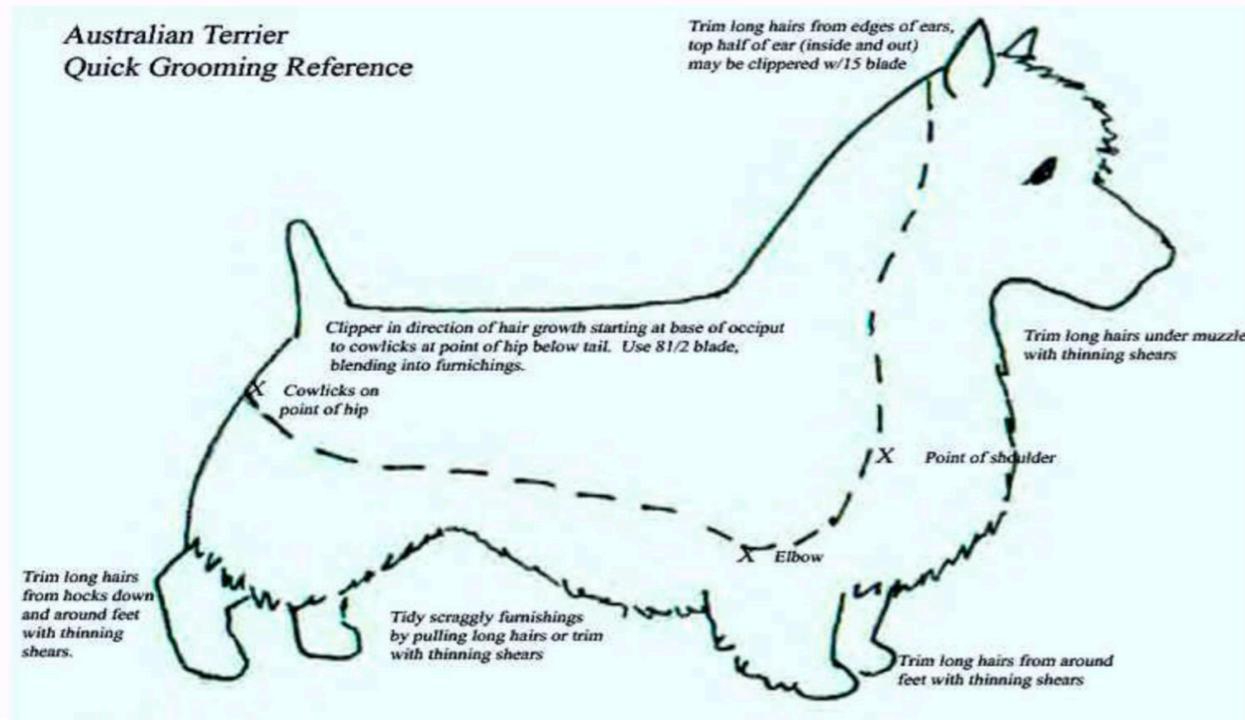
To request membership to the Australian Terrier Health FB Group, click [here](#).

If you are unable to keep your dog, please contact the breeder FIRST and they will help you find a new home, or take him back.

For names of Puppy Kindergarten classes, please contact your breeder, they should be able to provide you with a list in your area.



General Grooming



The Aussie is a low maintenance dog. A daily brush and comb to remove dust and grass will keep your Australian Terrier clean. Bath 3-4 times a year or if really dirty.

Top Knot: Hair on top of head. Should be brushed forward to stand upright, but not hang in their eyes.

Ears: Short and kept free of long hair.

Ruff: Long hair under chin, on chest. Brush forward and outwards. Ruff should not be cut.

Apron or Furnishings: Longer hair along the sides and rear. Brushed down and encouraged to grow.

Feet: Trimmed between pads, top of feet to be stripped and cat-like.

Nails: Trimmed with a dog clipper or use a dremel, every other week.

Body Coat: Brush down carefully untangle knots and knots that form on stomach and arm pit areas.

Eyes: Keep the hair short and plucked around eye area

Neck: Brush and groom so that the neck appears long and arched. Some thinning of hair with thinning scissors may be necessary, but do not over-do.

Tail: Remove all long hairs from tail, so that the tail appears natural, straight and set on high. Thinning scissors may be used to reduce the bulk of the tail.

Hindquarters: For cleanliness, keep hair short around the vent and in case of males, around the prepuce.

Elbows: Shorten or brush down any hair at elbow which makes your dog look out at elbows. Sometimes it may be necessary to thin hair slightly.

Muzzle: Should be free from long hair. The beard under the muzzle should be trimmed neatly with scissors to the shape of the muzzle, but not too severely.

Teeth Cleaning: Best to brush them every other day, at least once a week.

For Grooming tools recommended visit this link below:

<http://dunhamlakeaustralianterriers.com/aussie-talk/grooming-supply-list>

For helpful videos on grooming your Australian Terrier visit these links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJIZyKuYvQU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4107CfSOVA>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn2nZmpg7_s

Other and Basic Training

The Australian Terrier

by: Barron's Karharina von der Leyen

The Australian Terrier is one of the quietest, most obedient, and most modest terriers, but it does not lack its cousins' toughness, pluck and intelligence. This is a courageous, robust, and cheerful little dog.

The Australian Terrier is an almost perfect apartment dog. It adapts beautifully to any situation, is loyal, charming and happy and an alert watchdog without being a yapper. It never gets into fights the way many other terriers do.

It approaches strangers with caution, but is friendly toward other animals. Although it is a lively dog, it is never hyperactive and does not need especially long walks, though it loves to be out with its people.

It is a quick learner, easy to train, and an equally good choice for country life as for a city apartment. Luckily this breed has thus far escaped becoming fashionable, and you can hardly go wrong choosing an Australian terrier.



Other

Barking: In general, Aussies are not big barkers, that being said, dogs without companionship during the day will yap from boredom, even dig, chew his coat etc. This is not the dog's fault, but the owners. Never make a fuss when leaving home or returning— this excites the dog and will stir him to bark.

Suitable Toys: Unbroken tennis ball, pair of old socks knotted together, empty plastic drink bottles, cardboard carton, never foam plastic. NEVER Raw Hide, or Nylon Bones, never anything made in China or Brazil. Bully bones, Himalyan bones, pig ears, raw beef rib bones are a great option. Braided ropes are a favorite in our house. Also, a small kiddie pool in the summer is a must! They love water and will love playing in the pool. They love sprinklers and love to “fight” with the hose being sprayed.

Training

It is vital that your dog really loves and respects you, so that you become its “pack leader”.

Serious training should begin when your puppy is 6-8 months and remember that it should be fun for your dog, as well as fun for you too. Learning about your best friend's care and training.

The Aussie enjoys young and old alike, therefore, does very well in either a nursing home or library setting. We take our Aussies to our local Nursing Home to visit the elderly, they are always a welcomed site.

Take them with you whenever you can, expose them to many things, people and other animals. These life experiences make for a well rounded confident and happy dog that you will be so proud of.

NEVER hit your dog! It only helps YOUR temper. A firm “NO”! And he knows he has sinned. Training should be a reward for good work.

Some Do's

- DO always keep fresh water available in a non-spill heavy dish.
- DO offer variety of food flavors within your choice of kibble or home cooked food. This will educate the pup to have a good balanced diet and avoid “picky” eating. Certainly sticking to a good quality food is fine and with some dogs, easier on their digestive system.
- DO allow pup 10-15 minutes to eat his meal in a quiet spot. If the meal is uneaten in the time span, remove it and throw it away, unless it's dry kibble.
- DO keep yogurt in the fridge as it is ideal to settle gastric upsets. Give a tablespoon of plain variety, with boiled plain rice or plain mashed potatoes as a meal to settle troubled tummies. Try sardines or cooked hamburger as a recuperative meal, dogs love sardines. Pumpkin is also a good option for tummy upset, no sugar added, just pure pumpkin.
- DO brush and comb your puppy daily (we do weekly for sure) following last walk or play sessions. Ensure dirt out of coat and between paw pads.
- DO keep their bedding clean, do not leave food scraps around for later.
- DO have you pup on a leash out in public. Have your pup in a fenced in yard.
- DO check your home, garden for dangerous chemicals, poisonous plants, mouse poisons, etc.

Some Don't's

- DO NOT Vaccinate your dogs every year, instead after the 1 year puppy booster, have them titer tested when in doubt. Rabies must be given in accordance with the law in your state.
- DO NOT give your dogs any kind of chewable flea and tick product.
- DO NOT Spay or neuter your dogs until they are 12-18 months old.
- DO NOT EVER give your dogs any sulfa related drugs, **they could die**, as several have in our breed.
- Do NOT give them the Lepto vaccination, there have been negative reactions in some of our dogs.
- DO NOT give them grapes, chocolate, or cooked bones of any variety.
- DO NOT allow your pup to be a table “beggar”. No human type food such as cake, cookies, as your dog can become fat, have skin problems, develop diabetes if genetically prone.
- DO NOT hit your pup! He will respond to your obvious displeasure of tone.
- DO NOT ignore the breeder. Contact them if something bothers you, they probably, through experience, can iron out the problem or advise you if your dog needs to visit the vet.
- DO NOT walk a dog on a hot road– they feel the heat through their paws. If heat stressed, stand in cold water, or on a cold towel, or immerse in cool water.
- DO NOT leave them in your car in the summer not even for a few minutes.

Vaccination Protocol and when to see your veterinarian

Vaccination Protocol followed at DL Aussies:



10 Weeks: Distemper, Parvovirus, Adenovirus,
Parainfluenza, and Coronavirus.

14 Weeks: Booster of Distemper and Parvovirus

18 Weeks: Booster of Distemper and Parvovirus.

6 months: Rabies

1 year: Repeat the 10 Weeks vaccination combo, or titer
test.

No more vaccinations, except Rabies by law over the
life of the dog. If you have concerns about their
immunity, run a titer test.

DO NOT vaccinate the above with Rabies, separate
two weeks apart.

We follow the vaccination protocol recommended by Dr. Jean Dodd's and

Dr. Robert Shultz DVM.

Most breeders will have immunized the puppy with his first shots. Your breeder will provide you with a list from their veterinarian of what shots were given and when. It's always a good idea to visit your own vet within a week for a full puppy check and discuss with your vet the proper vaccination protocol to follow.

Annual physical and vaccinations, which includes advice on flea and tick control options. As well as annual heartworm tests and control. Spaying or Neutering your dog is required if you have a limited registration. I highly recommend not before 12 months of age. If a female let her have at least one season prior to spaying.

If your puppy is showing signs of being lethargic, vomiting or has the diarrhea for more than 24 hours, take them to your veterinarian. Puppies can get dehydrated very quickly, so do not wait too long to see your vet.

I encourage you to request membership to the Australian Terrier Health FB group, [here is a link](#).

Nutrition, Feeding and Food

Always remember not to overfeed. Our experience with our terriers has been that they are not gluttons, they eat when they are hungry. It is suggested meals not be left down, but re- moved after the puppy has eaten (about 10-15 minutes). However, if you find that your dog does well with having a bowl of kibble out during the day and will eat off and on during the day that is certainly acceptable too. We have done it both ways. Of course if you're working during the day, you'll need to leave adequate food and water for the day.

A dog's digestive system is quite different from ours, and is therefore incapable of digesting sugars, sweets, fancy biscuits or excess fats and they can cause skin eruptions, heart problems and contribute to other problems.

DO NOT FEED YOUR DOG CHOCOLATE– it can KILL!

A dog in natural conditions does not have access to the numerous food oddities that well-meaning people feed to their pets. Don't feed ready purchased processed meat to young pups as it contains too much fat and poisonous preservatives. As the puppy grows in size, increase the size of the cubes of meat, dogs are more able to digest larger pieces of meat than small.

Adult Diet, follow the same schedule for the puppy diet, adjust the quantity accordingly. Always have fresh drinking water

If your puppy is a difficult eater, it could be that you are expecting him to consume meals too large in size. Ask your breeder or veterinarian.

Feeding

Young puppies require the same care and attention as human babies. They require feeding little and often, with a balanced diet. Reliable breeders see that correct pre-natal care is given to ensure that the

mother and the pups will be strong and healthy. This care should be continued now that the puppy belongs to you.

Morning (7:30.am.)

We feed N & D by Farmina, Fromm dry puppy kibble or dehydrated Stella and Chewy's there are other brands as well, but these are my current choices. They receive 1/4 cup, high in protein, wheat and corn free. They are fed three times a day as puppies, reduced to twice a day as adults, amount adjusted according to their size as adults. I also offer some raw, such as hamburger, chicken or a raw beef rib. I stick with good quality pet food, never kibble purchased at the grocery store or stores such as Walmart. Fresh water at all times in a low saucer to prevent from spilling.

Lunch (12-1:00 p.m.) Dinner (5-7:00 p.m.) same as breakfast.

At dinner, if you wish to add any raw diet into your dogs meals, this would be the time to give him a raw chicken wing Do not mix a raw feeding with a kibble feeding. Yogurt, plain, not sugar free, is good to add to their food once a day, just a tablespoon, it is a good probiotic.

Snack (evening)

Good snack options are fresh vegetables, ours love peas, broccoli, carrots, just about any kind. A few chicken pieces cooked and cup up, fish cooked boned either fresh or canned. Doggy biscuits either store bought or homemade.

There are many many options and variety of dog food on the market, it can make your head spin. If you had the desire to make your own raw or cooked food, I am happy to recommend recipes and veterinarian nutritionists to help you. Feeding raw is the best option in my opinion and the best for your dogs, however, it takes some preparation, however it is quite economical as well. There are some good raw food prepared options available to also consider.

Toxic food for Dogs and Dog-Friendly over the Counter Medicines

DANGEROUS FOODS For Dogs



Alcohol

- Intoxication
- Coma
- Death



Avocado

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea



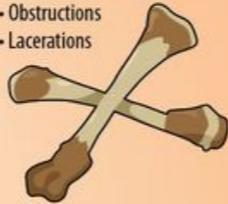
Chocolate & Caffeine

- Toxic to Heart & Nervous System



Cooked Bones

- Obstructions
- Lacerations



Too Much Dairy

- Diarrhea



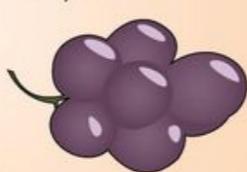
Fruit Pits & Seeds

- Digestive Tract Obstructions



Grapes & Raisins

- Kidney Failure



Human Vitamins & Medications

- Damage to Kidneys & Liver



Onions & too much Garlic

- Blood Cell Damage
- Anemia



Raw Meat & Eggs*

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea



* Unless part of a raw diet with correct handling & preparation procedures.

Spoiled Food

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea



Sweets

- Diabetes
- Obesity



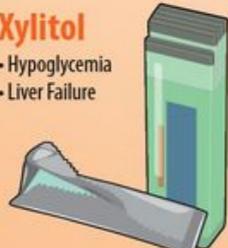
Walnuts & Macadamias

- Nervous System & Muscle Damage



Xylitol

- Hypoglycemia
- Liver Failure



Yeast Dough

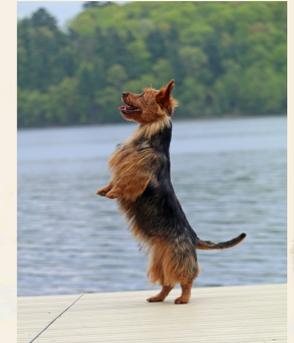
- Stomach Rupture
- Intestinal Rupture



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DOG-FRIENDLY OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS

Before giving any medication to your dog, always ask your veterinarian if it is okay to do so. Even human meds deemed to be "safe" can be toxic to certain breeds of pets, or ones with pre-existing conditions. Dosages given below are suggestions only. Consult your vet before administering.



BUFFERED ASPIRIN

To relieve pain and inflammation

- ½ baby aspirin for dogs under 10 pounds
- 1 baby aspirin for dogs 10–30 pounds
- ½ regular aspirin for dogs 30–50 pounds
- 1 regular aspirin for dogs 50–100 pounds
- 2 regular aspirins for dogs over 100 pounds



HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

Used to induce vomiting after accidental ingestion of toxic substances

- 10 milliliters by mouth (administered with a plastic syringe)



BENADRYL

For allergies and itching

- 1 milligram per pound of dog



IMODIUM A-D

For diarrhea

- 1 milligram per pound of dog



DRAMAMINE

For motion sickness

- 12.5 milligrams for small dogs
- 25 milligrams for medium dogs
- 50 milligrams for large dogs



PEPCID AC [Famotidine] / ZANTAC [Ranitidine]

To reduce stomach acids caused by ulcers, acid reflux, or bellyache

- ¼ tablet for dogs under 20 pounds
- ½ tablet for dogs 20–60 pounds
- 1 tablet for dogs over 60 pounds



GAS-X

To minimize flatulence or gas discomfort

- ¼ adult dose for small dogs
- ½ adult dose for medium dogs
- 1 adult dose for large dogs



PEPTO BISMOL

For diarrhea, vomiting, and gas

- 1 teaspoon per 20 pounds of dog's weight
- (Note: Pepto Bismol is toxic to cats!)



HYDROCORTISONE

For itching or irritated skin

- Small amount of ointment applied topically (up to twice daily)



ROBITUSSIN DM

For coughing or hacking

- 1 teaspoon per 10 pounds of dog's weight



Puppy Manners 101

Think about training as a language you both share so that he knows what it is you want him to do. Using your language, you may think you're telling your puppy to sit, to go down, or to come, but unless you teach him what those words mean, he can't understand you. Someone once told me, use the three P's" Patience, Practice and Praise. Good advice!!

What's needed:

Collar or harness

Leash

Treats such as cheese, or hot dog

Quiet area away from distractions

15 min a day

Teach Sit:

Put on your puppy's collar and leash and tease him just a bit with the treat. When you have his full attention, bring the treat to his nose. Then as he is trying to get the treat in his mouth, slowly lift your hand with the treat up between his eyes and over his head. Don't say anything yet. As his head moves up to follow the treat, his rear will naturally sit. As soon as his rear touches the ground, give him the treat and say "sit". Do this three to four times in a row.

If he doesn't sit naturally, move him close to a wall and try it again. I've had some puppies back up, this will eliminate that problem.

Teach Stay:

When your puppy is sitting, open your hand and facing his face and say firmly, "stay". Say it nicely, but as you mean it. Count to two then say "Good stay" and give him the treat. Repeat a couple more times slowly expand the count.

Teaching Down:

Down takes a bit more practice and isn't always easy to get them to understand what you are asking of them.

Ask your puppy to sit with the treat in your hand. Praise him for listening to the sit command, but don't offer him the treat yet. Kneel down in front of him (if he got up from the sit position, ask him to sit again) hold the treat at his nose. Slowly move the treat down toward the floor and out toward you. You want his head down and moving his paws and elbows to stretch and reach the treat. When he is all the way down, give him the treat and say "Down". Give him a few more treats in this position and say "Down". Repeat a couple more times.

Crate Training

If your puppy came from us, he is already crate trained, if not here are some tips to make this a success for you and your puppy.

All puppies, like wolves, need a den. Laundry rooms and playpens are too big for a puppy den. In the wolf den, the mother wolf cleans up the cubs feces until the youngsters are old enough to defecate away from the den. The cubs learn that the den is a place to keep clean as well as a place of safety and comfort. The same is true of our dogs today! The modern-day equivalent of the den is the crate! Crates provide confinement for security, safety, house-breaking and protection of the household goods, travel or illness. It is more economical to buy a crate that will accommodate the puppy as an adult. However, when the puppy is small and not potty trained, make the area of the crate smaller, so he doesn't decide to use a corner of the crate as a bathroom! Inside the crate, use an old blanket or buy a washable crate pad.

You can enjoy peace of mind when leaving your dog alone, knowing that nothing can be soiled or destroyed and that he is comfortable, safe and not developing bad habits. You can house break your pet more quickly by using the close confinement to motivate your pet to wait until taken outside, since canines naturally avoid soiling their den. Simply take the pup outside after each nap or meal. Do not play with him until he has done his business. If he hasn't relieved himself in about 10 minutes, take him back inside and put him in the crate. Repeat the routine in 10-15 minutes. Remember, no play until the pup does his business and lots of praise when he gets the idea.

You can travel with your pet without risk of the dog getting loose and becoming lost or interfering with safe driving. Plus, once your dog is use to the crate, he is welcome his space, actually, want to go into his crate at bed time or on vacation, what- ever established routine you set for him. Once our Aussies were housebroken, they sleep in our beds, or on their dog bed on the floor. However, if we are going to be gone for several hours during the day, they each will go into their own crate. Your dog can enjoy the security and privacy of a den of his own to which he can retreat when tired or stressed. Children need

to learn that the pup needs some quiet time. A blanket over an open crate will help a child understand that it's time for the puppy to rest. Your dog can avoid much of the fear and confusion caused by your reaction to problem behavior. It's a sanctuary for an over-excited pup. Sending the pup to his crate is somewhat like sending a child to his room. He feels comfortable there. You can leave your dog at the vet's and feel comforted knowing that your dog is settled for any treatment even if you aren't there with him. After a pup is housebroken, leave the crate open during the day, the pup will nap in the crate by choice. Place the crate in an area where the family spends a lot of time, such as the kitchen or family room.

Growing puppies alternate periods of activity and rest through-out the day. There's no reason they can't do their resting in a crate, like a baby taking a nap in a crib. By keeping the puppy on a regular schedule of feedings and exercise, you can control his natural rest periods. If you put the puppy in his crate when he's already tired and ready to settle down, he'll get use to his new "bedroom" faster. In the beginning, he should only be expected to stay in the crate for 2 hours at a time and overnight. Special toys and treats help make his "room" a pleasant place to stay. Toss a treat into the crate so he can jump in after it. But remove any small metal squeaker inside. And NEVER keep a collar on your dog while crated. If you work full-time, you must stop at home to let the puppy out mid-day. In that case having an expen with a crate inside the expen is advisable.

Size recommended 28"L x 20.5"W x 21.5"H. I prefer wire crates, but plastic crates are acceptable too.

Puppy Developmental Stages

0-7 Weeks

Neonatal, Transition, Awareness and Canine Socialization:

The puppy is with his mother and litter-mates. During this period, the puppy learns about social interaction, play and inhibiting aggression from mother and litter-mates. Puppies must stay with their mother and litter-mates during this critical period. Puppies learn the most important lesson in their lives— they learn to accept discipline.

7-12 Weeks

Human Socialization Period:

The puppy now has the brain waves of an adult dog, but his attention span is short. This period is when the most rapid learning occurs. Learning at this age is permanent so this is a perfect time to start training. Also, this is the ideal time to introduce the puppy to things that will play an important part in his life. Introduce the puppy to different people, places, animals and sounds in a positive non-threatening way.

8-11 Weeks

Fear Imprint Period:

Avoid frightening the puppy during this period. Any traumatic, frightening or painful experience will have a more lasting effect on the puppy than if it occurred at any other time in its life-time.

13-16 Weeks

Seniority Classification Period or The Age of Cutting:

The puppy cuts teeth and apron strings! The puppy begins testing who is going to be pack leader. You must discourage any and all biting because such biting is a sign of dominance! It is important that you are a strong and consistent leader. Formal training must begin and will help you establish your leadership.

4-8 Months

Play Instinct Period Flight Instinct Period:

The puppy may wander and ignore you. It is very important that you keep the puppy on a leash at this time! The way that you handle the puppy at this time determines if the puppy will come to you when called. At about 4 1/2 months, the puppy loses his milk teeth and gets his adult teeth. He then begins serious chewing! A dog's teeth don't set in his jaw until between 6-10 months. During this time, the puppy has a physical need to exercise his mouth by chewing. Stock up on lots of Bully Bones and braided doggy ropes!

6-14 months

Second Fear of New Situations Period

The Terrier again shows fear of new situations and even may be reluctant to approach someone or something new. Our family, has not experienced this with our terriers, but it is something to be aware of.



