Good manners start at home.

Puppies aren't naughty, they just don't know our rules yet. Show them what you'd like them to do, reward it, and you'll be amazed how quickly they catch on.



1 Catch them being good

It's easy to notice puppies when they're being cheeky. Try spotting the quiet moments too, like lying calmly on their bed, and reward those.

2 Four paws on the floor

Jumping up is how puppies say hello. Turn away and wait until all four paws are down, then give them a fuss. Ask visitors to do the same.

3 Teach them to settle

Give them a cosy bed or crate somewhere quiet and make it a happy place with toys and treats. Never use it as a punishment.

4 Practise alone time

Start by leaving them for a few seconds, then build up slowly. A puppy-safe toy stuffed with some of their food helps, and keeping comings and goings low-key stops them feeling like a big deal.

5 Puppy-proof your home

Chewing is normal, so tidy away shoes, cables and anything precious. If they grab the wrong thing, swap it for a toy rather than chasing them.

6 Learn their body language

Yawning, lip licking, a tucked tail or turning away can all mean your puppy is feeling worried. Give them space and somewhere to retreat.

7 Don't overdo the walks

Growing joints need short, gentle exercise. A handy rule of thumb is about 5 minutes per month of age, up to twice a day, plus playtime at home.

8 Be patient with wobbles

From around 6 months, it's normal for training to slip a bit as they become teenagers. Stick with the basics. It does pass, promise.

Ask for help early

If you're seeing growling, guarding of food or toys, or real upset when left alone, speak to your vet first, then a qualified behaviourist. Getting help early makes a big difference.

This guide is general advice for new puppy owners. Every puppy is different, so if you're ever worried, your vet is the best person to ask.