



Henry's Put 'Em Up Kennels, LLC
2173 Shady Lane
Rosholt, WI 54473
(715) 343-9703

Living with your Boxer Puppy in the First Year

Your First Night:

- I have found that for the first couple nights in your puppy's new home, it is best for you to put their crate next to your bed. This will help them in feeling safe and help establish you as their new pack leader, who is going to protect them and keep them safe.
- This will also help in establishing your sleep schedule and patterns, which in turn will help with house training and further the family pack bonding.

Crate Training for a happy boxer puppy:

- Boxers, like all dogs, are den animals and feel most comfortable in a space just larger than them.
- A crate should be your boxers safe place, both for them to go to when they want some peace and for you when you cannot give your pup the attention needed.
- Crates are a dogs den, and dogs greatly prefer not to eliminate in their den. Therefore crate training your pup is one of the easiest and quickest ways to help in potty training.
- That being said, you still need to use great care in reading your pup and providing all the opportunities for it to be properly potty trained to go outside and do its business.

Potty Training:

- Even when puppies understand and know the, what, where, when and why of potty training, they are not always able to apply that knowledge. The biggest reason for this is simply their bladders are not developed enough to hold it and their message center from their bladder to brain does not work as well as their bladder to floor. Meaning when they figure out they need to go, they are usually going!
- You need to make sure you establish the main door and a path from all areas of the house they will be kept, so they know where to go when they have to potty.
- If wanted, make sure to also have a specific place outside where they will be expected to go potty.
- Keep a keen eye on your pup and pick up on the tell tail signs that they are about to go potty
 - o All of a sudden they start sniffing around as if looking for something not there
 - o Stop what they are doing and move away from the area they are in
 - o Start to squat
- Other times to be aware of
 - o Puppies usually need to potty at least every two hours
 - o Puppies almost always go potty right after sleeping, a nap or laying at rest for a short amount of time
 - o Puppies usually will go potty after a meal or drinking water
 - o Puppies may have to potty after being overly excited or playing



Henry's Put 'Em Up Kennels, LLC
2173 Shady Lane
Rosholt, WI 54473
(715) 343-9703

The Sit:

- As far as any obedience goes, you will want to first master the sit stay. Your pup should have a good concept of the sit already, but you will want to continue to work the sit stay until your pup will follow this command 100% of the time no questions asked. Your goal should be to have your puppy sitting on command and staying for at least 3 minutes without being reminded to stay. (This can be accomplished at any age).

Leash Training for you and your puppy:

- Walking your puppy on leash is one of the single most important things you can do with your pup to establish pack leadership, to develop positive bonding and to give your puppy the exercise it needs to grow.
- I keep my pups on leash well over the majority of the time, even when they are just dragging it around the house. Puppies should never be unattended and running loose, but that does not mean you have to stand directly over them either.
- By keeping my pup on a leash at all times, that makes me the center of their universe and they learn that good things happen when they are around me.
- Once there is no question you are the pack leader you will have reached the pinnacle of training when you can walk with your pup off leash and it acts as if it is on leash.
- Do not rush this and do not expect it to happen. This will take a great deal of time, work and patience, patience, patience!

The Come Command:

- Dogs not following the “come” command, can be extremely frustrating and can literally put their life in danger.
- Your best bet is to start this training in the house when the puppy is still young and has not hit that independent exploration stage that in males usually hits around 10 months of age.
- Your leash training will be key as your puppy learns his/her limits. It also reinforces that best things happen when with you, the pack leader.
- There are many methods to teach the come command.
 - o First the sit and stay should already be working on your side as you put your pup in a sit, stay position
 - o Take a few steps backwards, wait a moment then call the pup to you.
 - o As soon as the pup gets to you give it lots of praise and a nice food reward.
 - o Get further and further away until you can start going into other rooms and playing a game of find and seek, each time rewarding your pup lavishly it finds you.
- A tip for the dog that will not “come” once outside:
 - Get the pups attention, and then quickly go in the opposite direction. This makes them think “they are it” and they will come to you.
 - **Number one rule not to break** that most people do, do not get angry when the pup does not come when you give the command.



Henry's Put 'Em Up Kennels, LLC
2173 Shady Lane
Rosholt, WI 54473
(715) 343-9703

- **Flight Instinct Period 4 to 8 Months:**

There is a time during this period, lasting two to four weeks, when the pup will test his wings. He won't come when called, in fact he/she will run away. Just keep pup on a leash until this passes.

Calm Collective:

- If you want your puppy to be a calm collective dog, you need to demonstrate those actions for your pup.
- Puppies are very responsive to their environment. You and everyone/everything around them is their environment.
- If you are excited, jumping around, making excited noises, your puppy will copy you and do the same thing. Kids are notoriously over excited and if they are this way around your puppy, your puppy will become this way also.
- Help you and your puppy by explaining some ground rules to any kids who are going to be playing with your puppy:

Exercise & Your Puppy:

- In my opinion the number one reason for just about any type of behavioral problem not related to some form of genetic disorder, is lack of exercise.
- Your puppy will have lots and lots of energy and in order for your pup to be able to be calm; it will need safe outlets to release that energy.
- Daily walks of up to 30 min sessions should be the daily exercise plan. Not only is it a good way to release energy, but it is also extremely important bonding time between you and your boxer. (In addition to providing good exercise and bonding it helps further your position as pack leader).
- Brain busters, doing things that make your puppy think, are also forms of exercise.
- Training your pup obedience commands and tricks is a great way to exercise the mind and will greatly help in wearing your pup's energy down.
- Toys that the pup has to 'figure out,' are easy to find and come in many different varieties. Some favorites are those that you hid treats in and the pup has to figure out how to get them out.
- Playing games of tug-a-war are fun and good for development as well, but figure out the proper way before doing so.
- Chew toys are extremely important as well. Your pup will need things to chew on.

Main two reasons for hip dysplasia and how to prevent it:

- It has been reported that up to 70% of dogs with hip dysplasia have it due to obesity.
- The second leading cause to canine hip dysplasia is too much exercise before a puppy is completely out of its puppy stage, at around 12 months of age.
- The best way to avoid your boxer developing canine hip dysplasia is to create a healthy balanced diet and walking routine. This is also a good practice to follow throughout your boxer's life. A healthy diet is also the key to a long enjoyable life for you and your boxer.



Henry's Put 'Em Up Kennels, LLC
2173 Shady Lane
Rosholt, WI 54473
(715) 343-9703

- Things to avoid during exercise with your pup: (described as anything that appears to be excessive)
- . Examples can be:
 - o Jumping. Boxers love to jump, but this is really the hardest thing on a developing boxer's hip, due to the pressure and weight that is forced onto the soft developing hips joints.
 - o Fast cornering or quick direction changes, like when playing with other dogs
 - o Weight pulling of any kind
 - o Load bearing, like when wearing a dog back pack
 - o Hard running for over a half an hour at a time

Three Main Fear Stages, Adulthood and How to Handle Them:

- Awareness Period - 21 to 23 Days
 - o This is an important sub period of the Canine Socialization Period. By 21 days the pups have the use of their senses and it is important not to overload them. Radical changes in the environment must be avoided, i.e. do not move the whelping box!
 - o It is a time of very rapid sensory development. Individual attention is continued. Also, take them two at a time to new floor surfaces for about two minutes. Take different pairs each time. Each day introduced a new surface such as concrete, linoleum, wood, carpet, matting, etc. Taking them two at a time will make it less stressful than one at a time. A very mild auditory stimulus is introduced, such as a radio playing quietly.
- Fear Impact Sub period 8 to 11 Weeks
 - o Experiences a puppy perceives as traumatic during this time are generalized and may affect him all his life. It is a fact that a dog is most likely to develop an avoidance response if subjected to physical or psychological trauma during these four weeks.
 - o To avoid this, take some treats and a toy with you where ever you go. If for instance you go to the vet's office, while you wait, play with your puppy and offer them treats. Have your vet give your puppy treats along with lots of praise and petting before and after the examination. In general, avoid stressful situations.
 - o Dogs that are denied socialization during this critical period often become unpredictable because they are fearful or aggressive. It is during this time, that your dog needs to have positive experiences with people, dogs, and other pets.
 - o Therefore, you need to socialize and teach your puppy how to interact with people, other dogs and other pets in a positive, non-punitive manner.
 - o You should gradually introduce your puppy to new things, environments, and people. But, care must be taken in socializing your puppy with other dogs or in areas where many "unknown" dogs frequent, prior to the time that your dog has had three of its booster vaccinations against contagious diseases.
 - o Shopping centers, parks, and playgrounds are good places to expose them.
 - o Begin by taking your puppy when there are few distracters. Give them time to get used to new places and make sure they feel secure.
 - o If you plan to travel with your dog, (and we highly suggest that you do) get them accustomed to riding in the car. Take your pup for brief rides at first. Go someplace fun. Remember, if new experiences are overwhelming or negative, the results could be traumatic.



Henry's Put 'Em Up Kennels, LLC
2173 Shady Lane
Rosholt, WI 54473
(715) 343-9703

- Fear Impact Period 6 to 14 Month
 - o This period is otherwise known as Teenage Flakiness! It can take longer in some dogs since it is tied to sexual maturity.
 - o Also it occurs as dogs enter adolescence and is often referred to as adolescent shyness.
 - o Your dog may suddenly become reluctant to approach something new or suddenly become afraid of something familiar.
 - o This behavior can be very frustrating to the owner and difficult to understand because its onset is so sudden and, seemingly, unprovoked.
 - o If you notice this behavior, it is important to avoid the two extremes in response: Don't force your pup to do or approach something frightening to them and don't coddle or baby them.
 - o To get through situations that make your dog fearful, be patient, kind, and understanding.
 - o Desensitize your pup to the object or situation by gradually introducing them to it and using food rewards and praise to entice them to confront the fearful object or situation.
 - o Again, do not coddle or reassure them in any way that will encourage this fearful behavior.
 - o When you "reassure" a dog with pats and "it's okay, fella", you are telling them it is okay to be frightened and you are creating a potentially worse problem.
 - o Incidents may occur more than once so just take it in stride, its normal and it's going to be just fine.
 - o Do not correct them either. Simply make light of it and encourage your pup, give them food rewards as they begin to deal with their fear better. Make sure you lavishly praise at their attempts of braveness! This phase will pass.

- Mature Adulthood (1 - 4 Years)
 - o During this period your dog may again become aggressive and assertive. For instance, they may become more turf-protective, by barking when someone comes to the door.
 - o Temper their protective behaviors by teaching them how to accept strangers into your home.
 - o Their friendly play with other dogs may escalate to fighting with other dogs. Teach you dog to ignore other dogs that they see, if they cannot be friendly towards them.
 - o Adulthood is also a time that your dog may again test your position as pack leader. If this happens, handle them firmly, suspend any rough play that may be giving them the idea that they can dominate you, and continue with training.
 - o I heard this once before and like the way it sounds as a mantra and that's to never give, "Something for Nothing"! That means that your boxer must work for everything it gets, to include access threu doors, to eat, to be allowed in a room, or even to sit next to you!



Henry's Put 'Em Up Kennels, LLC
2173 Shady Lane
Rosholt, WI 54473
(715) 343-9703

- Additional classes or private help with training may be a wise investment. It can provide you with the structure and commitment to train your boxer that you need at this time. Proceed with training in a matter-of-fact, no nonsense manner and your dog will become a reasonably obedient dog. Give them lots of positive attention for their efforts!

Socialization:

- Remember, dogs are social animals. To become acceptable companions, they need to interact with you, your family, other people, other dogs and what every other type of pet they will come in contact with.
- We have taken a great deal of time and effort in socializing your pup and making sure it has been given a solid ground foundation for you to build from. If you do not follow up with what has been started then you will be denying your pup and yourself from the full potential of your pup and your relationship with it as a part of your family and pack.
- Take them to places where there will be a few dogs, (puppies and females or males you know to be puppy friendly) or distractions at first and train them there.
- Then, train them in areas with more and more dogs and distractions.
- Always praise their positive efforts to interact or if they display no reaction to distractions.
- Gradually move onto other adult male dogs. At bit of caution here, adult members of the same sex, no matter what animal's species, tend to compete with one another.
- Putting together two strange adults of the same sex could result in a fight.
- Watch for behavioral signs of playfulness before allowing two dogs to play together.
- Also, be alert to the posturing of aggressive behaviors.
- Watch for circling behaviors, walking on toes, stiff tail wags, and tense facial expressions. A quiet, motionless very attentive dog is a sure sign of aggression and will most likely be followed by a fight.

Diet:

- As mentioned, diet is crucial in the overall health and development of your puppy.
- Type of diet will greatly depend on what will best reflect your life style.
- Bottom line is this; a healthy, nutritious, well balanced diet will help keep your puppy's overall health needs fulfilled, to include healthy skin, coat, eyes, hearing, heart, muscular and joint development and over all systems in check.
- Do your research and find out what is going to work best for you and your pup and stick to it. Wither it's a raw meat diet, dry kibble diet, moist canned diet, or any combination listed.
- Understand your diet plan; monitor your pup and always strive for the best health plan you can give.