

Children & Puppies



Clear boundaries between children and puppies are crucial so that everyone can enjoy one another in a safe, predictable environment. This requires training for both the puppy & child but also for the adults supervising!

Setting up good habits

Crate & confinement training are absolutely crucial to raising a puppy in a home with young children. Your puppy needs a safe and secluded area to rotate in and out of throughout the day. An overly tired or energetic puppy is going to jump up, chomp, and be wild. An overexcited or overwhelmed child is going to run, yell and squirm. For the first month I have a new puppy, I rotate the puppy in and out of the x pen or confined space. When all is well and calm, I monitor gentle interaction between the puppy and the child. That means every time my puppy is with children, it is a predictable and “low-key” time. This sets your puppy up later to have an involuntary cue to be mellow at the sight of children rather than overly excited, jumping, mouthing or a rowdy response.

Training them both!

Over the years I have found that training my child to behave a certain way around puppies, sets the puppy up for success and makes things much simpler overall. Teach your child not to lay down with a puppy unless they’re prepared for the rough mouthing and romping that it triggers. Give the child a safe retreat like a couch or chair instead of running away which only excites the puppy more. Encourage quiet voices and the child avoiding calling commands like “No sit!” as that will only confuse the puppy due to inconsistency. Have toys on hand to redirect mouthing and separate before things get too rowdy. When possible, include your child in basic training sessions so the puppy recognizes them as an upper hierarchy member of the family as well.