**HOUSETRAINING YOUR PUP**

Following is a potty and crate-training schedule below for your new puppy—or you can read The Tao of Puppy, Chapter 3 (and other pages—see Index). Maybe these suggestions will help or maybe you could tell me a thing or two now!

My best to each you and your new baby,

Sheron and XANADU Pack

Puppies miss the company of his/her litter-pack. They have never been alone before. I think all pups cry sometimes when they are alone. Here's how I manage my puppy’s time, so s/he can spend more time with me:

**Hang** a bell on the doorknob of the door through which you take your pup outside. Make sure to ring the bell with the puppy's paw when you go outside with him/her.

As much as possible, take him/her through the door **on a leash**. S/he needs to see himself taking responsibility for walking to the door—seeing the familiar on-the-way-to-the-door objects all along the way, etc. (see Tao of Puppy for leash training). **Pick up his/her paw and ring the bell.** At some time, your good dog will ring his bell when s/he needs to go outside--or when s/he just WANTS to go outside. **Give him/her a tiny treat** when s/he rings the bell--even if you are managing his paw for him/her.

When I'm training a new pup, I roll up rugs and stand them in a corner somewhere. If you've got wall-to-wall carpets, you can't do that, but you can--

**Make sure s/he has toys** that s/he likes to play with.

**Take him/her out first thing** when s/he wakes up in the morning—easy if s/he sleeps in a crate by your bed or snuggles up with you.

**Take him/her outside 10 min. later,** too.

**Take him/her out again after breakfast and water.**

**ANY TIME S/HE DOES NOT PEE OR POO OUTSIDE, S/HE HAS TO GO TO HIS/HER CRATE** for 20 min.--even if s/he cries. Then s/he goes outside again--and s/he better pee or poo or it's inside the crate again.

**Take him/her outside after playtime.**

**Take him/her outside after naps.**

**And take him/her outside every 45 min.** It is simple to set a kitchen timer.

Then you shouldn't have to use his/her crate and listen to his/her cries so much. You can just let him/her play in one smaller room for a while--like the kitchen (use baby gates to keep puppy in or out of sections of your home. S/he will learn to behave in this small area; that is, master not peeing or pooing in this area.

**As your puppy grows** and gets expectations about the outhouse are under control, **extend play-around-the-house by 5 min. each time s/he comes in from a successful potty break**. Then you can extend indoor time another 5 min. and another 5 min. after several more successful days until you are letting him/her out hourly.  **If s/he DOES mess the floor, reduce the schedule by 5 min.** But if you forgot to let your pup out on time and there’s an accident, well, is that puppy’s fault?

When you are pretty sure s/he's not going to mess in his/her crate (and that should **be within a day after you get your puppy), you can enlarge his/her space** (pups don't really like to mess up an area where they eat or play—and these pups are already used to going potty at the FAR end of their play pen. **If you have to be gone, be sure s/he has a newspaper lightly perfumed with his/her pee-scent in his/her area. If s/he uses his/her paper when you were gone over his/her usual hold-it-in time, s/he's still a very good dog!**

**USE A TINY TREAT EVERY TIME YOUR PUPPY DOES SOMETHING RIGHT.** Tiny means as little as your little fingernail. Maybe it’s a bit of bacon, turkey, chicken--whatever. Do NOT treat at other times.

Begin other training now, too: Getting used to a collar takes about a day; letting him/her drag a leash around and be happy about that may take another day. Not arguing with you when you pick up the leash and s/he can't run away may take longer. Walking around on a leash--longer. Walking NICELY on a leash is part of obedience training, and very important for his/her safety.

Teach him/her to come and to sit (see your pup-training book), to lie down, etc.

**Most of ALL, enjoy your puppy and DO NOT WORRY.** Even if it were possible to do something wrong today, puppy will give you a thousand more chances during the weeks and months and years of tomorrow.

Dogs enjoy obedience training, because of the immediate attention and treats and praise, AND MOST OF ALL BECAUSE Dogs WANT to know what you expect. As some point, increase praise and decrease treats. Encourage all along the way. Be consistent as a family with puppy expectations. Ask your family members if they can read these suggestions, then discuss them and see what fits with your lifestyle. Just like your new puppy needs a potty schedule, your family members can be on duty for certain hours of the day, so YOU don’t have to do it all.

**REMEMBER, THIS IS ONE SMART PUPPY; YOU ARE THE PACK LEADER.**

MY VERY BEST TO YOU AND YOUR BABY AND YOUR FAMILY,

Sheron & XANADU of the Rockies