

Red Dog Solutions
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COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT RAISING/ TRAINING A DOG

What should I feed my dog? How much? How Often?

Puppies under 4 mths should be fed a puppy food. The brand is up to you although you do get what you pay for to some degree. Stay with known brands. Puppies up to 3 mths of age should be fed 3x/day and 2x/day after 4 mths.

Adult dogs should be fed either once or twice a day depending on your schedule. Feeding amounts are listed on most dog food bags. Remember they are in the business of selling dog food – lean toward the low end of their recommended amounts!

Canned food or grated veggies can be mixed in for added flavor.

How much exercise does a dog need?

This depends greatly on the type of dog and his age! Certain breeds (or breed mixes) are high energy, while others are more sedentary. Look at what the breed was originally designed to do. Hunting dogs, working dogs and herding dogs were designed to cover a lot of ground and have lots of stamina for a full days work. Lap dogs or some of the larger guarding breeds were designed to hang out more. On the average you can assume that any medium to large dog will need at least an hour of aerobic exercise daily. That means brisk walking, running, playing ball etc. Long hikes and a chance to really run should be provided as often as possible. Toy breeds can be content with a walk around the block and some in house play.

How do I teach my dog not to chew stuff in the house?

The keys to chew training are exercise, appropriate chewing options and supervision. A tired dog is less apt to be destructive, so run him before you leave him alone in the house. There are lots of wonderful chew toys on the market – some of which are hollow and can be stuffed w/ treats to encourage your dog to keep chewing. You must provide fun toys and rotate them so Fido doesn't get bored. If your dog is not chew trained he cannot have free run of the house! Use a crate or a small dog-proofed area to confine him. When you are home you can allow him to explore and make chewing choices because you are there to say "Oops! That's not yours – Here chew on this!". When unsupervised you don't want to give your dog access to the wrong chewing choices. Confine him with a fantastic chew toy!

How do I housebreak a dog and how long will it take?

Housetraining is similar to chew training. Supervision and confinement are vitally important, as is a consistent schedule and lots of praise! Feed your dog at the same times every day. Take him outside consistently. And don't give him too much freedom inside. A general rule of thumb is that a pup who is 2 mths old will need to go out every 2 hrs - at 3 mths every 3 hours etc. A 6 mth old pup may be able to go 6 hrs and that may stay constant until he is over a year when most dogs can go for an 8-hour stretch. Remember this is a general rule of thumb- it is not written in stone! Every dog is different! If you are carefully supervising your dog/ puppy he will have very few accidents inside. This will give you lots of opportunities to praise him when he goes to the bathroom in the right place! Do not reprimand an untrained dog for going to the bathroom inside... whose job is it to train him after all!

How do I teach my dog how to Come, Sit, lie down, not jump on people...?

Dogs learn through repetition and reward. You must show your dog what you want him to do and reward him repeatedly. You also must make sure that undesired behaviors are not being rewarded as well! For instance if you are teaching Pup to sit for attention and other people in the household are petting him when he jumps up how will Pup know which is the right way to greet people? Teaching your dog appropriate behavior is necessary and can be a lot of fun when you use positive training methods.