



**DOG TRAINING FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

**Double D Dog Training  
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## **Avoid These Common New Puppy Mistakes (And What To Do Instead)**

**1. Delaying Training:** Training should begin the moment your puppy comes home. Early training prevents unwanted habits and builds confidence. Short, fun sessions help your puppy understand expectations and give them mental stimulation, reducing boredom-related behaviors.

**2. Too Much Freedom Too Soon:** Puppies need safe boundaries to prevent accidents and destructive chewing. Controlled freedom helps establish routines and successful housetraining. As skills develop, increase access gradually to set your puppy up for long-term success.

**3. Not Socializing Early Enough:** Positive exposure during the critical socialization window (8–16 weeks) is essential for raising a confident dog. Introduce safe dogs, people, sounds, surfaces, and gentle experiences to prevent fear-based behaviors later in life.

**4. Repeating Commands Too Much:** Repeating cues can teach a puppy to ignore them. Say a cue once and reward the correct response. Pair verbal cues only after your puppy understands the behavior through shaping and luring.

**5. Ignoring Good Behavior:** Reinforcement teaches puppies which behaviors earn rewards. Praise calmness, good manners, settling, and checking in with you. This builds a dog who offers desired behaviors instead of only reacting to corrections.

**6. Inconsistent Rules or Schedules:** Puppies thrive on predictability. Clear expectations help reduce anxiety and confusion. Regular routines for sleeping, potty breaks, feeding, and training strengthen learning and speed up progress.

**7. Not Providing Enough Mental Enrichment:** A tired puppy is not just physically tired but mentally satisfied. Sniffing, puzzle toys, foraging games, and basic training prevent boredom and reduce problem behaviors. Mental work is equally—if not more—important than physical exercise.

**8. Punishing Mistakes:** Punishment damages trust and does not teach the correct behavior. Redirection, management, and positive reinforcement encourage learning. Always show your puppy what to do instead of what not to do.

**9. Poor Nutrition or Health Care Gaps:** Proper nutrition supports healthy growth, development, and behavior. Regular vet visits ensure vaccination schedules, parasite prevention, and early detection of any concerns. Ask your vet about appropriate feeding schedules, portion sizes, and recommended diets.

**10. Expecting Too Much Too Soon:** Puppies are learning about the world and need patience and guidance. Celebrate progress, not perfection. Building behavior takes repetition, consistency, and reinforcement over time.