

HAPPY TAILS PUPPY KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to the Happy Tails Puppy Kindergarten Course. This manual is yours to keep and reference through the course of the class and beyond. Feel free to make notes or mark down questions. You don't need to bring the notebook every week, but you might find it helpful.

WHO ARE WE?

BILL MCQUADE has trained and shown dogs since 1970. Not only has he worked with training companion dogs, but he has finished many conformation champions as well as field dogs. With his 30+ years of experience, he has put together a training program that serves the whole family and is meant to change the way you live with and interact with your dog.

Through teaching at the community college and then at Wee Pals, Bill has successfully trained thousands of dogs from a wide variety of breeds with many different temperaments.

KRIS MINKLE has been training with Happy Tails for 5 years, after graduating with distinction from the University of Arkansas Fayetteville with a degree in Psychology. Towards the end of her degree program she began to take an interest in theories of learning, how they applied to dog training and why they work.

Before Happy Tails, Kris worked at the largest German Shepherd kennel in the country, both training and caring for the dogs there. Through teaching classes at Happy Tails, and experience with her own pack of 4, she is prepared to help you and your dog find the right way to communicate with each other.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Nothing In Life Is Free | 3 |
| Family Unit – Learning To Live Together | 4 |
| Motivating Your Puppy | 5 |
| Feeding Your Puppy | 7 |
| Housetraining 101 | 8 |
| Coming When Called | 12 |
| The Ouch! Factor – Puppy Teeth | 13 |

NOTHING IN LIFE IS FREE

Your puppy has recently left his mother and litter mates. If he had been left with his litter or with a group of other dogs, he would learn his place in this group (pack) instinctively. He might be submissive and exhibit behavior that he will never challenge any of his litter-mates or elders. That behavior would include rolling on his back and exposing his underside, squatting or possibly urinating with ears pulled back while avoiding eye contact with the dominant puppy. Or he could be seeking dominance with those around him who are willing to let him dominate. He will boldly push into his brothers and sisters and usually put his body above theirs. He will stare at them with ears erect and forward. He will physically lean into them until they back away. If he meets a puppy who does not submit to his will, a tussle will usually ensue until one of the puppies backs down. After a few weeks of this behavior the puppies will have established a loose hierarchy from the most dominant to the most submissive. If one bowl of food was put out for them to eat, the most dominant would control it and the most submissive would be the last to eat.

If any puppy ran up to a superior adult member of the group and jumped on him, bit him, leaned into him or otherwise exhibited dominant behavior, that adult would immediately and severely chastise the puppy using towering body language and a very harsh growl/bark. He would stand over the puppy and glare until the pup exhibited submissive behavior. If that same puppy approached the adult dog and sat in front of him and lowered his head, looked slightly to the side with his ears back, the adult dog may answer by wagging his tail, laying his ears back and softening his expression and body language. The adult dog may even roll onto his back and let the puppy know he is willing to wrestle and play with him. If one of the puppies bites hard enough to hurt, the adult would jump to his feet, tower over that puppy and growl menacingly. The puppy would probably scream, cry and try to run away and hide. A few minutes later the adult would exhibit a soft, ears-back expression and invite the puppy to play and the puppy would happily accept the invitation and would climb all over the adult dog, but be very careful not to bite down hard.

You and your family are now the social group your puppy will be interacting with. The age from eight weeks to twenty weeks is one of the most important learning periods in your puppy's life. Most people unknowingly encourage behavior they do not want from their puppy. If the puppy jumps on their lap they stroke it lovingly. If the puppy bites too hard they respond with a careful, sometimes sweet "No..." They do not want the puppy to be "afraid" of them, so they show no anger. They buy them toys and treats and genuinely give the puppy all the love they can. There is always food and water down for them, a safe place to sleep, attention and affection whenever demanded and even treats for no reason at all. During this formative time when he should be learning social graces, we are actually teaching him to be an unsocialized monster we hate to love and we are doing it because it satisfies our need to be loved. We are doing the dog and our family a great injustice by not teaching the puppy the manners he needs to live with us. The same manners he would have learned living with a pack of dogs. He needs to learn them from his "pack" of people.

FAMILY UNIT - LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER



Dogs are highly social creatures! The need to belong to a group or pack. If someone let all the dogs in the neighborhood loose, they would form a pack. There would be some squabbles and, like people, a society would form. There would be the leaders (alpha male and bitch), the lieutenants (usually younger alpha wannabes) and the rest of the citizenry. In other words, dogs naturally desire structure and leadership. They want leaders they respect.

Some of the ways dogs communicate are: through body language, eye contact and physical touching (pushing and leaning). If you and your family do not provide the proper leadership, education and supervision, your puppy not only can become a monster, but he or she can develop many personality disorders also. Your puppy needs to learn what his or her role is in the family unit (pack). You will why your dogs does this and how to communicate with him. He will learn his place in your pack.

If you have young children, your puppy is going to assume they are his new litter mates. One of the really fun games a puppy plays is to grab a sibling's ear or skin and make him squeal. If mom is present, she will ordinarily chastise the offending puppy sternly. The puppy learns to control the pressure of his bite and he also learns that being disciplined is just a part of life. In other words, if your puppy bites down too hard (hurts), you have the right and responsibility to chastise him sternly. Look him straight in the eye and with a very, very, very commanding tone give a strong "NO NO, NO BITE!". Yes, your dog will still love you and better yet, he will respect you. With many "alpha" type dogs the only way they an love you is by having respect for you.

If your dog knows your family has control of treats and food, affection and companionship, and toys and games, he will always listen to all the members of the family. I have had three year old children that can make a 100 pound dog do their bidding. It can be that way in every family.

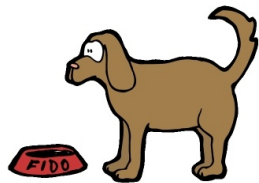
MOTIVATING YOUR PUPPY

You and your family are the social group your dog will be interacting with. The age from 8 weeks to 20 weeks is one of the most important learning periods in your puppy's life. Most people unknowingly encourage behavior they do not want from their puppy during this important stage. Now we need to provide him with real motivation to do what we want.

You can motivate your dog to "go potty" outside where you want. You can teach him to sit when he approaches people. You can teach him to walk on a leash beside you and sit when you stop. You can teach him to lay down, to come when called, to fetch objects and to stay still for long periods of time. However all of these behaviors require motivation. You need to follow these absolute rules during the next six weeks.

RULE ONE: DISTINCT MEAL TIMES

Feed one or two times per day depending on age/size. Leave the food down for 10 – 20 minutes or until your dog walks away, then pick it up. No more free feeding!



After your dog has learned the word "sit" you can start teaching him "stay" while you feed. With your hand, gently hold the dog away from his food and tell him to SIT. Stick with it until he sits (a momentary sit is fine to start with) then let him eat. Give him ten to thirty minutes to finish and when he walks away, pick up any leftovers. Food is a valuable, important resource that you will be controlling from here on out.

RULE TWO: THE TOY BOX

Keep toys and chews under your control, preferably in a location that your dog is aware of but cannot get to.

You will use the toy to get his attention and reward him for the behavior you are trying to attain. When you take a toy out to let him play, show it to him and make him "earn" the playtime by performing some of the commands he has learned. Chews should be set aside for quiet time in his crate or on his bed.

RULE THREE: ASK NICELY

Your dog has to ask nicely for petting and affection.



Don't worry, you will actually be giving more affection, not less! If your dog jumps on you, leans into you with his body, grabs you with his mouth, tries to rough house, demands petting or any other behavior that he initiates, withdraw your attention and your eye contact, using a stern voice and body language to let him know that his behavior is unacceptable. As with feeding time, stick with it and command a sit. Once your dog is seated, you will need to praise him profusely (and in a silly, excited voice). You can then invite your dog for cuddles, petting, or play because you have controlled the situation.

RULE FOUR: TREATS, TREATS, TREATS!

Treats are for rewarding desired behavior during training.

Your dog earns treats for any desired behavior at this stage of training. He receives a reward for going potty in the correct place, sitting when he approaches you, or any new command/trick you are teaching. Carry treats in a shirt pocket so you have them available to offer at any given time.

RULE FIVE: NO TUGGING!

No more Tugging Games

If your dog will not let go of an object, offer him a treat in exchange for the object. Your puppy should never be allowed to take anything away from you, plus it's a good start for future retrieving. If your puppy wins the tug game, he may assume he is the superior member of the family.

RULE SIX: WHOSE BED? MY BED!

No climbing on furniture unless "invited".

Your dog must sit and look you in the eye, then you can invite him to your lap or a piece of furniture. If he jumps on your or the furniture without asking permission, simply push him off and back onto the floor. This may have to be repeated several times before he sits, at which point you can invite him up where he would like to be. If a dog in a pack jumped on a superior adult, he would be chastised by that adult dog. The younger dog would soon learn to approach the superior dog with respect and wait for the superior dog to invite him to play. (This is similar to rule three)

The reason for these motivation rules is quite simple. If you leave food down for your dog all the time, he does not associate the fact that you supply the needed food. If you give your dog affection and treats for no reason, or worse when he demands, he will never have a need to please (obey) you. If he has chew toys all over the house, and can climb on the furniture whenever he wants to, what are you needed for? You may understand that you paid for the food and bought the goodies, but the dog doesn't. If you are like the rest of us, you love to see that your dog is happy when you come up, but your dog is demanding attention and you respond at that time, so he will think you should respond to his demands all the time. In other words, you are accidentally training your dog to believe he is in charge. We want you to become your dog's benevolent, kind-hearted boss.

If your dog has the genetics to be an alpha dog or bitch, and you let him or her win at tug, jump in your lap without an invitation, or climb on the furniture, he will assume you are subservient. This can lead to aggression and biting for real as your dog matures.

"Every dog needs a human who is trained in basic obedience, proper feeding, grooming and house upkeep." Tess of Helena. Training People. San Francisco, 2007.

FEEDING YOUR PUPPY

Bill's qualifications for writing the following: Thirty plus years successfully breeding and showing dogs. Constant reading and researching information on studies conducted. A desire to feed his pets the best possible diet at the best price. In other words "Value". He loves dogs. He has been fortunate to have spent his life earning a living at my hobby.

"I am blessed with common sense, an above average desire to learn, and a healthy skepticism of our government and huge corporations." -Bill McQuade



THIS SUBJECT IS VERY IMPORTANT WE ARE SEEING MORE AND MORE HEALTH PROBLEMS WITH DOGS AND CATS AND A GREAT DEAL OF THE CAUSE IS THE WAY WE FEED OUR FURRY FRIENDS. ALLERGIES, DIABETES, PANCREATIC PROBLEMS, SKIN PROBLEMS, OBESITY AND URINARY AND BLADDER DISEASES ARE JUST A FEW OF THE PROBLEMS BECOMING EPIDEMIC IN OUR CANINE AND FELINE FRIENDS.



Dogs and Cats are MEAT EATERS! They have long canine teeth for grabbing prey, then ripping flesh and crushing bone, not chewing soybeans, corn or wheat. Yes, even your tiny cutesy little toy dog! If you do not believe me then you have never trimmed the toenails of a spoiled Chihuahua. Grab, rip and crush!! If you dog had to survive on his own, he would stalk live animals, or raid the chicken house, or catch a rabbit or bird and maybe even a fish. There is not one instinct to head for the wheat, sorghum, corn, or soybean field for nutrition. Many foods are now using sweeteners such as corn syrup, glucose or propylene glycol (think anti-freeze) to get pets to eat their food.

Some authorities, possibly including your veterinarian, will tell you the dog is an omnivore. This is a myth perpetuated by the large feed companies (some of which teach nutrition at various Vet schools). I, and many vets that have studied nutrition-related problems believe that dogs have learned to be scavengers out of necessity and will eat most anything we eat. That does not mean it is always good for them. Drop a Krispy Kreme on the floor and they will swallow it faster than you can retrieve it. They have learned to love sweets, Big Macs, Spaghetti, etc. Even the most illiterate of humans knows that a constant diet of these foods is not good for them. The "low carb" Atkins and South Beach diets are proving healthy for humans. We are genetically programmed to be omnivores and eliminating refined grains and starches for our diet is beneficial for us. The dog and cat are carnivores and not programmed to handle grain-based diets and yet we are stuffing them more and more with not only refined grains, but the refuse from the milling and food processing industries. Because it is cheap. Corporate profits have become far more important items in a bag of pet food than the ingredients and I think these big corporations really believe they can throw a positive spin on these foods and the public will believe them! (Sorry, I had to step up on my soapbox for that one, but to me the games some corporations and our elected and bureaucratic officials are playing with our lives is almost criminal.

LEARN TO READ THE INGREDIENTS LIST!

HOUSE-TRAINING 101

There are four, and only four, requirements for successful housetraining, and they are probably not what you think. You will need an ex-pen and a properly fitted crate. A great deal of patience. Un-erring supervision.

We are strict believers in crate training. Your puppy, believe it or not, is also a believer in crate training. He instinctively wants a den to sleep in so the crate is not “cruel” as some people feel. The crate is meant to be a safe place, both his bed and his cave. It is not used for punishment or as a “doggy jail”.

THE EX-PEN is basically a playpen for your puppy. Just as people buy playpens for their two-legged puppies, to keep them safe from harm, it only makes sense that you should have one for your four-legged puppy. They cost anywhere from \$60 to \$100 and even have panels you can use to expand them. Not only will it limit the space they have to soil, it will keep them safe from chewing power cords, or eating other things that could be hazardous to their health. An ex-pen gives the puppy a safe, limited place to play so that they can get proper exercise. It also gives you a little piece of mind that your puppy isn't slinking off to have an accident.

A PROPERLY FITTED CRATE is one that is big enough for your puppy to stand up and turn around in. It is not a mansion, or even a condo. It should be small and cozy, and not leave enough room for him to potty in one end and sleep in another. Wire crates are the best investment, because you can buy one crate for the dog's entire life and use the enclosed divider to make it the size it needs to be as he grows. Running from about \$50 for the smallest crate and \$150 for a great dane, they also have an easy-to-clean slide out tray, and fold down quickly for travel. Plastic crates will work as well, but you will have to purchase several as your dog grows.

PATIENCE – One of the gravest mistakes new puppy owners make is having unrealistic expectations of their puppy. They want housetraining to be completed in a matter of days. They expect the dog to be able to communicate with them about when they have to go, and give themselves and their two-legged keepers plenty of time to get outside. Puppy's that are 8 – 10 weeks have almost NO warning, let alone have they figured out the proper way to get your attention. Don't expect too much from your puppy, keep their age in mind, and always always always remember that this is a learning process. Don't give up or give in.

SUPERVISION – This is probably the single-most important aspect of housetraining. You would not leave a 6 month old baby free to roam around the house willy nilly...without a diaper. You would also not get angry with said baby if he happened to soil the carpet or get into something he shouldn't have. It is your responsibility to know where your puppy is every second he is loose in the house. It is your responsibility to look for the warning signs

that your puppy has to go to the bathroom and to get him outside before he makes a mistake. Your puppy is not old enough, nor does he have the reasoning skills to figure this out without you. If your puppy makes mistake after mistake in the house it is not because he is “dumb” or willful. It is because you have failed at this very simple, but time-consuming concept.

When you first get your puppy, restrict him to the kitchen, a utility room, spare room, bathroom etc where he cannot damage carpet, furniture or anything of value. Leave the crate in a corner of the room with a couple of treats inside. Put down some potty pads or newspapers by the door. At night or when you are gone, the sound of a radio or the TV turned on softly will keep him company. Your puppy is going to whine and cry for a few days of this. He is learning to be separated from his siblings and from you. He may have never been alone before so it is a period of adjustment. And likely, it is harder on you than the puppy! The separation at this time is a very important lesson for your puppy to learn. If you take him to bed with you and give into the crying, he will get used to being with you all the time and you may have to deal with separation anxiety problems as he gets older. Separation anxiety is very difficult to eradicate once it has set in, but fairly easy to avoid at the outset.

After a few days of this, of exploring and possibly even sleeping in his crate on his own, it is time to start getting him accustomed to the door being locked for a period of time. When the puppy goes in there you can give him a kong stuffed with treats or food, a bully stick or a flossie to keep him busy. It is something tasty and exciting to keep his mind off being in his crate. It is also a special treat, one he does not get any old time. When he gets tired, he will fall asleep. At eight weeks he can sleep without needing to eliminate for three to four hours. At 12 weeks he can hold it six to eight hours and at 16 weeks he should be able to make it through the night.

PICK A SCHEDULE AND STICK TO IT!

First thing in the morning you must take your puppy outside. Carry him! He might not make it if you try to let him follow you outside. On a leash, take him to the area you want him to go, put him down and keep a slow pace until he goes. Once he does, immediately give him a treat and make a huge fuss over the good boy thing he did! Don't allow him to become too distracted, resist the urge to play with him, and don't waste your time. If he hasn't urinated and defecated within 10 minutes or so, bring him back inside and put him back in his crate. Go on with your morning routine of getting ready, and 30 minutes later take him out to try again. Within a few days he will get the idea that he is going to get a treat for eliminating completely and will go as soon as he gets outside.

Every time you take your puppy outside...if he does not potty, he goes into his crate. It is not punishment! You are simply putting him somewhere he is highly unlikely to soil to give his bladder a bit more of a chance to fill up. It is infinitely more unfair to allow your puppy free run, and then get angry at him when he makes a mistake. It's your mistake! This is

where patience is so important...your puppy has a lot to learn about housetraining. He has to learn to be able to recognize a full bladder. He has to learn the proper controls in order to “hold it”. He has to learn the proper location to eliminate, and the appropriate timing. It’s a lot for a little baby to take in, so don’t be discouraged.

A check cord can be a valuable tool through this period. You can let your puppy be with you while you vacuum, watch tv, work on the computer, etc. A six to fifteen foot cord can be attached to this collar while he is out with you. If he starts to wander too far, just step on the end of the cord. You can even attach it to yourself. He will soon adjust to the borders to expect him to adhere to. Reward him periodically for staying with you.

Remember, housebreaking is about consistency and supervision, time and routine. It’s not easy, but neither is it the hardest thing you will teach your dog.

Q: What do I do if my dog potties on the carpet in my house?

A: Your instinct is going to be driven by anger – yell, scold, rub his nose in it, and even “swatting”. The truth is, once the accident has happened, it’s too late and all your anger does is satisfy YOUR need for retribution and the only lesson your dog learns is that you are unpredictable and a little bit scary. All you can do is clean up the stain with a very powerful odor removing product (we carry something called “Get Serious” that is amazing) and resolve to do a better job supervising your puppy. It’s really not his accident – it’s yours.

Q: I take my puppy out and stand outside for an HOUR and as soon as we come back in, he potties on the floor again! How do I stop that?

A: Your puppy is getting distracted outside, and you are allowing him to waste time. You shouldn’t be pottying your dog for an hour – not even half that! Take your puppy out to the proper area and keep him moving. Keep him on a leash so he doesn’t bound off to play with blowing leaves or chase a bug. Do everything you can to keep him on task. If he still doesn’t go for you within 15 minutes, then the urge isn’t “pressing” and he will only “remember” to go when he is suitably bored (ie back in the house). Carry him inside and return him to his crate with a chew and try again in 30 minutes. If your puppy does not go to the bathroom when he is taken outside, don’t let him back in to roam around! He will have an accident!

Q: I have heard that yorkies/chihuahuas/maltese/toy poodles/etc are very hard breeds to houstrain. Is this true?

Yes and no. Despite what you’ve heard, housetraining has less to do with a particular breed and much more to do with the size of the dog. Little dogs are much better at sneaking away. They potty such a small amount that you don’t always catch it, and they can squeeze into small spots. It is much easier to detect when your labrador is having an

accident, than your toy breed. All they require is more supervision. That will keep them from “wandering off” and getting into trouble.

Q: My puppy knows when he's done something wrong by pottying on the floor. He slinks around full of guilt. If he knows he did a bad thing, why won't he stop going on the floor?

Your puppy knows that potty on the floor makes you angry. Your tone will change and become low and perhaps menacing. You might ask “DID YOU DO THIS?” in a voice that has them willing to admit guilt to anything. What they cannot do is connect your anger to their urge to potty, they simply don't have the cognitive abilities to figure that one out. Once they've gone, they know you will get angry, but they are limited and unable to go back one more step to “see the future” and know that this action NOW will make you mad LATER.

Q: When can I expect my puppy to let me know when he has to go outside? He never lets me know when he has to go!

A: As your puppy gets older, he will be able to give you some signs that he has to go out. You can even teach your puppy to ring a bell on the door. However during training, you cannot “wait and see” if your puppy lets you know. You have to constantly and often reinforce the proper behavior. We do not consider any dog completely housetrained until he is at least 1 year old. At that point, they have the physical and mental strength they need to not only have warning that they have to go, hold it when there isn't an opportunity, and let you know that they have to go out.



COMING WHEN CALLED



You have to be more interesting than squirrel scent, or rabbit tracks, or blowing leaves and running cats. I know some of our challenges in life are not fair, but I will do my best to teach you how to be more interesting than squirrel scent to your dog.

Start right now by deciding how you are going to call your dog from the back yard. I have used a brass dinner bell at one time, and a whistle most of the time. Make it a sound or call that is unique to “coming when called”. Let us assume a whistle. Start with your puppy near you and whistle and treat. Whistle and treat. Whistle and treat. Whistle and treat as often as you can over a two week period. Every time he hears that sound he gets a treat. In the second week start whistling when the puppy is a small distance from you. After two weeks of consistent whistle and treat, your puppy should come running at the sound of the whistle. It is also a great time to reward him with a short playtime with a favorite toy. We have found, especially for terrier types, that a small squeaky toy is absolutely the most “rewarding” toy you can use.

Never, never, never call your puppy and then punish him. Always reward your puppy with treat or play and/or playtime when he comes. Most people make the mistake of calling him from the backyard or wherever he is interested in playing and then crate him, take him to the vet or groomer, lock him in the house and leave him for a period of time or turn the lights out and go to bed. When he starts associating coming when called with super play time and treat instead of dullness and restriction, he will always come when called.

THE OUCH FACTOR: PUPPY TEETH

Puppy teeth. Sharp little razors going ninety miles an hour, playfully grabbing anything and everything within reach. Toys, socks, tissues, paper towels, fingers, noses, ears... dealing with your new little piranha can be a daunting, not to mention painful!, task.

Puppies have no hands, so they explore the world with their mouths. Those little mouths taste everything. It also doesn't take much effort on the pup's part, for those little mouths and teeth to hurt. Between 8 and 20 weeks you are going to be teaching your puppy something called "Bite Inhibition". You will give them feedback to know how "hard" is too hard. How to control the strength of their bite so that they understand the proper way to use their mouths. This is very important, even necessary, when you have a puppy around children.



As discussed earlier in this book, if a puppy walked up to an older dog and grabbed a mouthful and chomped down, that puppy would be severely chastised. To the point that he may think he is not long for this world. It is not a physical reprimand as much as it is vocal. The elder dog will take on a looming stance, tower over the puppy, and bark with everything he has, showing teeth and sounding completely vicious. The puppy will scream, cry, run off...and learn never to do THAT again.

While some people have the bearing, voice and wherewithal to use this approach, most owners are too concerned with hurting their puppy's feelings, or that they won't be "loved" any more. If you correct your dog and it has no impact, then you are just "nagging" them. You are better off using the second option, and that is to withdraw completely and end playtime whenever your puppy bites down too hard. They are looking for your attention, and want to play with you. If, each time they bite at you, you leave them...they will quickly learn not to be so rough.