



Setting House Rules for Your Puppy

Bringing home a new puppy is exciting—but if you want a well-mannered adult dog, it's important to start with structure. That means setting clear house rules from the beginning. Puppies thrive on routine and consistency, and they look to you for guidance.

At Spartan Rottweilers, we remind every new puppy owner: Don't wait until a bad habit forms to make a rule.

What's cute at 10 pounds—like jumping up for kisses or play-biting—is not so cute when your Rottweiler hits 100 pounds.

Start early, be consistent, and your puppy will grow into a polite, confident companion.



Why House Rules Matter

- 🐾 Help your puppy understand boundaries
- 🧘 Create a sense of security and confidence
- 🚫 Prevent unwanted behaviors before they start
- 💬 Teach your puppy how to 'fit in' with your family



Common Puppy House Rules to Set Early

- 📖 Where Can the Puppy Go?
 - Are they allowed on furniture?
 - Are some rooms off-limits?
 - Use baby gates or closed doors to enforce these early.
- 🍽️ Feeding Rules
 - Feed at scheduled times (not free feeding)
 - Puppy must sit or stay calm before food is served
 - No begging from the table—ever
- 🚽 Potty Rules
 - Always go outside (or to a designated indoor potty area)
 - No unsupervised time until potty habits are consistent
- 🟢 Play Rules
 - Teach gentle play: no teeth on skin or clothes
 - End play immediately if biting happens—redirect with a toy

- 🛏 Sleep Rules
 - Will your puppy sleep in a crate, a bed, or in your room?
 - Be consistent and stick to a bedtime routine
- 🦴 Chewing Rules
 - Chew toys only—never shoes, cords, or furniture
 - If it's not theirs, it's off limits



💡 How to Teach Rules Effectively

- ✅ Be Consistent: Rules apply all the time—not just when it's convenient.
- 🔄 Catch and Redirect: Don't just say "no"—show them what to do instead.
- 🎉 Use Praise and Rewards: Good behavior should always lead to good things.
- 😊 Enforce Calmly: No yelling—just clear, calm communication and guidance.

🔄 Rules May Evolve, But Structure Should Stay

Some rules might change as your puppy matures (e.g., they may earn more freedom in the house), but the structure and consistency should remain. Even adult dogs benefit from boundaries—they just need fewer of them.

🐶 Final Thought

House rules aren't about being strict—they're about giving your puppy the structure they need to succeed. The earlier you set boundaries, the faster your puppy will learn how to be a well-mannered member of your family.

Start with kindness. Stay consistent. And always set your puppy up to win.

