



## Danuser's Doodles, Poodles, & Cavapoos Tips, Tricks, & Suggestions

1. Please **schedule your puppy's booster vaccination** 3-4 weeks from the date of their first vax on their record card. Please take that card to the vet with you so they can enter the puppy's information into their system. Your puppy will be required to receive an another additional booster 3-4 weeks later **in order to be fully vaccinated & to safely visit public ground**. Meanwhile, no doggie parks, gas station pit stops, parks, subdivision walks or public ground of any sort where other dogs, farm or wild animals, varmens could have visited & left contaminated feces on the ground. We strongly urge you to take your puppy potty at home before leaving for a vet appointment, carry your puppy straight in to a sanitized exam table, & straight back home until your puppy is fully vaccinated. Until then, your puppy is highly susceptible to harmful viruses & disease that can make your puppy extremely sick or even result in death. This is very important, please listen to your vet.
2. Your puppy is doing well eating Hills Science Diet Chicken & Brown Rice or Barley recipe. We highly suggest keeping the puppy on the same diet as their little tummies are still maturing & adjusting to their new environment. **Introducing a new food** too quickly can easily result in in diarrhea lasting several weeks. We go by the feeding recommendation on the back of the bag for the puppies, & our own dogs are kept on a healthy weight regimen.
3. **We suggest using their kibble as their rewards vs. treats** until their tummies mature. Too many treats at this young age can result in unexpected diarrhea. We like to wash up our empty parmesan cheese containers & fill them with their kibble. They're perfect to grab & go & make for a great recall. We have some stubborn dogs of our own that don't always listen on the first call; but if we shake that treat container & ask if they want a cookie, immediately, we capture their attention. We also use their kibble as a reward for going in their "place", kennel or crate when asked. We always reward them with just a few kibbles & they go right in. It's a safe place for them, keeping them away from harmful things they could eat, chew, & swallow, but also keeping them from destroying your personal things.
4. We cannot stress enough how important it is to **begin crate training from day one**. Using a crate will significantly increase the chances of quick & successful housebreaking. Their crate provides a quiet space for relaxation & should help cope with anxiety when used properly. In a short period of time, the puppy actually loves having a place of their very own.

5. We have found **certain hard chew bones**, such as Benebone, Nylabone, Petstages Dogwood Wood Alternative Chews, Water Buffalo Horns, Deer & Elk Antlers, Yak Chews, Bully Sticks, & Kongs to be **beneficial, safe, & long-lasting** fun. **Be sure to throw away the last small piece** of a hard bone, bully stick, or yak chew **to avoid choking**. Through the young puppy stage, we suggest using their own kibble (Hills Science Diet), mixing it with some warm water & making it a mush. Put the mush in their Kong & freeze it. It's not only a cool treat for them, but also a safe long-lasting activity, and a reward when they may need to spend some longer periods of time in their crate. It's a good idea to get 2 Kongs & rotate them out. When the puppies are older & their tummies are a little more mature, you can substitute peanut butter (no artificial sweeteners) or cheese in their Kongs as alternatives to the mush. Even our adult dogs still love their Kongs & bones.
6. Please **be careful with rope toys, stuffed animals, chew toys or chew bones that can break off** into a chunk, socks, undies, t-shirts, wash cloths, blankies, or anything a puppy can chew on, eat & get lodged in or even wrapped around their intestines. A piece of these items or whole item can be ingested & become an intestinal blockage that will require a trip to the ER to induce vomiting or surgery to remove the item.
7. *Danuser's Doodles, Poodles, & Cavapoos is not responsible for any viruses, parasites, or environmental illness once the puppy has been picked up from our home & has gone to yours. **Please be careful & protect your puppy from public ground where viruses & parasites can be picked up & spread to your puppy.*** Parvo can live in the ground FOR YEARS & be picked up from an area where other infected dogs have used the bathroom. It can also be picked up in the woods from wild animal's feces. Please do not take your puppy for walks or hikes until they have completed their series of booster vaccinations. When in doubt ask your veterinarian. *Preventative medicine is much more affordable than treatment of a deadly virus.*
8. **When bathing be careful to avoid getting water in the puppy's ears & up their nose.** Too much water in their ears could cause an ear infection & moisture left in their ear canal can cause yeast. You could ask your vet if they have or could recommend a drying ear cleaner for after bathtime. A true ear infection will require prescription drops from your vet. *For most puppies, a bath should be limited to once a month, only as needed.* Over bathing can strip away a dog's natural oils & cause dry flaky skin & itching. A mild puppy shampoo is recommended. Some of our favorites are Earthbath, Aroma Paws, & Pet Head puppy shampoos. As long as it's mild & rinsed really well with lukewarm water, other brands are just fine too.
9. **Housebreaking** will probably be the most challenging part of owning a puppy. Dedication & consistency on your behalf is the KEY!! A crate with a divider that can be moved back or removed as the puppy grows is recommended. Do not get a large crate where the puppy has too much room to soil in one corner & move to an unsoiled

area to sleep. An area where the puppy has just enough room to stand up & turn around is sufficient. We cannot stress enough to use that crate. *Anytime you cannot have that puppy right by your side, use that crate to your advantage.*

Whether you need to take a shower, vacuum, run outside, cook, eat, or whatever it may be, it's ok to put the puppy in the crate with praise & reward them with a couple pieces of their kibble for doing so. Anytime they come out of their crate, go directly out the same door, & same location that they've started using for their potty spot. **For the first couple of weeks,** we even suggest setting a timer about every 45 minutes as a reminder to take the puppy out during waking hours & increasing that time as the puppy gets older & begins to get the concept.

Another good idea is to keep your puppy tethered close to you at all times using a leash. Yes, even indoors. Using this concept allows you to possibly avoid an accident before it happens & quickly get the puppy outside to its favorite potty spot. You will have to use your own judgement through the night. If the puppy wakes you sometime during the night, go ahead & take the puppy out. Allow enough time to go potty, praise, & then go right back to bed.

Puppies can easily get daytime & nighttime mixed up & use their cuteness to manipulate you into playing but they should only need to go out once a night, if at all. It is suggested to take the puppy out right before bedtime & as quickly as possible once the puppy wakes up. If you suspect a UTI with frequent accidents or begging to go outside often, then I would follow up with your veterinarian. Same goes for diarrhea or frequent loose stools.

**Limit water & treats a few hours before bedtime. Using your love & praise as their reward through the evening & nighttime is sufficient.**

10. **Training & discipline begins on day one!** If you are consistent, you can mold this puppy into the dog you want it to be. Unwanted behaviors such as barking, aggression, crying, excessive whining, jumping, chewing on hands, fingers, all of which should be managed with proper training & POSITIVE reinforcement methods. There are plenty of training methods that can be thoroughly researched online. It is very important to address any issues you may see immediately. It will be much harder to "untrain" a puppy. As a puppy, they are at a crucial learning stage where they are readily absorbing new behaviors.

We are always here to try & help with any questions or concerns you may have. Feel free to call or text us at 573-338-2823.