



# How to Avoid Things Going Wrong

It is important that you are aware of all the things puppies do; they pee and poo a lot, they chew, they jump, they bite, they like finding new stuff and exploring. To help them get things right, they need an environment that is set up for success. Giving a puppy full range of your home unsupervised is asking for trouble, especially if there is stuff around to chew and carpets and rugs to pee on. It is not going to be possible to watch your puppy all the time and you don't want it having loads of opportunity to do bad things, such as chewing shoes, children's toys, or through dangling wires.



## Five Top Tips for a Puppy Savvy House:

- 1) Keep the house and garden tidy and safe.
- 2) Keep wires out of the way.
- 3) Remove access to stones and your favourite plants.
- 4) Don't leave stuff lying around.
- 5) Keep coffee tables clear as well as any other surfaces your puppy can reach.

Avoiding opportunities for your puppy to make mistakes means that you can focus on giving lots of positive rewards for good behaviour, and then your puppy is naturally learning, and practising, good habits and building those good-behaviour neural networks.

Dogs learn through repetition so if your puppy is constantly getting things wrong, for example chewing wires or stealing things it shouldn't have then, through repetition of practising bad habits, you will be strengthening those bad-behaviour neural networks and you will find yourself getting frustrated and telling your puppy off a lot and giving it lots of negative feedback. This will mean that your puppy is learning bad habits, and that you are bad tempered and no fun, so they will start to avoid you. Puppy training is not about discipline, it is about support and guidance and you being a good teacher, like that favourite teacher you had at school.

### TOP TIP!

Don't wait for things to go wrong and then try to fix it, be proactive and help your puppy get it right in the first place and show them that good behaviours get rewards.

We are a different species and the old idea that dogs see us as part of the pack is not true. We also communicate differently, whereas we mostly communicate verbally and are very visual in the way that we see the world, dogs communicate mostly through body language and they see the world mostly in scent pictures as well as visually.

The way you behave towards your puppy will teach your puppy how to communicate back with you as a different species. They must firstly feel safe and most importantly trust you, if you want a puppy who wants to listen to you, likes to be around you and is eager to please you.