

Paws for Thought

Holiday Surprise!

The holiday season is the most wonderful time of the year! It's a time where we pause, take a moment, and think of what's most important to us - we focus on family, and our most meaningful friendships and relationships. We pay close attention to everything - how we decorate our homes... which plans to make...we even pay close attention to how we wrap the gifts we purchased.

But what if that absolutely perfectly wrapped & beautiful looking gift turns out to be an absolute nightmare?!

One of the most popular gift ideas... are.... **Puppies!** They are absolutely adorable, playful and bring a smile to absolutely everybody's face! As is the case with any new gift, in the beginning, the puppy gets constant attention. All the affection they receive lead them to believe that this will be their reality. Unfortunately, it is during this time that we so easily forget to set boundaries and structure. In the blink of an eye, the holiday season is over and we have started our new year... we are back to our regular routines and that new, cute, adorable puppy who was brought into lives in a beautiful little package is left alone, bored and asking "what should I do now"?

Reality can set in really quick when we come home and find absolutely everything all over the place and

our possessions destroyed. It's unfortunate, but many of the puppies that are given as gifts end up being given up for adoption. Unless the person receiving the gift is not 100% committed to raising the puppy and giving it the proper training, structure and stable environment it deserves... it usually ends badly.

Puppies grow. Their playful demeanor can become unintentionally aggressive. They go from being a cute little lap dog to a dog that is possessive and controlling of its owner. The cute little yelps turn into a noise complaint that can get your whole community involved. Those cute little jumps they used to do to get your attention can turn into one jump that can knock anybody off their feet. - A dog deserves adventure, education and affection! The training begins right from the first day we bring and/or accept this new, cute and adorable little puppy into our families and our homes.

It only takes a few days of spoiling a dog ignoring its daily routine and structure to throw everything we have worked on down the drain. Like I always say... "you can't take the breed out of the dog". So, learn your breed and take initiative to train it properly. If you do this, you will have your best friend and companion.

Behavior Problems?



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