

## Training the Miniature Pinscher Puppy

**A solid education in obedience and leadership is essential to teach your Miniature Pinscher the rules of his new human world.**

Don't worry unduly if, when your Min Pin puppy arrives home, he appears less sure of himself than he was at the breeders home. Take into account that everything will be new to him. There will be no familiar sounds or smells, so he will need a little time to adapt to his new environment. He will look to you, as his owner, to give him confidence in these early stages of your time together. Begin by getting him used to the members of your immediate family. Instilling confidence into your Miniature Pinscher will help with his early socialization, something that is particularly important for a Min Pin. Soon you will be able to introduce him to your wider family and friends. Please try not to bombard him with too many new people and situations all at the same time. Depending on the age of your puppy, and whether his course of vaccinations is complete, you may or may not be able to take him out in public places immediately. Whichever the case, I would still advise you to allow him to settle down at home for the first few days before venturing outside your home and yard. There will be lots you can do at home with your Miniature Pinscher puppy, so you will both undoubtedly have great fun, but you must allow him to get sufficient rest, too. If he is restricted to your home territory for a little while, you can play games with him, using suitably safe, soft toys and not allowing him to tug on anything too strongly. Check regularly that sharp or unsafe parts, such as squeakers, do not become detached from the toys. These pieces can cause injury, and since your puppys teeth will be very sharp, toys can easily be damaged. Soft toys are not recommended once the pup is past his teething stage. Instead, offer things like safe nylon bones and other sturdy toys. Always monitor the condition of all of your dogs toys. Whether or not you plan to show your Miniature Pinscher, it is always good to do a little early training, getting him to stand calmly on a table to be groomed and admired. This will be helpful on many occasions, including during vet visits, when it is much easier to deal with a well-behaved dog. You will be so proud of your clever companion! Accustom your puppy to being on a lead, which is always a strange experience for a tiny youngster. Begin by just putting a simple buckle collar on him, not too tightly, but not so loose that it can be caught on things, causing panic and possible injury. Just put it on for a few minutes at a time, lengthening each period slightly until your puppy feels comfortable in his first item of clothing. Don't expect miracles; this may take a few days. Then, when he is comfortable in the collar, attach a small lightweight nylon or cotton lead. The one you select must have a secure catch yet be simple to attach and release as necessary. Until now, your Miniature Pinscher puppy has simply gone where he has pleased and will find it very strange to be attached to someone restricting his movements. For this reason, when training my own puppies, I like to allow them to take me for the first few sessions, after which I begin to exert a little pressure. Soon enough, training can start in earnest, with the puppy following me as I lead the way. It is usual to begin training the puppy to walk on your left-hand side. When this has been accomplished to your satisfaction, you can try moving him on your right, but there is absolutely no hurry. If you plan to show your Miniature Pinscher, you will generally move your dog on your left, but sometimes (such as at a dog show) it is necessary also to move him on your right so as not to obstruct the judges view.

Next step: Basic Obedience for Miniature Pinscher Puppies

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