

## Basic Obedience for Your Miniature Pinscher Puppy

### **More basics to help adjust your new puppy adjust to the human world.**

As your puppy gets older you can teach him to sit, always using a simple one-word command, such as Sit, while exerting a gentle push on his rump to show him what you expect. This will take a little time, but you will soon succeed. Always give plenty of praise when your pup assumes the sit position. Never shout or get angry when your dog does not achieve your aim, for this will do more harm than good. If yours is destined to be a show dog, you may decide not to teach him to sit, as he will be expected to stand in the show ring. When your Miniature Pinscher puppy can venture out into public places, begin by taking him somewhere quiet without too much excitement. Soon you will find his confidence increasing and you can then introduce him to new places, with exciting sights, sounds and smells. He must always be on a safe lead that cannot be slipped (not the type used in the show ring). When you have total confidence in one another, you may be able to let him off lead, if this is permitted and you are in a securely enclosed area, but always keep him in sight. Be absolutely sure that the place you have chosen for free exercise is completely safe and that no strange dogs can suddenly appear from nowhere! We have discussed the benefits of crate training the puppy for house-training, but there are other advantages to the crate, including training, traveling and general care and safety. Crate training pays off for pet and show dog alike. At dog shows, most dogs (and all toy breeds) are housed in crates for at least part of the time while awaiting their turn to be exhibited in the ring. Crates are also useful for keeping a dog safe while traveling. In the home, most dogs seem to look upon their crates as safe places to go and don't mind staying there for short periods of time. This can be helpful in times when you cannot supervise or when there's a lot going on in the house and you don't want your Min Pin to be underfoot. When you commence crate training, Place your pup in his crate and remain within his sight. Give him a toy or something to occupy his mind. To begin, leave him in the crate for very short spells of just a minute or two, then gradually build up the timespan. However, never confine a dog to a crate for long periods, for that would be unkind. Most dogs can remain crated for their nighttime sleep periods and for a few hours during the day. Another positive aspect of crate training is that it provides a place for your dog to rest when he's sick or under the weather. If the vet recommends bed rest for your Min Pin, you can put him to bed in his crate. Dogs that are not crate-trained cannot be so easily confined for such purposes. After spaying or neutering your Min Pin, or if he has to have any other minor surgery (such as cataract or patellar surgery), the crate serves as the ideal get well ward. What better place to recuperate than a special place of his own?

Next step: Training Overview

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