

# Lest We Forget

What excitement. You're about to get your new puppy. You've anticipated this day, dreamed of gazing into limpid puppy eyes as you hug your new bundle of grey love. It's a heart-thumping thrill to bring a new Weimaraner into your home.

Along with the puppy comes the guarantee that your life is about to change. First, you will be making a major time investment. You will spend hours just playing and cuddling your newest family member. It's the most enjoyable "time sink" on earth. Secondly, you will be taking on the practical jobs of housebreaking, teaching basic commands and defining what can and cannot be chewed. Your new puppy will gobble up hours of your time and you'll love every minute.

If you've been living for years with your older, trained dog the arrival of a new puppy has multifaceted shock value. It's so easy to forget how different a puppy is from an adult established dog. A puppy enters our lives with no idea of what we want of them. They do know what they want and try their best to fulfill their every desire. The civilized behavior that we expect and take for granted in an older established dog, just isn't there. There are so many things that we need to teach a puppy to make them enjoyable, safe partners in our lives. Our job is to teach basic inter-species cooperation to our new housemate who only goes along with that program when they see what's in it for them.

Have you had a memory lapse? How could you forget the energy level in a puppy? We get used to the settled habits of our trained adults and suddenly with the arrival of a new puppy you're living with a little whirlwind of activity. The puppy goes full blast, getting into everything and when sleep finally overtakes the little creature it's as though they are recharging for the next unbridled blast of full-blown commotion. You find yourself muttering things like, "If only I could borrow some of that energy for myself." The puppy comes into our lives with lots of energy and it takes a lot of our energy to cope and shape good dog behavior.

In addition to the directly dealing with the new puppy, there's the matter of prepping your house. House proofing for a puppy will have you securing the trash cans and waste paper baskets. Then there's the matter of all those electrical cords and outlets. Shoes that you habitually leave out of the closet have potential to become the most tempting toys. Just as you think you've thought of everything, the puppy creatively finds a new way to totally disrupt your household.

Yes, a puppy is a major disrupter and life changer. They will spend your money, make you lose sleep, and tear up things that you hold dear. Squirrels will scatter as they scamper across the tops of your fences and the neighbor's cat will be terrorized. Your yard will have new holes that recall trench warfare battlefields. With all those negatives you have to ask, "Why am I doing this to myself?" Those doubts evaporate when your new puppy coming running up to you, joyfully reuniting with the most wonderful human they have ever seen. Have a puppy look lovingly into your eyes as they curl up in your lap and you instantly know that it's all worth it.

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