



Providing a Safe Home Environment

When bringing a new puppy into your home its important that you set them up for success. Just like toddlers, young puppies are notorious for getting into lots of things. So, before you bring them into your home there are a few things we should change in order to make the environment a safe space for you and the puppy to succeed. ***A USVSD puppy should always be under supervision. If you cannot supervise them, they should be in a kennel.***

Before the Puppy Arrives:

- Make sure all cabinets with harmful cleaning sprays, detergents, and small ingestible items are secured (rubber bands are a inexpensive option).
- All doorstops, small kids' toys, and decorative figurines are removed from the puppy's eye level.
- If you have a rug, tablecloth, or curtains with fringe, it might be helpful to remove these items or be aware of the puppy at all times when around the item.
- Plants should be removed out of the puppy's reach. Check out the health section for more info on what plants are dangerous to dogs.
- Shoes should be placed into closets or in rooms not accessible to the puppy.
- Check yard for any building materials, plants, children's toys, outdoor cooking tools, gardening supplies (fertilizers/pesticides), hoses, etc.
- Chew sprays are also an option for the legs of furniture.

At 8 Months:

Around 8 months of age *most* puppies have matured through their phases of curious chewing. At this point in time if your puppy has displayed good house manners it is important to start slowly placing items back into their original positions. With your help the puppy will learn to leave human items alone and focus on acceptable puppy items to play with.

