



YOU & YOUR PET

There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats.

Albert Schweitzer
French physician & philosopher

How to stop your little darling from becoming a little devil

By MICHELLE McDONOUGH
The first few months in your home is a crucial learning period for your puppy. This is when he learns the rules of your house, how he should behave with you and other adults as well as children and animals. What he learns as a puppy will determine how he will behave as an adult.

Where to start?
Determine your house rules, then start teaching him each one. For example: What can and can't he chew on? Tossing his toys on the floor doesn't do the trick. You must teach him through praise and corrections. Until you teach

him, he doesn't know the couch isn't a great big chew toy that you have provided for him.

Through socialization exercises, you can teach him to like other people and other dogs (try joining a group class). Unfortunately most dogs spend their lives living in the backyard - isolated from strangers. A trip into the vet then becomes a nightmare because Fido isn't used to being with people.

Don't allow bad habits to develop. Deny your puppy full access to the house until he is fully trained.

Would you let your toddler have free unsupervised access to your house? Of course not. They could hurt themselves or break something. So could your puppy. When you can't

watch your puppy, provide him with a room in which where he can be on his own and can't do damage. Make sure to supply him with lots of toys.

Kids in the house? If so temperament training is needed. This puppy needs to be handled and taught over to teach him to accept this from children.

Remember that children also need to learn how to show affection to animals. Never leave children unsupervised with pets.

The key is to start shaping your puppy's behavior from the beginning. After all, your puppy will be your companion for the next 10 to 15 years.

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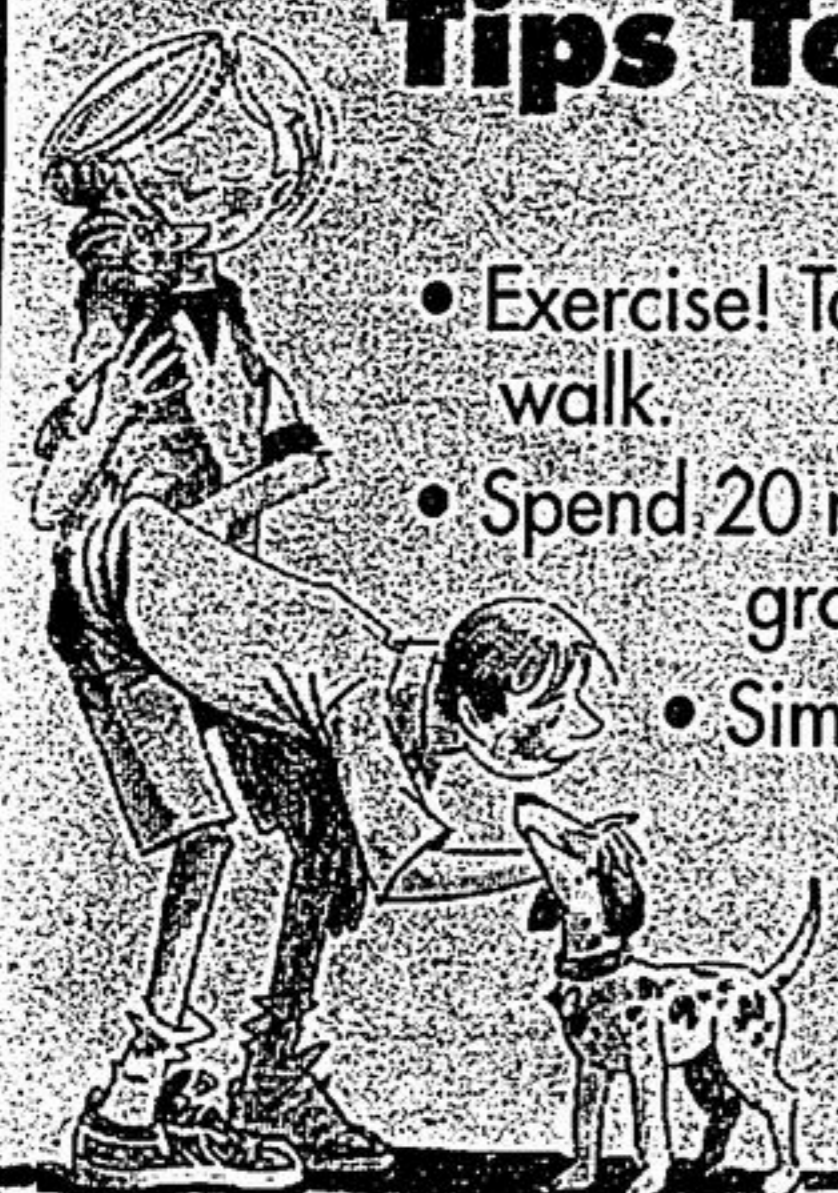


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By LISA CARTWRIGHT
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Since the release of Disney's live version of 101 Dalmations - the breed has been getting a bad rap from the media.

The media has been portraying the spotted, short-haired dogs as hyper and not good for families. But Doug Terwillegar, a dalmatian breeder and owner of Tagamar Kennels in Oshawa, says none of the rumors are true.

"People shouldn't knock dogs they don't know about," he says. "I've never had a problem with the dogs and if I did, I would stop breeding them."

Terwillegar says anyone who owns a dalmatian knows the dogs are happy and would do anything to please their owners.

The dogs are very family orientated. They are good watch dogs and very versatile. They are not high strung, but active. They are very quick to learn and very smart. They would give a dumb owner a lot of problems.

But they are not for everyone.

Certain breeds are for certain people. A lot of people wouldn't want a roley (rottweiler).

At the Uxbridge Scaugh Animal Shelter certain dogs are often abandoned, but purebreds and dalmations aren't among them. But since the release of the movie, the shelter has had one dalmation dropped off, says Ann Barrett, who works at the shelter.

But for Terwillegar, the opposite has happened. "We've had a decrease in people buying the dogs. Normally a litter of puppies are sold before they are born," says the breeder. But this time, a litter has been born and there are a number of puppies left.

Like all animals, says Terwillegar, if you give any dog tender loving care, it's going to be a good dog.

"I've never had a problem with the dogs (dalmations) and if I did, I would stop breeding them."
Doug Terwillegar, dalmation breeder.

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