



# BULLETIN

## Covering The Villages Of:

Sunset Trace	Montebello
West Villages	Meadows
Crane Creek	Monarch
Islesworth	Parkside
Palm Pointe	Pine Ridge
La Mariposa	Charter Club
Coquina Cove	The Admiralty

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## Tip Of The Tail

### Puppies

Puppies are hard to resist and they are so cute we let them get away with everything. The more they get their way and control the situation, the more they want. It is important

to remember dogs are pack animals and are jockeying to be the top dog. However, we, as owners, need to be the top dog, as pointed out in previous months, for a multitude of reasons. Most of the behavioral problems that we see are related to insufficient training and letting your pet control you and your household.

Let's go over a few facts and means of training. First, you need to start out with good nutrition. This means choosing a good dog food from a larger company, as these companies do a lot of research to ensure the best nutrition for your pets. Providing a very balanced diet for your pet at different stages of life is important and is why all puppies should be on puppy food. Larger breeds of dogs should be on a large breed puppy food to maintain healthy growth levels and prevent musculoskeletal problems from excessive growth. Supplements should not be added to the diet or it will be unbalanced. Dog foods provide a better balance of nutrients for dogs than we humans eat.

#### Housebreaking

Housebreaking is a very important part of training. Remember dogs used to live in dens and would never soil their own den. To simulate a natural environment, it is best to use the enclosed plastic carriers, not the open wire cages. There should be enough room to stretch out and turn around, but not so much that they cannot soil one corner and stay in another. Any time that you are not paying attention to your puppy – at night, while you are gone, or while you are not paying attention to them, they should be in their little house. About 10 to 15 minutes after eating their meal, they should be taken outside and rewarded with praise and possible a



treat when they go. Only if you catch them in the act of having an accident in the house can you scold them. Immediately take them outside and reward them if they finish outside. Many puppies love to play outside and forget the reason for being there, so they come back in the house and have an accident. You need to keep them on a leash until they relieve themselves and then let them have playtime for a reward. If they keep coming into the house and having an accident, put them back in the kennel for five minutes and take them out again.

#### Vaccination

It is important to give puppies a series of vaccines to protect them against serious and possible fatal diseases from 6 to 16 weeks of age. The vaccines are usually given about every three weeks. This age range for puppies is the most susceptible time for contracting these diseases. It is very important to have your puppy checked for intestinal parasites and given deworming medication even if they are negative for parasites. During this period, they should be started on a heartworm and flea prevention. Heartworm prevention is one of the most important things you can do to keep your pet healthy; and your veterinarian can recommend the most optimal schedule for these vaccines and parasite controls.

While a new puppy can bring joy and a barrel of laughs, they can take some time and work as well. In the end, it will be well worth it by providing many years of companionship and friendship.

*Established in 1981, Palm City Animal Clinic is dedicated to providing the best possible care for your pets. With focuses on compassionate care in surgery, physical therapy and rehabilitation, preventative medicine, extensive diagnostics and emergency service, Palm City Animal Clinic combines exceptional medical care with a caring philosophy for pets and their owners. For more information, call (772) 283-0920, visit [www.palmcityanimalclinic.com](http://www.palmcityanimalclinic.com) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PalmCityAnimalClinic](http://www.facebook.com/PalmCityAnimalClinic).*