



BLOODHOUND/TARA DARLING



COLLIE/MARY BLOOM

PROBLEM SOLVER

By Arliss Paddock

in the house is a step backward in his houstraining—and every time he relieves himself outside, it's a step forward.

- **Never give "delayed punishment."** You should never punish your puppy for mistakes he made in the house when you weren't watching. As with all training, the feedback that's communicated to your puppy—whether positive or negative—must always coincide with or immediately follow the puppy's action. This allows him to make a clear connection between the action and the feedback it causes, ensuring speedier learning.

If you were to punish your puppy hours afterwards for a mistake he made in the house, he would probably hang his head and look sad while you admonished him. Many people who see their puppy act this way in such a situation think he is "acting guilty," and therefore they think he understands what he did wrong. But all this behavior really means is that the puppy knows, because of his owner's tone of voice and body language, that the person is angry and upset. It doesn't mean he understands why.

Punishing a puppy for reasons he doesn't understand

will leave him only confused and unhappy. This will lessen his trust in you and damage the bond that is developing between the two of you, and it will surely slow the houstraining process.

- **Provide your pup with his own special place.**

Finally, until he is completely houstrained, it is most important to never let your puppy have the run of the house unattended. Have him stay in a confined area—a part of the kitchen fenced off with a baby gate, perhaps, or (ideally) a roomy crate or "den"—anytime you're not watching him. A puppy is naturally less likely to relieve himself in a confined space. Because of this instinct, he's more likely to wait until it's time for his next walk.

Something to Chew On

Because of the new teeth developing in his jaws, your young puppy has a very strong urge to chew on things. In fact, he *needs* to chew. Like a human baby who is teething, your puppy chews to help the new teeth emerge through his gums.