



yard. By burying a few of his toys there and making a fun game of it, you can teach him that it's OK for him to practice his earthmoving skills in this special place.

Jumping Up for Joy

It's perfectly natural for your puppy to jump up in excitement and put his paws up on you as he greets you (and other people). After all, he's happy to see you! But although this is cute when he does it now, it might not be quite so cute when he's grown up—especially if he's a large breed, such as a retriever. Two things can help ensure that as an adult he won't make a

Rather than punishing your puppy repeatedly for chewing on things he finds around the house, give him plenty of toys that he's allowed to chew, and praise him when he's happily gnawing on these. Hard nylon chewtoys are an excellent choice.

Some objects, such as sharp fragments of cooked poultry or pork bones from the dinner table, can spell serious tummy trouble. The best bets are durable chewtoys equipped with a recess for hiding bits of dry dog food. These toys keep your puppy entertained and busy for hours.

Still, be sure to stow valuable or dangerous items, electrical cords, and your best pair of shoes out of harm's way!

Digging It

Puppies and dogs dig for different reasons. Some dig to make a cozy bed, and some dig for the pure joy of it. (Ever seen a kid having fun with a pail and shovel at the beach? You get the idea.) But trainers say that probably the most common reason for digging is that the dog is bored and lonely. So an important first step is to prevent boredom and loneliness.

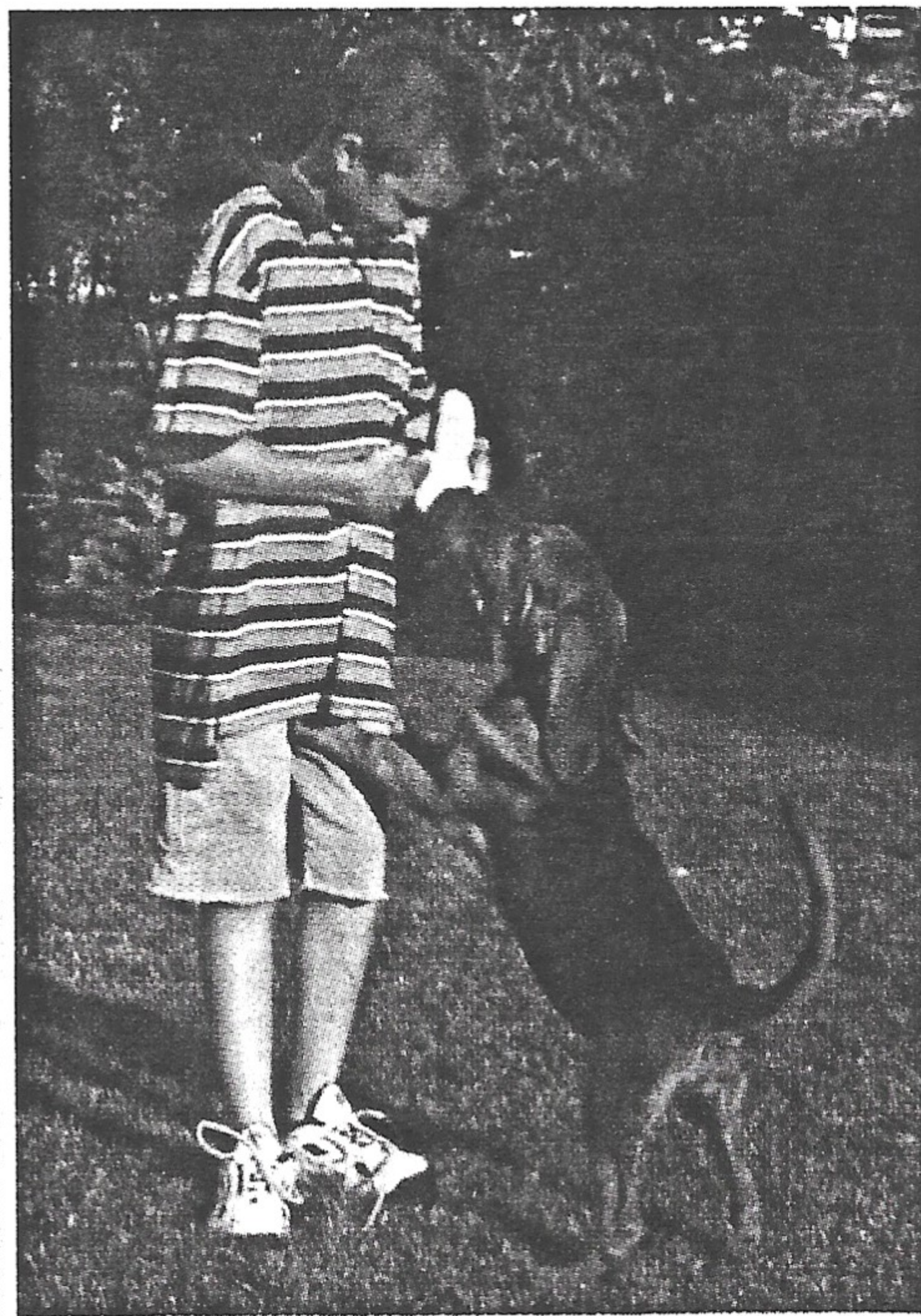
Your puppy needs companionship. If he's left alone in a yard all day with nothing to do, he's sure to be unhappy—and he might turn to digging for comfort. If you have to be away for most of the day, see that he has company for at least several short periods during that time. Have a neighbor or pet-sitter come over for play visits or to take him for walks. Provide him with plenty of toys that will keep him safely occupied.

If he still delights in making holes in the lawn, you can even create his own special digging area in a corner of the

habit of "saying hello" with his muddy paws:

- **Be sure not to encourage your puppy to put his paws up on you.**

- **Teach your pup to greet people calmly right from the start.** Rather than punishing him, teach him to sit whenever you come in the door or when a friend approaches him. Give him praise or a treat every time he sits, and simply ignore him when he jumps—this way, he'll figure out pretty quickly which behavior is more rewarding. He'll soon be sitting every time he sees you coming.



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A no-no: As fun as it might be while he's young, avoid encouraging your puppy to jump up on you.

A Final Word

Training your puppy and raising him to be the well-behaved, happy companion you've hoped for involves a serious commitment of your time, effort, and attention. Just as with raising a child, there may be ups and downs, but sharing your life with this loving (and loved) family member is all worth it.

If you have questions regarding your puppy's behavior, don't hesitate to ask your vet or local boarding kennel to recommend a reputable trainer in your area.

Information on local dog clubs that offer training classes can be obtained from the AKC at 919-233-9767 or www.akc.org. Excellent advice can also be found in a number of books about raising a dog, including *American Kennel Club Dog Care & Training* (Howell Book House; \$16.99).

Most of all, enjoy your new puppy! Spend time with him and give him your best, and he will reward you with years of devoted companionship. 🐾