

# Puppy Proof Your Home !!

Before bringing your puppy home, you'll need to "puppy proof" your house. Puppies are like babies, they want to explore every corner of your house, and they want to put everything into their mouths. They are extremely mobile and quick as well!

## ~Poisonous Household Items

Make sure all poisonous household items are securely stored out of the puppy's reach.

Place all household cleaners, insecticides, fertilizers, mothballs, antifreeze, insect poisons, rat poisons and other items in cabinets with child safety locks or on high shelves. Remember, as your new puppy grows, she will be able to explore higher places and be tempted to jump up on shelves. Golden Retrievers can be "counter surfers" and easily reach food and other items on your kitchen counters and bathroom vanities.

## ~Check your plants

Many plants in and around your house can be harmful to your pup. Did you know that the pits of apricots and peaches, as well as spinach and tomato vines, can make your puppy sick and, in large dosages, can even be fatal? Iris, yew bushes, red maple leaves and many other common bedding and landscape plants as well. Please refer to a list of plants that should be kept away from your puppy.

## ~Take a Puppy's-Eye View

Get down on all fours and look around. Are there any dangling electric cords, loose nails, plastic bags or other tempting objects that will be in puppy's reach? If there are, be sure to put them away immediately.

## ~Keep Your Toilet Lid Down

Golden Retrievers are water oriented dogs. Puppies are often tempted to play in toilet bowl water. This can be a hard habit to break and toilet cleanser may be harmful if swallowed. If you allow your puppy to access her drinking water from your toilet, she may very well continue that habit while visiting another house-hold and ingest harmful (fatal!) chemicals without your knowledge, not all toilet bowl additives are "blue"!

## ~Some Additional Tips

- Never leave your puppy unsupervised inside or outside, and keep her off balconies, upper porches and high decks where he can slip through openings and fall.
- Unplug, remove or cover any electrical cords in puppy's confinement area. It is also a good idea to cover electrical outlets when they are not in use. Purchase electrical safety and child safety items in the infant section of Target or similar store and safety section of Lowe's or hardware store.
- Keep buttons, string, sewing needles, pins and other sharp objects out of your puppy's reach.
- Tying ribbons, cord or rope around your puppy's neck could choke her if it gets caught on a fence or other object. Always use a break-away style collar. Never leave a "choke chain collar" or "pinch/training collar" on your puppy unless you are actively training her and know the proper usage of the device.
- A good rule to follow is that anything that is not safe for children is not safe for puppy or any pets.