

# SMART PUP, SMART OWNER

## How Puppy's Learn

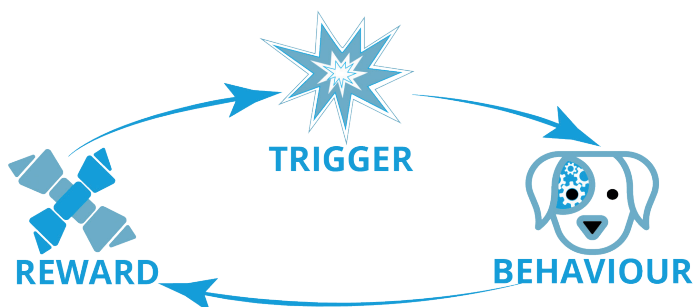
I'm sure the whole family is very excited about the arrival of your new puppy.

This section is going to help you understand more about why your puppy does what it does and what you need to do to create and build on good habits in your puppy and prevent bad habits developing.

Did you know that puppies are born with all the brain cells they need as an adult but that they are not yet connected together? It is our job to make sure we expose our puppies to the world and practise good behaviours for the neural networks to fire and strengthen in all the right places, so they form good habits and not bad ones.

As dogs get older, the neuron firing reduces and it is harder to change behaviours and bad habits. The key is to get it right from the start!

There are three parts to learning and forming habits. This is called the habit loop.



Your puppy has had quite an upheaval leaving its mum and litter-mates and coming into a completely new home with strange people. Your puppy is dependent upon help and support and it will be looking for guidance from you and, if it is worried or scared, it needs to know you are there to help.

Puppies learn by association and your puppy will be finding out how to get the things they want in life that make them feel good. These are food, affection, attention and play. Puppies especially like to play and have fun.

We are going to work at creating good habits in your puppy by rewarding all the good stuff they do with these four things. We will call these 'rewards' and they are what motivates your puppy.

This week you will learn about different ways to train, specifically looking at marker training and three different ways to do this. These training skills, that you are going to learn, will help you apply different approaches to different goals, using the best possible methods.

