New York Bernedoodles House Training Guide

- The first 2 weeks you have your puppy home will be the hardest. Stick to these guidelines and stay strong! Remember that puppies cry sometimes and it's your job to teach them what is and isn't acceptable. The more consistent you are especially in the beginning the easier your life will be for years to come.

- Successful puppies are puppies that are confined and supervised so they do not make mistakes. When you are NOT at home keep your puppy in a small playroom. This can be a small room or an exercise pen. The play space should include a comfy bed (a small crate with a bed inside works great), water, hollow chew toys stuffed with dog food, and a place to potty. Newspaper inside a tray (boot trays work great) is a good solution, but puppy pads or artificial grass pads work also. This is also a good solution for night time in the beginning because your puppy's bladder is not developed enough to hold it all night.

- When you are AT HOME the puppy can remain in their play area or in a crate. Crates work great and allow you to control when the dog is going to the bathroom. Crates should be fun and comforting for your puppy. It is essential that the puppy has chew toys inside the crate. Chew toys stuffed with dog food such as Kongs are invaluable; in fact you can feed all of your puppy food this way in the beginning if you want. You should aim to take your puppy out of the crate and immediately outside to potty every hour. When you first take your puppy out of their crate or play area you should immediately take them outside to potty. Once the puppy is successful reward them with a food treat (high value treats are important, so find something they go crazy over) and use a consistent phrase like "Good Potty!!" If your puppy does not potty within 3 minutes put them back in the crate and try again in a half hour. After the dog has gone potty you can have a short play and training session. When your puppy is out of their crate they should have your full attention so accidents don't happen. If you cannot give them your full attention but want them to be out of the crate then it is best to play with them in their play area or keep them attached to you with a leash. You should only walk your puppy after they have gone potty in the desirable spot. Do not get in the habit of walking the dog to get them to go potty. Puppies learn that walks end when they go potty and will often be reluctant to do so, we want them to learn the opposite, and that walks are rewards for first going potty! Have your puppy first eliminate then praise them and give treats and say "good dog! Let's go for a walk!" Your puppy will learn to eliminate quickly and where you want them to.

- Puppies normally potty within 30 seconds of waking up and defecate within a few minutes. I often suggest that you wake the puppy up every hour or so because it allows you to be in charge of timing. Short term confinement offers a means to accurately predict when your puppy needs to relieve itself. Confining the puppy in a small space such as a crate inhibits them from urinating or defecating because the puppy will not want to go to the bathroom in their sleeping space.