Mount Bethel Poodles Puppy Schedule:

I have found it is easiest to use a crate when first setting a puppy’s daily routine. A puppy generally knows that when they are in a crate they should not “get busy”. “Get busy” is the verbal cue I use to let the puppies know it is time to potty. The first few days you have your puppy in your home are essential for establishing the “get busy” behaviors for a long time to come. It is much easier to establish good behaviors from the start than it is to correct bad behaviors learned because it wasn’t taught from the beginning.

In the beginning always keep a pocketful of yummy treats (chicken, hot dogs, etc). Puppies are more motivated if they know there is going to be a good reward for their behavior. Remember, puppies want to make you happy. It is better to use positive reinforcement than negative.

Daily schedule:

8:00 am: Let puppy out of crate and bring immediately to desired area to let him/her relieve themselves. Don’t go back in until they have relieved themselves. Allow ample time (10 minutes or so) to sniff around and find just the right spot. When puppy is relieving themselves say “good ‘get busy’” and treat immediately after they finish.

8:30 am: Breakfast: allow puppy access to food and water in a controlled space. Puppy should be allowed to eat as much as they want within 30 minutes. Keep an eye out if you see sniffing around the room or circling. These are signals that the pup is looking for a spot to “get busy”. If you see this behavior bring puppy out to appropriate spot. Again, allow enough time for pup to find just the right area and treat immediately after.

9:00 am: bring puppy out to relieve themselves. Play time!

9:30 Bring in to controlled space, crate, or use the “umbilical method” and keep pup on lead and attached to you at all times so you may monitor behavior and for good companionship.

Mid day:

Allow pup access to water frequently. Keep in mind that approximately 10 minutes after drinking pup will need to urinate. The younger the pup the more frequently you will need to offer potty breaks. Frequent potty breaks helps pup reinforce good pottying behavior.

6:00pm Bathroom break for pup

6:15pm Dinner (again watch behavior in case needs bladder or bowel relief. Eating stimulates the need to defecate)

6:45 -7:45pm Bathroom break and play time.

8:30pm Bathroom break and Play time

9:00pm put in crate for the night. Tell pup “kennel up” and treat as soon as he/she enters the crate.

In the beginning it is very important to crate at night and when leaving the home.