

Puppies are naturally curious creatures with a lot of energy to go around. They get into everything and try everything once. Just like small children, they need boundaries and protection. We encourage all our new puppy families to do their part in ensuring that puppies are safe and that tragedy doesn't strike your puppy. We have divided your house into parts to help you remember all the details room by room – and outside!

## Around the whole house

- Hide electrical cords. Puppies love to chew and electrical cords can cause burns, shock and even death if chewed on.
- Hide small objects or things your puppy can break into small pieces your puppy can chew or choke on. Even small dog toys can be dangerous. Balls that are small enough for your puppy to hold easily in their mouth may be too small. They can become lodged and cause your puppy to be unable to breathe. Balls with ropes are a good toy that allows you to pull it out of their mouth if it gets stuck.
- Get guardrails or baby gates for stairs, low windows, and balconies.
- Place poisonous plants in high spots—or give them away. Arizona landscaping has many popular plants that are highly toxic to dogs, so check inside your house AND outside in your yard.
- Keep puppies away from fireplaces and space-heaters and floor fans. Another common household item is the shredder if left plugged in and on, a paw or tongue can become caught and seriously injure your puppy.
- Cords that hang from draperies or blinds can cause strangulation (and ruin your blinds). Either tie up the excess cords, or cut the loop in the cord.
- Watch behind you when going through doors, puppies love to follow close behind. Puppies can sneak out before you know it and become lost. A door slamming is no match for a small puppy. The same holds for chairs at the table and getting up and walking.
- Keep puppies out of the cat litter box. Both cat feces and the litter itself can be a health hazard to your puppy. Get a lid for your box, create a private space for the box that your puppy can't get to or put it behind a baby gate.

## In the kitchen & bathrooms

- Dangers lurk everywhere. Get down on the floor and look from the perspective of the puppy.
- Put safety latches on any cabinet with cleaning supplies or poison or medications left on low tables.
- Keep your dog away from human food scraps. When in the kitchen, put food away immediately so your puppy is not tempted to steal it.
- Dog-proof your garbage. Do not feed table scraps to your dog, this can be an annoying and a dangerous habit.
- Keep plastic (and mylar) bags out of your puppy's reach, and secure your garbage can.

- Keep the toilet lid closed. This is for two reasons, the discourage drinking water with bacteria and prevent accidental drowning.
- Puppy food should be stored so the puppy can't access to free feed. Eating too much can be dangerous to your puppy
- Be careful with treats and bones. Puppies can be susceptible to rich foods, like marrow bones. If given too many rich treats, puppies can develop digestive issues that can continue on throughout their lives.

## **Puppy proof your backyard**

- Make sure your yard is escape-proof – gates have latches and there is not the potential for a puppy to dig under.
- Don't leave your puppy in the yard unsupervised. GSD puppies are the cutest, so puppies are vulnerable for theft if left alone in a yard. Puppies are also vulnerable for larger prey animals getting to them.
- If you have a pool, put a fence around it. It may include installing temporary wire fencing while the puppy is young and might slip through the bars of typical pool fencing
- Check your garage and any sheds to make sure chemicals, fertilizers, and sharp garden tools are off-limits.
- Check all your plants to ensure that any toxic plants are shielded from the puppy getting access or better yet, just removed.
- Puppies (and dogs) LOVE to chew irrigation tubing, so if you have irrigation that has come to the surface, best to dig and cover your irrigation to protect it and your puppy.

## **Safety in the car**

- Before you even get to the car, remember that the garage can be just as dangerous. Small items are frequently on the floor – nails, screws and other small items. Dangerous chemicals can be toxic to ingest and burn feet and skin. Supervise your puppy anytime they are in the garage.
- The safest way to transport your puppy is in a crate secured in your car. Holding a puppy in your lap can be distracting and dangerous for you while driving.
- Make sure that you are aware of the heat and cold when you decide to take your puppy in the car. Puppies have more challenges in regulating their body temperature, so they can be overcome with heat stroke much faster than an adult dog. If it's over 75 degrees outside, leave your puppy home unless someone is in the care with the air on to monitor while you are out.
- Open windows are dangerous for puppies and dogs. Hanging their heads out can be dangerous with flying objects. The risk of jumping or falling out far outweighs the wind in their faces.
- Many puppies get car sick until they become accustomed, so be prepared and alert. Training through short quick trips can help your puppy get their "car legs"

# New Puppy: Puppy Proof Your House



Remember your SPR puppy doesn't get their microchip until they are scheduled for their spay/neuter, so keep them in your visual control and have their collar and SPR tag on them. Remember, if you can't supervise, put your puppy in a confined /safe area with a toy. Crate training is a way to ensure your home and the puppy will be safe when you are not able to supervise your puppy.

## Be prepared in case of an emergency

SPR Puppy Coordinator	Tara Lopez	
Saving Paws Rescue	General Phone	480-737-6089 (phone or text)
	Secondary Back up	623-780-0156 (phone or text)
Adopter closest 24 hour emergency vet		

## My Puppy information:

Puppy name while at rescue, if different from current name	
Date of birth (actual/estimate)	