Thompson Cotons Training Tips

Training a puppy can be a rewarding experience! At this age, puppies are like sponges, soaking up everything they encounter. Here are some tips to help you get started:

1. **Positive Reinforcement**: Use treats, praise, and affection to reward your puppy for good behavior. Coton puppies respond particularly well to positive reinforcement because it builds their confidence and encourages them to repeat the behavior.
2. **Short Sessions**: Puppies have short attention spans, so keep training sessions brief—around 5 to 10 minutes each. Multiple short sessions throughout the day are more effective than one long session.
3. **Basic Commands**: Focus on basic commands like “sit,” “stay,” “come,” and “down.” These are foundational skills that will help with more advanced training later.
4. **Consistency is Key**: Use the same commands and cues consistently. If everyone in your household uses different words or gestures, it can confuse your puppy.
5. **Socialization**: For the first week or so bond with your puppy and have as little socialization as possible. Then, introduce your puppy to different people, pets, environments, and sounds. This helps them grow into a well-adjusted adult dog. Ensure these experiences are positive to build their confidence.
6. **House Training**: Establish a routine for feeding and potty breaks. Take your puppy outside frequently—every 1-2 hours—and **immediately** after meals, naps, or after about a half an hour of playtime. Praise and reward them for going outside. If your puppy pottys inside just ignore it and take them outside immediately. When they do potty outside, they like affection just as much as treats! If you know they need to potty but they don’t seem to be going, walk, even if you have to walk in circles, just keep walking until they potty and then give them affection.
7. **Leash Training**: Start getting your puppy used to wearing a collar or harness and a leash. Let them wear it around the house for short periods before taking them on walks.
8. **Gentle Handling**: Get your puppy used to being handled by gently touching their paws, ears, and mouth. This will make vet visits and grooming easier as they grow.
9. **Patience**: Be patient and understanding. Puppies are still learning about the world and their place in it. Avoid harsh corrections; instead, redirect undesirable behavior and reward good behavior.
10. **Safe Toys**: Provide safe, age-appropriate toys to keep your puppy occupied and help with teething. Chewing toys can also help prevent inappropriate chewing.
11. **Avoid Overwhelm**: Don’t overwhelm your puppy with too much at once. Break tasks into smaller steps and celebrate small successes.
12. **Feeding:** Feed your puppy three times a day about an eighth of a cup for the first few months, morning (after the first walk), noon, and night. Then you can move to two times a day. We feed the puppies Purina Pro Plan puppy food, small breed formula.



Starting training early helps set the foundation for a well-behaved, happy adult dog. Enjoy the process and have fun with your new puppy!