

Tips from fila owners

- Give your fila time to be a puppy. Enjoy the puppy days and do not fret over the temperament or lack thereof....all will mature in due time. Katrina Waldrip
- Make sure you have a crate that is the appropriate size for the growth your puppy will go through. Laura West
- To start your puppy correctly with leash walking...allow the puppy to drag the leash around the house for a few days first (with supervision). Use treats to entice your puppy on the leash the first time out as well. Donna Lindsey
- House breaking is fairly simple. Watch them like a hawk for a week to the point that if their rear end goes anywhere near the ground, they are immediately taken outside. Mike
- Do not over-expose your puppy to stimuli the first few days. This means limit the number of visitors, activities, and trips beyond your home. Too much at once can have an adverse affect on your puppy's development. Once the puppy is settled in, expose them to as many sites and sounds as possible. A puppy that is socialized to the world will be a confident adult Shawna Wilson
- Establish a routine immediately. Try to feed at the same time, use the same door to take him/her outside, pick a place for the crate and leave it there, put to bed at the same time. These will all help in the adjustment period. Shawna Wilson
- Be consistent from the beginning, if you do not want the puppy on furniture, in certain rooms, etc, start now. Good habits are developed through consistency and positive reinforcement, Do not allow your puppy to do something now that you will not allow it to do at 100+ pounds. Shawna Wilson
- If you have children, teach the children to respect the puppy, it's space, need for alone time and teach them to understand that they cannot torment or hurt the puppy. Many children, for lack of exposure, do not know how to behave with dogs. They do not understand that the dog/puppy can feel pain just as they do. It is the parent's responsibility to teach respect and that they should not pull the ears, whiskers, tail, legs, etc....and that poking it in the eye hurts! Many dog bites occur because of mishandling and improper behavior. A dog/puppy cannot defend itself in any way other than walking away or biting. Teach your children to properly handle, pet, and play with the puppy. Shawna Wilson
- Be very gentle with a Fila puppy. They really don't appreciate the rough stuff. Tina Neville
- Crate training at a young age keeps the pup safe while you are not there to supervise and also gives them a place of their own to go when their world is stressful and they need a nap. Tina Neville
- Feed for life, not for the moment. Tina Neville
- Get to know your vet at an early age so it won't be a bad place to go as they get older. Tina Neville
- Take them with you places, the more life experience when young, the more stable the adult will be. Plus they love to go for rides!!! Tina Neville
- I would say reward, reward, reward for all behavior you want to encourage, whether you asked for the behavior or not. Puppies are quick-learning sponges, and that's the perfect time to start teaching, "When you do things that I like/find appropriate, you receive a treat. Marlene Chappe