



How to Raise a Healthy Rottweiler Puppy

By Daniel Wessel & Louise Odom (vom Hause Odom's Rottweilers)



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Introduction

My name is Daniel Wessel and I am from New York, USA. I am a previous Rottweiler owner, a Rottweiler enthusiast and a future handler and helper in training. I was introduced to Rottweilers by a private client in 1997 who had a Personal Protection Dog named Kai. When I met this dog, my first thought was immediate fear from the sheer size and power that I could see in this dog but I grew fond of this fierce, gentle giant. Shortly after this, I decided Kia needed a buddy so I found Andy Devlin from Germanenstoltz Rottweilers. He picked a female puppy for me who was out of Konnenstoltz Endee x Engy on Essbach and I named her Gretchen. She was love at first bite! When I bought my puppy, I went in blind not having done much homework on raising a large breed dog. I soon found out the hard way when she was playing with her older sister. Gretchen came barreling around a corner at full speed and could not stop on the slippery floor. Right in front of me she tore the ligaments in her knee. She was 6 months old. This was not fun for her or I. Gretchen ended up having a \$4,000 surgery due to my lack of experience with raising a Rottweiler puppy and not knowing some very important tips. I hope the information below will help people in raising this amazing breed and help keep their pup as happy and healthy as possible. While searching for my next Rottweiler puppy, I found Vom Hause Odom's Rottweilers. After talking and emailing a few times back and forth, I decided to make a trip to Florida to meet John and Louise, their dogs and to check out the facilities. They were welcoming and accommodating and I could see how passionate they are for this breed. I was impressed by the immaculate facilities and by the beautiful dogs in their breeding program. I have become close friends with John and Louise over the past year which has brought me here today. Wish me luck and the best to you in your journey with your Rottweiler.



Louise Odom and Daniel Wessel

A quick overall view of the Rottweiler breed. The Rottweiler breed is an ancestor of the ancient Roman dogs. They accompanied the herds of cattle the Romans brought with them while invading Europe. The Germans recognized the incredible herding and guarding instincts of the

Rottweiler breed. Because of the strong guarding instincts of the Rottweiler, the Rottweiler was later used to herd cattle to market where the cattle were sold. A bag with the money was tied to the dog's neck so the money could make it safely back

to the farmer's village as thieves would not try to take the money off the dog's neck. It was a great and proven way to keep the money safe! The Rottweiler was selectively bred for the guarding traits and is a guard dog. The farmers then used the Rottweiler as a milk carting dog. In the early 1900's, the Rottweiler almost fell into extinction because the need for the dog's services diminished. However, the Rottweiler breed came back when the breed gained popularity as working police dogs.



Ok, there is hardly any puppy who is more precious than a baby Rottweiler. They are like little black teddy bears! Keep in mind, this adorable ball of fluff will grow to be a large, challenging adult dog! This is why during puppyhood, training for obedience and good manners needs to be a high priority! I would like to take a quote from an article, "Defending the Breed", in the volume 38 issue, of The Total Rottweiler Magazine. This article was written by Brenda Ryan, and she said, "Having a Rottweiler is not like owning and raising goldfish. Owning this breed is like owning a loaded gun." Well put! Below are recommendations we like to pass on to our puppy buyers.



*Ivy vh Odom & Jacob Dueben
Leroy v Räuberweg x Konny vh Uhstein*

Rule 1 Obedience

Basic obedience is a must! Obedience training starts from the day you bring your puppy home. Between 8 and 16 weeks is the most crucial time in a Rottweiler's life as this is imprint stage and sets the foundation for life. You must be consistent. If you are a fair trainer, the puppy will become your life partner. **Socialization is a must!** This will help your Rottweiler understand that people and children are good. The puppy will become comfortable with new sights, sounds and other dogs, big and small.

Pet your puppy gently and touch his ears, mouth, paws and tail. We start doing this before they go home to their new owners. This way the puppy will associate hands with comfort and not fear. If the weather permits, we have a kiddie pool for the puppies to be acquainted with water. We do not recommend dog parks because of parvo and other diseases that are prevalent.

We always encourage our puppy buyers to locate obedience classes and start once their puppy has finished the entire series of shots. The American Kennel Club, and some pet stores, offer obedience classes. When a puppy becomes larger it is not so cute to witness the puppy barking and jumping on people. When a puppy gets into a bad habit, it is always best to ignore that behavior. Puppies desire constant attention and an ignored behavior usually will stop negative actions.

One of the most important action as an owner is not to lose patience with the puppy. When a person shouts, or shows anger, it gives a sense of fear and withdrawal to the puppy. Always follow a correction with praise and maybe a treat! A well-manned puppy who grows up as a good citizen gives the Rottweiler breed a well-deserved reputation.

If an owner genuinely cares about his/her dog, then he/she will put in the time and work required for this breed. There is a certain responsibility in raising and owning a Rottweiler. This breed is not for everyone, but if you do your work there is no better breed!



*Ivan vh Odom "Jagar"; owned by Tom & Cristy O'Donnell
Leroy v Räuberweg x Konny vh Uhstein*



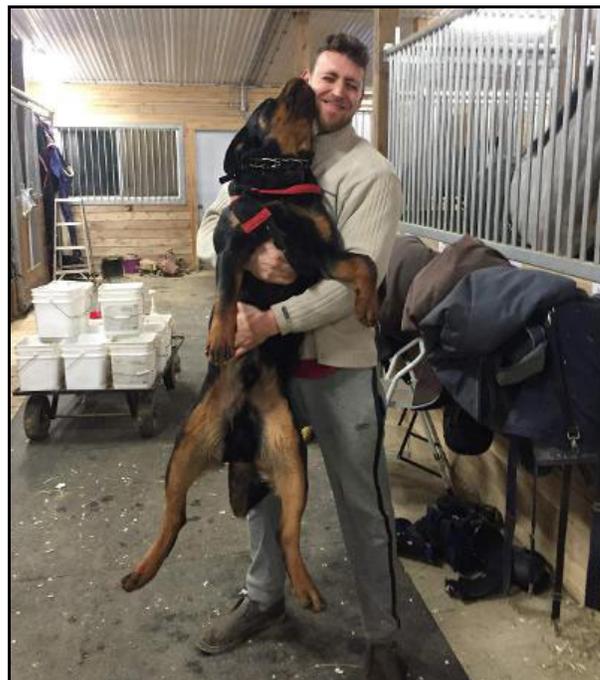
*Jadzia vh Odom "Zia"; owned by Chris Hance
L-R: Kaya & Ronin Hance
Hasko v Kronenberg x Pearl vh Neubrand*

Rule 2 - Supervise

Keep your Rottweiler puppy OFF the slippery floors and stairs. Yes, it may look funny watching the puppy trying his/her hardest to climb, to fall around, and to look goofy. This is an unnatural movement for Rottweiler puppies. Slippery floors are a huge NO NO.

When an owner picks up his/her puppy, we strongly suggest to the new owner to make sure the puppy avoids all slippery surfaces. Because we live in Florida, the majority of the homes in the state have tile floors. If a puppy plays or is trained on a slippery floor, it can cause damage to the puppy's legs, hips and elbows.

Avoid all jumping for at least one year to protect your puppy's legs and hips—this is of paramount importance! Allowing your puppy to jump into the car or out of the car is also damaging to your puppy's development. Yes, it sounds like a lot of work, but it pays off later! Not guarding against unnecessary jumping will end in high vet bills and disappointment, especially if you want to show or breed your Rottweiler.



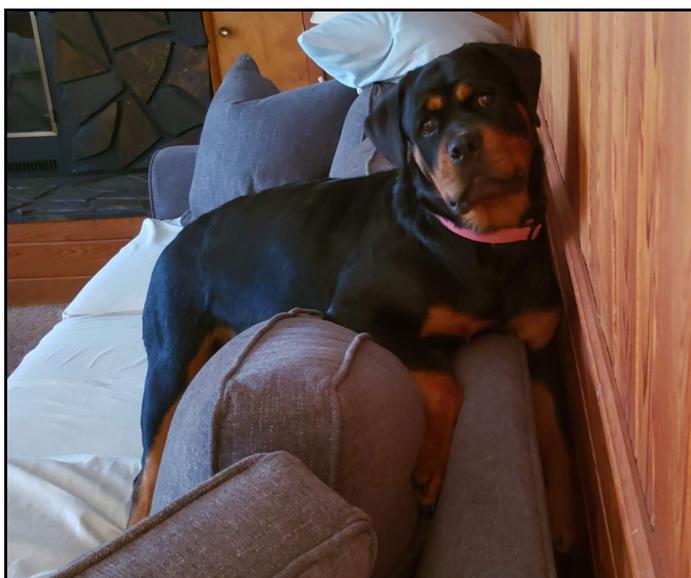
*Darko vh Odom; owned by Anne Larivee
Eskin v Blauen Stahl x Beast v Wotansdamm*



*Jada vh Odom; owned by Cesar Da Silva
Hasko v Kronenberg x Pearl vh Neubrand*



*Halo vh Odom; owned by Tony, Cheryl & Kelsey Hawkes
Glen v Blauen Stahl x Mara vom Räuberweg II*

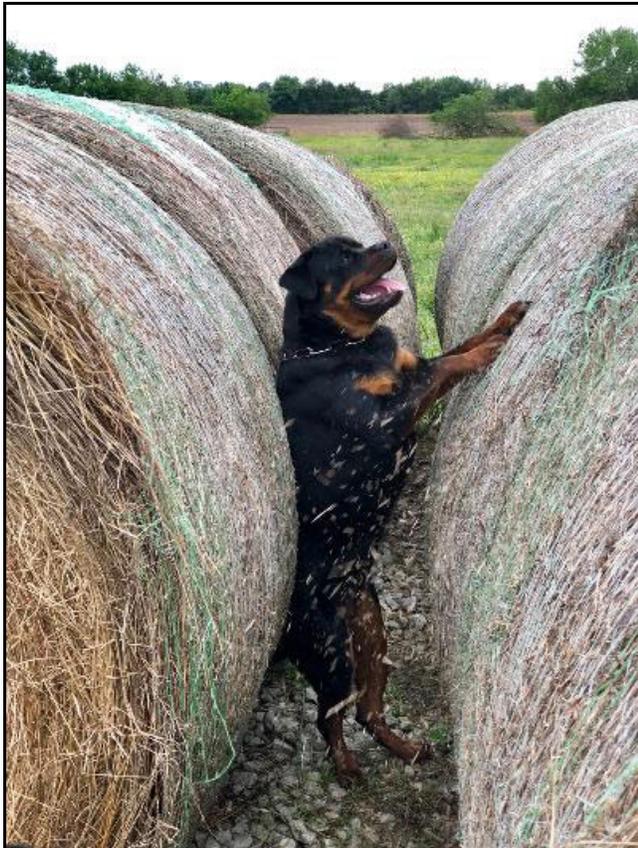


*Evie vh Odom "Shiloh"; owned by Brian & Shelly Altman
Luis v Brandauerweg x Hanni vh Neubrand*

We recommend putting area rugs that do not slide on all hardwood, tile or linoleum surfaces so the puppy has good footing throughout the house. It is not the puppy, the floor or genetics, that can result in big vet bills. It is human error in not being more educated on this subject. For example, if a mama dog sees her pups struggling with obstacles, she has the sense to pick the pup up by the neck in her mouth and help the little ones out.



L-R: Halo vh Odom (Glenn v Blauen Stahl x Mara vom Rauberweg II x) & Ida vh Odom (Leroy v Räuberweg x Konny vh Uhustein)
Owned by Tony & Cheryl Hawkes



Demi vh Odom; owned by Tony & Cheryl Hawkes
Eskin v Blauen Stahl x Beast v Wotansdamm

Rule 3 - Socialization

Another important rule to follow, is socialization. We recommend taking your puppy to different places as much as possible. One of the first outings the puppy will experience is a visit to the veterinarian. Avoid dog parks which are a real threat to your puppy. First, Parvo is a highly contagious disease and Rottweilers are one of the breeds very susceptible to it. Second reason, there is no guarantee the other dogs at the park will behave, and possibility cause a fight. It is highly recommend waiting to go into public areas where there are other dogs with your puppy until he/she has had their final shots. Have your puppy observe as much as possible in everyday situations such as: children playing, the beach, motorcycles, loud trucks, older people with canes or a wheelchair, people with umbrellas, people wearing hats and even (the dreaded) vacuum cleaner! The more a puppy observes of everyday activities, the more relaxed and confident your puppy will become. Just use some sense and educate yourself in any aspect you can with raising your Rottweiler.

These are amazing dogs and if you do right by them, they will be one of the greatest assets in your life. With all the mixing and breeds we have created through time, a true Rottweiler, with all its heredity, will always be one of the most proven dogs in history.

Rule 4 - Feeding

Sometimes puppy owners are so anxious to see their puppies grow, they are tempted to OVER FEED the puppy to try and "speed things up". This is not a good idea! Rottweilers grow and mature slowly, and eventually the height and weight of your pup will be determined by the genetics of his/her parents. Over feeding can cause problems with the puppy's development and could have a bad impact on the puppy's health when an adult—including damage to their bones, joints, ligaments and growth plates, heart disease, and other chronic illnesses. This will damage a Rottweilers potential and become costly at the veterinarians.

Over the years, we have learned from orthopedic vets that over-feeding a puppy will cause unwanted issues which can be avoided. If you want to help your puppy Rottweiler's health, it is important to be patient and allow your puppy to grow and develop at the puppy's own pace.



Left: Ismo vh Odom - Leroy v Räuberweg x Konny vh Uhustein ; owned by Telford Watson

A pro tip from a Rottweiler breeder and trainer, it is best to feed your puppy at a rate where you can just see the last rib in the rib cage. (this is the rib closest to the rear.) Like most first-time owners, we all like to spoil our dogs and feed them treat after treat on top of their daily feeding which is where the problems begin. My suggestion would be if you want to feed your puppy treats for praise and reward, it would be best to set aside a portion of the scheduled meals and use this as your lures, rewards and praise.

The Rottweiler is an expensive breed to maintain. Your puppy requires quality kibble and is seldom found in grocery stores. Buy your puppy food from a pet store. Some of the extra's John and I add to our dogs' diet are sweet potatoes, green beans and ground turkey.

Some breeders believe in a raw diet, which is highly successful for them. Following a raw diet can be very costly if you own a large number of Rottweilers. Seek out your breeder, or vet, for recommendations that works for you.



*Fredrick vh Odom, 2x VPI, Best Puppy Male
(Vitus vh Neubrand x Flocke v Luisenhof); owned by Mike Martin*



*Freya vh Odom; owned by Jessica Carlisle
Vitus vh Neubrand x Flocke v Luisenhof*



*Freya vh Odom, Youth Siegerin;
owned by Jessica Carlisle
Vitus vh Neubrand x Flocke v Luisenhof*



*Ivanka vh Odom "Roxy"
owned by Terri Smith
Leroy v Räuberweg x Konny vh Uhustein*



*Iris vh Odom; owned by
Oswald & Beverly Bruce
Leroy vom Räuberweg x Konny vh Uhustein*



*Juju vh Odom; owned by David & Jessica Bannister
Hasko v Kronenberg x Pearl vh Neubrand*



*Fia vh Odom; owned by Gary & Kristi Marshall
Vitus vh Neubrand x Flocke v Luisenhof*



*Karl vh Odom
owned by Don & Angela Denman
Leroy vom Räuberweg x Flocke vh Luisenhof*

*Imari vh Odom; owned by Wilton & Mia
Beamer - Leroy vom Räuberweg x
Konny vh Uhstein*

*Kota vh Odom
owned by Jennifer Ferrante & Junior Barrios
Hasko v Kronenberg & Pearl vh Neubrand*



*Ida vh Odom
owned by Tony & Cheryl Hawkes
Leroy vom Räuberweg x Konny vh Uhstein*

*Echo vh Odom; owned by Cesar Miranda
Nieves - Luis v Brandauerweg x
Hanni vh Neubrand*



*Ivanka vh Odom "Roxy"
owned by Terri Smith
Leroy v Räuberweg x Konny vh Uhstein*

*Ivy vh Odom & Jacob Dueben
Leroy v Räuberweg x Konny vh Uhstein*



*Darko vh Odom; owned by Anne Larivee
Eskin v Blauen Stahl x Beast v Wotansdamm*

*Demi vh Odom; owned by
Tony & Cheryl Hawkes - Eskin v Blauen
Stahl x Beast v Wotansdamm*

*Jadzia vh Odom "Zia"; owned by Chris Hance
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