***Raising a Mellow Stofer Puppy***

The following are a few foundational things that we do to raise calm and well behaved puppies:

1. Tie them to a table for at least one hour every day. You can do this multiple times if necessary, especially if you are working at your computer. It teaches them to be calm and patient in one spot.
2. When you bring your puppy out to go potty in the morning (or anytime), do not acknowledge them for the first 5-10 minutes until they are completely calm.
3. If they jump up on you, knee them firmly. If that is not enough, stomp your feet towards them, make a really big deal about it.
4. Teaching your dog to stand calmly: the slip-collar lead needs to be snug and up high on the neck just behind their ears. If your puppy tries to dart away, pull on the leash abruptly so the pup is back by your side, repeat as many times as needed until the puppy is sitting calmly and still by your side. (If that is not working, you are not popping them hard enough or the leash is not high enough around their neck.)
5. For healing, if your puppy pulls on the leash when you are taking them for a walk, turn the opposite direction and give her a sharp pop, keep turning around until your dog ***decides*** to walk right by your side with a ***loose*** lead.
6. Do not talk to your puppy in a high pitched or excited voice, talk to them gently and give them a gentle scratch behind her ears when they do something that pleases you.
7. Have your puppy on a leash around new people and have new people ignore the pup for the first 5-10 minutes, or until the pup is completely calm. If the puppy stands up and is obnoxious when being petted, pop the leash until they sit back down. Try not to let people pet them until your puppy is either sitting or standing calmly.
8. Anytime your puppy is acting hyper, push them away from you and do not give them any attention. If dogs are given attention when they are acting hyper, it encourages this behavior and sends a clear message that you are happy about them being hyper.
9. Never act excited to see them when you come home, be calm when greeting your dog and they will learn to do the same.

By raising a calm dog, your whole family can continue to enjoy being around them for the rest of your dog’s life. We highly recommend these things and hope that you will reap the benefits.