

# RYKER BABY PREP STEPS

## KEY POINTS

- Set clear rules and boundaries for your dog.
- Supervise interactions with your dog and baby **AT ALL TIMES.**

## BABY PREP

Months before your new addition comes home, make sure you prep your dogs with clear rules and boundaries. Make sure all family members are aware of the rules and consistently enforce them. Consistency is key in order for your dog to understand what is expected of them and their boundaries.

- Do not allow your dog to jump on people. Make sure your dog is calm and polite when greeting people.
- Make sure to refresh basic commands:
  - 🐾 Waiting at thresholds
  - 🐾 Place
  - 🐾 Leave It
  - 🐾 No Jumping
- Introduce your dog to baby items and any sounds they may make (i.e. crib, stroller, toys, etc.)
- Start crating your dog. The crate will come in handy when you cannot supervise your dog around the baby. It also provides a safe place for your dog to relax and decompress.
- Establish new sleeping arrangements by having your dog sleep in their crate, a dog bed, or on the the floor.



- Establish new boundaries around the house. Your dog should not be allowed in the baby's room or play area **AT ALL**.
- Get your dogs used to new sounds such as baby crying, laughing, and cooing by playing baby sounds on Youtube.
- You can use a child's baby doll to simulate your infant in order to get your dog used to seeing you holding something new and understanding that they are not allowed to jump up or investigate.

## WHEN THE BABY COMES HOME

Having the baby home is an exciting time but can also be overwhelming. During this time period it is expected for your dog to behave differently as they are also transitioning to your new addition to the family and a change in their normal routine. It will take a few months for everyone to settle in.

- If possible, bring a piece of clothing (clothes, blanket, hat) with the baby's scent on it and have your dog sniff it. Do not freak out if your dog chews or tears up the item, they will not do that to the baby, they can get really overstimulated by new smells.
- Allow a 4ft or more space between your dog and the baby (or what your are most comfortable with). Your dog is not allowed to lick, paw, or get in the baby's face. Your dog can sniff from a distance but they are not allowed to get in your baby's personal space, **PERIOD**.
- Your dog needs to be calm and under control at all times around the baby. If your dog is too excited, crate them until they calm down.
- All of the baby's toys are off limits to your dog.

