

TRAINING AND SOCIALIZING YOUR PUPPY

The prime socialization period in puppies is between 8-12 weeks of age. Exposure to a variety of things in a positive manner will result in a more well-balanced dog, preventing inappropriate behaviors, anxiety, and fear. Teaching your puppy to act appropriately in all situations will ensure safe and enjoyable times for you and your puppy.

- Until your puppy is fully vaccinated, play with your friend's, neighbor's, family's, or coworker's dog to help socialize. Avoid high density dog areas.
- Introduce your puppy to new people, places, objects, and situations only when you can control the experience.
- Use treats, praise, touch, even play, to reward and reinforce positive behaviors, happy encounters, and new situations.
- Under direct supervision, socialize your puppy with children.
- Puppy kindergarten is highly recommended for socialization.



It is very important to get your puppy used to being handled. Gently play/massage your dog's ears, mouth, muzzle, and paws. This will help acclimate your puppy to nail trimming, teeth brushing, vet visits, and grooming.



- Start training young. 8 weeks old is a great time to start!
- Choose a time for training that suits both you and your puppy and keep sessions short.
- Give rewards and praise as much as possible when your puppy does what you want and after eliminating outside.
- Putting your puppy in a crate whenever you can't watch him/her may help with housetraining.
- Teach your puppy signals to inform you he/she needs to eliminate. (ringing a bell, barking, etc.)

FEEDING YOUR PUPPY

As your puppy adjusts to the new environment, a change in food may be desired. It is best to gradually change food over about seven days whenever a diet change is made. We highly recommend having scheduled feedings with appropriately measured out food instead of free feeding. Puppies should be fed a diet labeled for puppies until they have stopped growing. Large breed puppies should be fed a diet labeled for large breed dogs. Clean, fresh water should always be available.

Meals should be spaced out evenly throughout the day. As a general rule, you should try to stick to the feeding regimen as follows:

- Feed 3-4 meals daily until your puppy is 12 weeks
- Feed 2-3 meals daily until your puppy is 6 months
- Feed 1-2 meals daily once your puppy is 6 months



Proper feeding and exercise will keep your puppy healthy. We try to avoid putting the emphasis on pounds, as numbers can be misleading. We encourage you to get your hands on your puppy to really judge their actual size without being distracted by the length of their coat!

*Reference your list of harmful/toxic foods if you are ever unsure of something that your pet has ingested.