

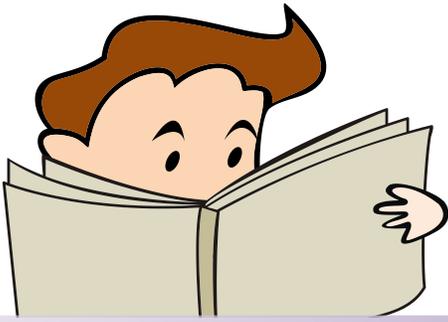


We all want our puppies to have the very best start in life. It makes the human-canine bond stronger. It improves your 'home life' with your dogs. And, it creates more reliable obedience.

Preventing problems before they start is the only way to guarantee that you won't have behavior problems.

This is the purpose of our puppy primer series. We want to help your puppy get started on the 'right foot' so you can enjoy your puppy instead of always working to prevent problems, or adjusting your life to accommodate the puppy's needs.

Puppy Primer Series



Your Puppy's First 10 Days [www.sportdogtrainigncenter.com]



Puppy's New Life

Your Getting a Puppy!

The next 10 days are the most important in your puppy's life. Your puppy will learn the boundaries, and rules of your new home. It will practice being a good puppy, or running wild and getting its own way. Everything it learns in the next few weeks will stay with the puppy for the rest of its life.

We know you want to play with your puppy and have fun. And we encourage you to interact with your puppy as much as possible, but with a little care and some basic 'puppy rearing' rules' we hope your puppy will avoid some of the behavior problems that can take months to fix.

Be ready before your puppy comes home. Have a safe place for the puppy to play. Have sleeping quarters where puppy can 'get away' for an emotional 'time out' and to rest.

Have a KONG® or other toy you can stuff with kibble to keep the puppy busy when it is alone.

Make sure that you are set up for a 'puppy potty' routine. Find a routine on the internet that you can commit to, and will work for your puppy. We

SOCIALIZING

Your puppy is in its most critical socialization period. Socialization is the process of stimulating a puppy's mind. It doesn't mean letting the puppy play with family children, or visit a friend's dog. Play dates are not socialization.

Socialization means stimulating your puppy's mind and letting it explore 'the world'. If you have never studied socialization, then find a training center with socialization classes. You can actually build your puppy's brain so it is smarter, and calmer, but you only have until 13 weeks.

Part of socialization is teaching the puppy that it is safe. This means that it shouldn't be dragged to new places and forced to meet people. If a puppy is not having fun then it is not socialization.

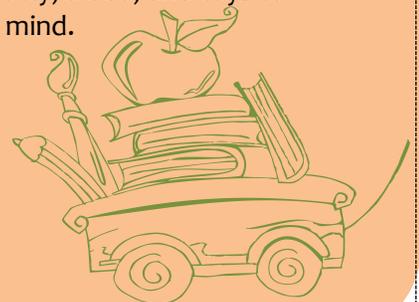
Do not worry about training. Instead, let your puppy learn that it is safe, and that you are fun. The more fun you are, the easier it is to train your puppy. Instead of worrying about 'tasks' like sit and heel, teach your puppy to be calm, to look at you, and to follow you.

SELF CONTROL

Puppies are born knowing how to hunt, chase, and fight. These are not 'bad' in a puppy's world. They are fun. All puppies need to be taught to be calm.

Reward your puppy when it is calm. Praise it. If you spend more time praising/rewarding good behavior then there will be less bad behavior.

When you are not working or playing with your puppy then put it in a small area where it cannot get in trouble. This area should have a stuffed chew toy, a place to potty, a bed, and toys to stimulate the puppy's mind.



TEACH PUPPIES TO LEARN

Puppies are not born smart. We need to stimulate their mind. Give them different things to sniff, different textures to walk on, puzzles to solve, and teach the puppy to follow you. If you do this 2 – 10x a day then you are setting the foundation for solid obedience.

MEETING PEOPLE

This is very trying for puppies. Do this wrong and you may have an aggressive/fearful puppy.

Meeting people needs to be fun, but not overwhelming. Let the puppy get to know people, and then let them hold the puppy and give it treats. When the puppy has had enough return it to its quiet place to think things over.

If meeting people is fun then the puppy will not learn to fear people.

MEETING DOGS

This can be very overwhelming for a puppy and the owner. Do not hover and be stressed or both the puppy and the older dog will be stressed.

Use lots of treats and toys. If either dog doesn't want to meet – then end the session immediately.

STOP BITING

Most biting can be stopped by giving the puppy less freedom. 'Stop the Game.' So if a puppy becomes excited then give it a time out.

Do not hit a puppy for biting. You are teaching it that aggression is okay. Do not treat your puppy in any way you do not want to be treated by the puppy when it is older.

Sometimes we end up with a Piranha Puppy! The best thing to do is to put a comfortable collar on the puppy and a 4' leash. When the puppy goes crazy then stand on the leash so it cannot get you. When it stops then 'start the game'. If you need more help then please contact us, or [read our blog](#)

POTTY TRAINING

This can be frustrating. It can take months. We have a great article online to help you:

<http://www.sportdogtrainingcenter.com/potty-training-puppies/>



Mental Stimulation Play Area

The more mental stimulation your puppy gets in the first few weeks, the smarter it will be. If you do not want to take your puppy to classes then set up a stimulation area in your home. Remember, your puppy doesn't want to play, it wants to play with you. If you ignore your puppy's needs now then it will ignore your commands later. Your puppy is learning from your behavior.

TRAINING - BEHAVIOR

In the first 3 months we want to teach puppies 'behaviors'. Look for a training class that teaches puppies to be confident, explore, and get to know people and dogs.

[The START SMART PUP Program](#)

PUPPIES ARE NOT PEOPLE

We love our puppies. We often let them bully us and act crazy because we feel they are having fun, and love us. Puppies do love people but they cannot understand like a human. Treating a puppy like a child can cause permanent behavior problems. If you want the best for your puppy then learn everything you can about dogs care.

You can find more Helpful articles on Our blog:

[Puppy Training](#)

