

# PERIODS OF PUPPY DEVELOPMENT

## **Neonatal Period**

*(birth - 2 weeks)*

Puppies are blind and deaf, unable to regulate body temperature, or control elimination.

## **Transitional Period**

*(week 3)*

Eyes open around day 13, ears toward end of third week. Puppies start walking and interacting. Milk teeth start to emerge.

## **Litter Socialization Period**

*(weeks 4 - 6)*

Puppies become increasingly aware of their environment and each other. The brain develops rapidly as senses and muscles mature. Individual personalities begin to emerge. Pleasant interaction with people is essential. Weaning should be started.

## **Human Socialization Period**

*(weeks 7 - 12)*

The nervous system is complete at 49 days, and experience becomes important in shaping the puppy's personality. Weaning should be completed. At 7 weeks the puppy can readily form new attachments, but this decreases with age. Puppies should be given individual attention separate from littermates on a daily basis. Gentle play training can be started.

## **Fear Imprint Period**

A few days around week 8 when painful or frightening experiences are likely to have a lasting effect on the puppy. Continue exposure to a variety of positive experiences.

## **Juvenile Period**

*(week 12 to puberty)*

All senses are fully developed. Puppies begin testing to determine pack leadership. Any biting behavior should be discouraged. Littermates should be separated, but not totally isolated. Adult teeth appear around 16 weeks. Another fear period occurs between 4 and 7 months. Molars erupt around 7 months.

## **Puberty**

*(6 months - year)*

Males start leg-lifting and are interested in bitches in season; females come into season. Although adolescent dogs are capable of mating, their bodies are still not mature and can be damaged by the vigor of mating. All dogs not intended as breeding stock should be neutered.

**Ask your vet for an appropriate immunization and worming schedule.**

# The Puppy's Rule of Twelve

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Adapted with permission from Pat Schaap's Rule of 7's

Make sure all experiences are safe and positive for the puppy. Each encounter should include treats and lots of praise. Slow down and add distance if your puppy is scared!

**By the time a puppy is 12 weeks old, it should have:**

(If your puppy is over 12 weeks start right away with this socialization guide.)

**Experienced 12 different surfaces:** wood, woodchips, carpet, tile, cement, linoleum, grass, wet grass, dirt, mud, puddles, deep pea gravel, grates, uneven surfaces, on a table, on a chair, etc.....

**Played with 12 different objects:** fuzzy toys, big & small balls, hard toys, funny sounding toys, wooden items, paper or cardboard items, milk jugs, metal items, car keys, etc.....

**Experienced 12 different locations:** front yard (daily), other people's homes, school yard, lake, pond, river, boat, basement, elevator, car, moving car, garage, laundry room, kennel, veterinarian hospital (just to say hi & visit, lots of cookies, no vaccinations), grooming salon (just to say hi), etc....

**Met and played with 12 new people (outside of family):** include children, adults (mostly men), elderly adults, people in wheelchairs, walkers, people with canes, crutches, hats, sunglasses, etc....

**Exposed to 12 different noises (ALWAYS keep positive and watch puppy's comfort level - we don't want the puppy scared):** garage door opening, doorbell, children playing, babies screaming, big trucks, Harley motorcycles, skateboards, washing machine, shopping carts rolling, power boat, clapping, loud singing, pan dropping, horses neighing, vacuums, lawnmowers, birthday party, etc...

**Exposed to 12 fast moving objects (don't allow to chase):** skateboards, roller-skates, bicycles, motorcycles, cars, people running, cats running, scooters, vacuums, children running, children playing soccer, squirrels, cats, horses running, cows running, etc...

**Experienced 12 different challenges:** climb on, in, off and around a box, go through a cardboard tunnel, climb up and down steps, climb over obstacles, play hide & seek, go in and out a doorway with a step up or down, exposed to an electric sliding door, umbrella, balloons, walk on a wobbly table (plank of wood with a small rock underneath), jump over a broom, climb over a log, bathtub (and bath) etc....

**Handled by owner (& family) 12 times a week:** hold under arm (like a football), hold to chest, hold on floor near owner, hold in-between owner's legs, hold head, look in ears, mouth, in-between toes, hold and take temperature (ask veterinarian), hold like a baby, trim toe nails, hold in lap, etc....

**Eaten from 12 different shaped containers:** wobbly bowl, metal, cardboard box, paper, coffee cup, china, pie plate, plastic, frying pan, Kong, Treatball, Bustercube, spoon fed, paper bag, etc.....

**Eaten in 12 different locations:** back yard, front yard, crate, kitchen, basement, laundry room, bathroom, friend's house, car, school yard, bathtub, up high (on work bench), under umbrella, etc....

**Played with 12 different puppies (or safe adult dogs) as much as possible.**

**Left alone safely, away from family & other animals (5-45 minutes) 12 times a week.**

**Experienced a leash and collar 12 different times in 12 different locations.**



## **Health Risks for Pets Over Ideal Body Weight**

- 1. Increased risk and severity of diabetes mellitus**
- 2. Higher incidence of congestive heart failure**
  - Additional body weight the incidence is twice as high**
  - Great amount of additional body weight the incidence is 348% higher**
- 3. 57% increased risk of joint problems**
- 4. Exacerbation of hypertension**
- 5. 64% greater incidence of reproductive problems**
- 6. 40% more skin problems**
- 7. 50% more neoplasia**
- 8. Decreased heat tolerance**
- 9. Lower resistance to infection**

## Ten Commandments for a Responsible Pet owner!!

1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me- It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as a punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, I ONLY HAVE YOU.
5. Talk to me. even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it is speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, remember that I have teeth that could crush the bones in your hand, but I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I am not getting the right kind of food, I've been out in the sun too long or maybe my heart is getting old and weak.
9. Take care of me when I get old, you too will grow old.
10. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say, "I can't bear to watch it" or, "let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for ME if you are there. Remember, I LOVE YOU!!