

**A BREEDER'S GUIDE**



**PUPPY  
DEVELOPMENT  
& BEHAVIOR**

**CONTINENTAL  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>INC</sup>**

***Puppy Development and Behavior: A Breeder's Guide***

Project Team  
Editor: Crystal Demars  
Copy Editor: Timothy Dunn  
Design: Krist Norsworthy

Continental Kennel Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1628  
Walker, LA 70785

[www.ckcusa.com](http://www.ckcusa.com)

© 2017 Continental Kennel Club, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Although every effort was made to ensure that the information contained within this book was accurate and up-to-date at press time, the author and publisher disclaim any responsibility for omissions or errors. The author and publisher assume no liability for any negative consequences or damages that occur as a result of the use or misuse of this book and the information herein. The advice in this book is not meant to take the place of a veterinarian. Consult a professional when appropriate.

Printed in the U.S.A.

**A BREEDER'S GUIDE**



# **PUPPY DEVELOPMENT & BEHAVIOR**

**CONTINENTAL  
KENNEL CLUB INC**

# **WHAT'S INSIDE**

**Surrender and Dog Bite Statistics**

**Factors Affecting Behavior and Temperament**

**Tips For Creating Resilient Puppies**

**Checklists For Breeders and Puppy Owners**



Let's face it: dog breeding isn't for wimps. A successful breeder must possess a strong amount of determination, resilience, and knowledge to not only ensure that the litter a dam brings into the world is happy and healthy, but also to ensure that families get the best puppies possible. Since the beginning, the primary goal of the Continental Kennel Club has been to bring dogs and people together, which is why we are excited to provide this free book for breeders who want to bring well-adjusted, wonderful pups to loving homes.

It is our hope that the information in this book will teach breeders how proper care can greatly change the lives of a dam and her litter for the better. Inside, you will find strategies to make the pregnancy as smooth and easy as possible for the dam, and you will also learn why puppy handling and training is so important and how to do it the right way.

So, if you're a veteran breeder who wants to improve or a new breeder thirsty for knowledge, CKC values your commitment to strengthening the God-given bond between dogs and people, and it is our hope that this book will serve yourself, your dogs, and your customers well and for years to come.

# CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SCENARIOS...

## 1. A DOG IS SURRENDERED DUE TO MULTIPLE BEHAVIORAL ISSUES:

- Digging
- House soiling
- Destructive chewing
- Barking
- Escaping
- Leash pulling
- Jumping up on people

## 2. A DOG IS EUTHANIZED (PUT DOWN) FOR BITING AND HOSPITALIZING A CHILD.

---

**IS THERE ANYTHING THAT A BREEDER COULD HAVE DONE TO PREVENT THESE TWO SCENARIOS?**

---



# WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

1. Breeders cannot guard against every scenario.
2. Dog trainers cannot train out every bad habit.
3. Owners cannot prevent every bad situation.
4. Children cannot be expected to understand how to behave appropriately around dogs.
5. We can work together to produce dogs that are conditioned to handle all situations with all people, and that think rather than react to novel situations.
6. It takes education and understanding on all of our parts.
7. Breeders can perform a few easy handling and training exercises that will profoundly affect the puppy for the rest of the puppy's life.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF SURRENDERED DOGS

## A STUDY COLLECTED DATA ON RELINQUISHED PETS. ACCORDING TO THE STUDY:

- 33% of surrendered dogs had not been to a veterinarian. Many were heartworm positive.
- Dogs acquired from “friends and family” were relinquished in higher numbers than from any other source (31.4%).
- Most dogs (96%) had not received any obedience training.
- 53% of surrendered dogs were less than a year old.
- Most dogs (47.7%) were between five months and three years of age. Social maturity doesn't occur until two to four years of age!
- Nearly half (42.8%) of surrendered dogs were not neutered.

**Statistics retrieved from:** <http://www.companionanimalpsychology.com/2013/05/why-do-people-surrender-dogs-to-animal.html#sthash.qcyCF7Fl.dpuf>



## A STUDY SURVEYED 56 OWNERS WHO SURRENDERED THEIR DOGS.

- Other owners cited “moving,” “unable to care for the dog,” “etc.” But remember: most dogs (96%) had not received any obedience training!
- 30% of surveyed owners surrendered their dogs due to “behavior problems.”



**Retrieved from:** <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/byedog.htm>

# BEHAVIORAL “PROBLEMS” OR JUST BEHAVIOR?

## **The most common behavior problems:**

- Hyperactivity
- Housetraining problems
- Biting/aggressive play
- Destructive chewing while the owner was away
- Fearfulness
- Barking

**MOST “problem behaviors” are normal behaviors, especially for puppies, adolescents, and young adult dogs.**

They occur in all NORMAL puppies for a very specific reason at a very specific time.

## **When suitable replacement behaviors aren’t taught, problem behaviors WILL increase in**

- Frequency
- Intensity
- Duration

## **The problem is not the dogs.**

- It’s the owner’s expectations
- And a lack of preventative training or damage control training



# TEMPERAMENT ISSUES

**There are SOME behavioral issues that ARE NOT FIXABLE.**

- Unsound temperaments are not fixable.
- Aggression, fearfulness, phobias, shyness, and timidity can all lead to dog bites and attacks if the dog feels pressured or threatened.
- Temperament is ingrained into the dog by the time he or she is an adult.

**MOST temperamental issues can be curbed during puppyhood with a solid foundation of socialization and early handling.**

**SOME are treatable.**

- Treatment lasts the entire duration of the dog's life and may include:
- Medication
- Behavioral therapy for managing triggers, lifelong desensitizing programs, and habituation exercises
- Strict containment and supervision of the dog Even then, the dog will never be cured.
- Aggression is similar to alcoholism. Alcoholics can recover, but are never cured. Most owners are unwilling or unable to make that kind of commitment.

**NONE of the temperamental issues are curable.  
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.**

# WHEN DOGS DO BITE?



**Dog bites account for the fifth most common cause of ER visits for children.**

- Most children were males under the age of 14.
- Injury rates were highest among children aged between 5-9 years.
- Injury sites were as follows:
  - Head/neck: 64.9% (especially in children under four years of age!)
    - Decreased with age to 22.8 percent.
  - Arm/hand: 45.3%
  - Leg/foot: 25.8%

**80% of dog bites to children under 18 are inflicted by a family dog (30%) or a neighbor's dog (50%).**

- Between 1997 and 1998, a total of 75% of fatal dog bites were inflicted on family members or guests on the family's property.

**Over 50% of the bites occur on the owner's property.**

**77% of the dogs belong to the victim's family or a friend.**

**Medical record comments noting circumstances in which children suffered dog bites:**

- A four-year-old boy was bitten on the lip by a dog that was guarding her pups.
- A three-year-old girl was bitten on the face when trying to take food away from the family dog.
- A 34-year-old male sustained an avulsion laceration to his left thumb while trying to break up a fight between his dogs.
- A 27-year-old female sustained multiple puncture wounds to her forearm, thumb, and chest while trying to help her dog, which had been hit by a car.

# YOUR INFLUENCE AS A BREEDER

---

**Breeders have puppies during  
the most critical periods of  
development**

**Pups are 3/4 finished with the  
most impressionable and critical  
periods of life by the time they go to  
their new homes**

**Puppies are most impressionable  
during these stages**

**The handling and socialization that  
you give pups will have a lasting,  
lifelong impact**



**Why is it beneficial for you, the breeder, to perform these exercises?**

**Can you count on every new puppy owner to do these themselves?**

# BREEDER'S CHECKLIST FOR RESILIENT PUPPIES

## PRE-BREEDING

- Dams are especially important!
- A stable is only as good as its mares, and a kennel is only as good as its dams.
- Dams have more impact on puppies than sires.
- Dogs learn how to mother from their mothers.
- Genes are hypothetically 50/50, but most early learning comes from the dams.
- Wacky dams = wacky puppies, likewise fearful, skittish, aggressive, or shy dams = fearful, skittish, aggressive, or shy puppies
- Dams also influence puppies in the womb via hormones.

**SELECT FOR:**

**Temperament**

**Health (physical and genetic)**

**Conformation**

# PRENATAL



## What's Happening

Brain development is partly based on the fetus and dam's environment.

- Male puppies secrete testosterone, affecting female puppies.
- Dam's stress hormones pass through the placenta, guiding the brain's development.
- Pups born to low-stress dams are wired to handle moderate amounts of healthy stress.
- Pups born to highly stressed dams are wired to be born into a high-stress, survival situation.
- Puppies born to stressed or sick dams:
  - Exhibit more white spotting
  - Have reduced learning ability
  - Are more emotionally reactive and show emotional extremes, which can include aggression, fear, or phobias.
  - Have lower breeding success

## What You Can Do!

Brain development is partly based on the fetus and dam's environment.

- Feed dams a healthy diet. Remember, the brain is made of fat!
- Pamper your dams to keep them happy and calm.
- Provide a low-stress, (not no-stress) environment during the pregnancy.
- Provide regular exercise, social interaction and an enrichment and training, things that the dam enjoys.
- Petting and massages stimulate the production of calming hormones, such as serotonin and oxytocin.
  - This wires the pup's brain with bonding and calming hormones.



# A WORD ON STRESS

- Stress is a double-edged sword.
- There's good stress (eustress) and bad stress (distress).
- Both types are encountered all throughout the day.
- Too much (di)stress = BAD
  - Dogs operate out of limbic system
  - Taxes the dog physically, emotionally, and physiologically
  - Becomes reactive or shuts down, becomes brittle
- Too little distress and eustress = BAD
  - “Sheltered” dogs are unable to handle everyday life
  - Becomes reactive or shuts down, becomes brittle
- We all have to learn to cope and rebound from stressors.

The exercises covered introduce dogs to **JUST ENOUGH** manageable stress that puppies and dams learn to rebound and cope, becoming more resilient.



# NEONATAL PHASE (DAYS 1-15)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Eyes and ear canals are closed (wild pups are born into dark den.)
- Brain is poorly connected and poorly myelinated at birth, but these develop rapidly.
- Brain is developed enough to control heartbeat, breathing, balance, and equilibrium.
- Senses of smell, taste, balance, and touch are present.
- Some primitive, associated learning can occur (scent of mother).

Very little difference between sleep and waking cycles (brainwaves).

Vocalizes (yelps) only in response to cold or hunger

Mom and pups bond through mom licking and nursing pups and through pups suckling and pup grunting.

Mom is the most important figure in the pups' world.

Pups are completely dependent on mom for nourishment and warmth, as well as being stimulated to urinate and defecate.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Although it may not appear as though much is going on at this stage, pups' brains are rapidly developing and just gearing up for the next stages.

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Provide a safe, comfortable, and clean nesting or den site.
- Provide auditory and visual stimulation:
  - allow TV to play in a distant room
  - allow dam and pups access to daily sounds (don't hem them up away from life!)
- Begin introducing scents and stimulating the functioning olfactory
  - Use scented cotton-balls to create a trail from pup's nose to mother
  - Use the scent(s) you want to train the dog for later in life
  - This is great for trailing, hunting, detection dogs, etc.
- Start the daily neonatal handling routine and early neurologic stimulation routine



# EARLY NEURO . . . WHAT?

Introducing neonatal pups to minute, easily manageable amounts of stress can prime the puppy's brain to better cope with and rebound from adulthood stresses.

Because the stress is so minimal, but more than they would naturally encounter, the pups can easily rebound from it, causing the brain and nervous system to undergo an adaptive change in the dog's pituitary-adrenocortical system, thus preparing pups to cope with stress later in life.

- According to research published by James Serpell BSc, PhD.; Dr. J. A. Jagoe ; Steven R. Lindsay; Bruce Fogle, DVM, MRCVS; Dr. Michael Fox; and Karen Overall, M.A., V.M.D., Ph.D.

Small amounts of daily handling, coupled with mild neurologic stimulating exercises from birth to five weeks, will have marked, long-term effects and benefits, including:

- Accelerated maturation of the nervous system
- More rapid hair growth and weight gain
- Enhanced development of motor and problem-solving skills
- Earlier opening of eyes
- More confident, exploratory, and socially dominant (not aggressive)
- This was in comparison to non-stimulated control group pups

Dr. Michael W. Fox reported that the implementation of early handling routines by dog breeders and the US Army Veterinary Corps achieved extraordinary results in subject dogs

- Stress-resistance
- Emotional stability
- Learning capacity

The exercises "teach" the brain how to accept, tolerate, rebound from, and recover from stress.

# NEONATE HANDLING ROUTINE

## REMEMBER

**Less is more!**

**The stress must be EASILY RECOVERED from!**

**Once a day from birth (or the third day if dewclaws and tails were removed) until 15 days of age.**

**No more than three to five seconds per exercise.**

Apply ONLY minimal amounts, not maximum.

Too much stress during neonate phase can have a harmful effect.

You're setting puppies up to succeed.

You want to apply such a tiny amount of stress that it's easy for puppies to recover





### **1. Thermal Stimulation**

Place pup on a damp, room-temperature or cool wash cloth for (three to five seconds).

---

---



### **2. Head Up Stimulation**

Hold puppies with their head facing up, tails to the ground (three to five seconds).

---

---

### **3. Head Down**

Hold puppies with their tails up and heads down (three to five seconds).

---

---



### **4. Supine**

Hold puppies tummy up, cradled in arms (three to five seconds).

---

---



## 5. Prone

Tummy down (three to five seconds)

---

---

## 6. Balance Stimulation

Cardboard sheet over marble place pups on cardboard sheet gently and slowly press each corner of the cardboard to the ground, one-at-a-time (three to five seconds)

---

---

## 7. Tactile Stimulation

**AKA Kid-Proof, Vet-Proof, Groomer Proof handling:**

Gently, briefly handle the puppy how a veterinarian, child, or groomer would.



- Slowly and gently stroke puppies head-to-tail**
- Stroke muzzle on both sides to desensitize nip reaction when older**
- Quick and gentle exam of opened mouth and teeth**
- Gentle exam and light tugging massage of ears and tails**
- Gentle touch of toes, nails, pads of each foot (three to five seconds)**
- Gentle brushing of coat with soft-bristle brush**
- Gentle, long strokes from head to tail**
- Place back with mom**



# **TRANSITIONAL PERIOD**

**(WEEKS 2-3)**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Starts with the opening of eyes and ends with the opening of ears (auditory startle reflex).
  - Wild pups emerge from the den.
- Rapid transformation of senses and a marked increase in brain activity.
- Now react to light, movement, and toward the end of the stage, sound.
- Pain response equivalent to adult.
- Most of the brain is well-myelinated and ready for complex learning.
- Learning steadily improves, but will not reach adult capacity until four to five weeks of age.
- Mom no longer stimulates for nursing, urinating, or defecating
  - Begin to notice siblings and US!
  - Littermates and ourselves become equally important at this stage.
- Mother will begin leaving the pups more often
- Teeth begin to erupt
  
- Begin showing an interest in solid food... Mother may start to regurgitate food
- Pups show affection and beg for food from mother by pawing and biting at her mouth upon arrival
  - Something that carries over to adulthood in dogs with people.
- Begin to stand and walk (clumsily)
- Ability to crawl backwards as well as forwards
- Temperature regulation is improved, so they can move away from mother, littermates, and nest.
- They will begin to defecate and urinate outside the nest site.
- Begin play-fighting with littermates and social signaling, such as growling and tail-wagging.
- Puppies will now yelp when separated from mother or littermates, outside of the nest, or when in an unfamiliar environment (even if warm and well-fed).
- Puppies will show interest in visual stimulus (rolling a ball), or sound (startle reflex appears toward the end).

- Pups will begin showing an interest in solid food... Mother may start to regurgitate food
- Pups show affection and beg for food from mother by pawing and biting at her mouth upon arrival
  - Something that carries over to adulthood in dogs with people.
- Begin to stand and walk (clumsily)
- They now have the ability to crawl backwards as well as forwards
- Temperature regulation is improved, so they can move away from mother, littermates, and nest.
- They will begin to defecate and urinate outside the nest site.

Begin play-fighting with littermates and social signaling, such as growling and tail-wagging.

Puppies will now yelp when separated from mother or littermates, outside of the nest, or when in an unfamiliar environment (even if warm and well-fed).

Puppies will show interest in visual stimulus (rolling a ball) or sound (startle reflex appears toward the end).



# PUPPY TEETH AND BITING

PUPPY TEETH SERVE ONLY ONE FUNCTION AT THIS STAGE, AND IT'S NOT EATING!

Dogs and puppies explore and manipulate things in their world with mouths instead of hands.

A dog's bite is powerful and dangerous, capable of crushing bone and killing prey.

Dogs, and wild canids, naturally use aggression to resolve conflicts.

To live harmoniously in packs, dogs must know how to control their bites, even during conflicts.

**Mom is still the primary source of nourishment.**

- The function of the sharp, needle-like teeth is to cause pain.

**Aggressive nursing becomes increasingly uncomfortable for mom, and rough-play biting painful for the littermates.**

**Aggressive pups are corrected by mom and littermates.**

- She will walk away or discipline him.
- Littermates will cease play.

**THIS IS IMPORTANT! A valuable biting lesson is learned about how hard is too hard.**

This is called bite-inhibition learning, and nobody teaches it better than mom and siblings.

It takes a few weeks of repetition for the learning to solidify.

**This is the one of the most important reasons for leaving pups with the mother and littermates until eight weeks of age.**

Singleton pups need extra handling and socialization!

# TO BITE, OR NOT TO BITE

Many people try to stop puppies from biting altogether. **BAD IDEA!**

All dogs have (or should have) 42 teeth and can, and will, use them in the right situation, such as:

- Surprise/startling
- Fear
- Anger/frustration
- Stress
- Injury

When provoked to the point of biting, a dog will bite with the pressure that he learned as a puppy.

- Dogs that were taught to use soft-mouths will use minimal force to get their point across.
- Yes, they may bite, but they will cause little damage.

Dogs that were prevented from biting as puppies are going to pick up right where they left off.

- This is often a full-contact, hard, and dangerous bite.

Instead of coming from a puppy and being painful or annoying, the bite will be coming from an adult, and it will be damaging (and potentially fatal).

Instead, breeders and new owners need to continue the bite training that mom started.

- Leave pups with mom and littermates to eight weeks of age.
- Play with the puppy, allow him to use his mouth, but when he mouths too hard, yelp and end the game for a few seconds.
- Give him time to calm down, then resume.

Puppies quickly adjust their bite

- Often to the point that they are just mouthing you because they WANT to continue interacting with you.

They will remember this lesson for the rest of their lives.

- Overly mouthy puppies should be desensitized by frequent and continual muzzle rubbing. It desensitizes the nip reaction.

This training should continue for the rest of the dog's life.

# PUPPY TEETH SERVE ONLY ONE FUNCTION AT THIS STAGE, AND IT'S NOT EATING!

- **THIS IS IMPORTANT!** A valuable biting lesson is learned about how hard is too hard.
- This is called bite-inhibition learning, and nobody teaches it better than mom and siblings.
- It takes a few weeks of repetition for the learning to solidify.
- **Leave pups with mom AND siblings until eight weeks!**
- Singleton pups need extra handling and socialization!



## REMEMBER

When working with young puppies from this period on . . .

- **ALWAYS** introduce any novel situations with encouragement, reward, and praise.
- **ALWAYS** bait anything potentially scary with soft treats to encourage exploration of novel events and things (a crate, a vacuum cleaner, etc.)
- **NEVER** force puppies to do anything. ONLY encourage and reward them when they explore on their own.
- **ALWAYS** encourage puppies to explore and try new things.
- **NEVER** coddle scared or timid puppies! Coddling is rewarding to a puppy. You basically reward the puppy for being scared or timid.
- If a puppy is timid, scared, or hesitant, let the puppy see you investigate the item, or invite mom or another confident dog to do so.
  - Get pups used to new things easily by allowing them to see confident dogs doing the same tasks, including swimming, agility, tugging, bite work, approaching something scary, etc.

**Puppies are great students of social learning. Let them watch older, confident, and trained dogs doing a task or discipline, such as bite work, swimming, retrieving, tugging, treeing, etc.**

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

## 2-3 WEEKS (OPENING OF EYES TO OPENING OF EARS)

**Provide a stimulating environment with toys and novel stimulation.**

**Continue tactile and balance stimulation exercises.**

- Various flooring types, elevated ramps, small ladders, tunnels, balance boards/teeter (ball under a sturdy sheet of cardboard)

**Introduce olfactory stimulation.**

- Toys, tugs, cotton balls, tennis balls, and Kongs lightly scented with various scents, including those you are training for nose work (reward interest in these items).

**Introduce appropriate (choke-proof) chew items (no shoes) when supervised to help new puppy owners with chew-toy training.**

- Nylabones, rawhides, and Kong toys are excellent options. Bait/slather them with soft treats to draw and reward interest.

**Introduce puppies to food and crates together.**

- Place softened food and treats inside of crates so pups will begin to form a positive association with crates.

**Begin allowing pups to housetrain themselves.**

- Puppies do not want to urinate or defecate in their sleeping and eating areas, so feeding in a crate will help expedite crate training for new puppy owners.

**Be creative! Introduce puppies to anything they will be introduced to in their lifetime!**

- Goats, cats, decoys, whistles, bumpers, baby dolls, wheel chairs, shopping carts, etc.

**Begin startle-proofing conditioning.**

# STARTLE-RECOVERY

**July 5th is the busiest day for animal shelters. The second busiest day is January 2nd. Why? Because, July 4th precedes it.**

Mammals are born with 2 innate fears. Fear of falling and fear of loud sounds.

**Most all animals reflexively startle at loud sounds or strange, objects, or sudden visual cues or events.**

- But . . . not all dogs can recover.
- This is why many dogs become lost from their owners on the Fourth of July.

Startle-Recovery Conditioning trains dogs to recover from auditory or visual startle.

## **Auditory Startle**

- **Week 1-3:** Always begin conditioning to auditory startle with the sound at a distance, such as in a distant room (esp. for weeks one to three).
- **Week 3:** Slowly decrease the distance of the sound over a period of several days.
- **Week 4 and on:** Begin to slowly increase the volume of the sound.
- NEVER decrease distance and increase volume at the same time!

Use shaker cans (pennies or washers in bottles or aluminum cans) to toss in the room with puppies (not AT puppies).

## **Gunshots and firecrackers:**

- Varying sizes of wooden blocks make a sharp “POP” noises.- GREAT for desensitizing young pups to gunshots and firecrackers!
- Start with small blocks (one to three weeks) in a distant room, then move closer and up to larger blocks (reward pups for recovering from startling, NOT for not startling).
- BANG!!! ----BANG! BANG!
- Startle!!!----Orient! Orient!
- NOTE: Seasoned field dogs almost always look up to watch for bird falling!

## **Vacuum cleaners (start in other room and use treats!)**

Train or play in the rain! Desensitize to thunderstorms as much as possible. ALWAYS make it fun and end on a happy note! Do something that the dog or pup likes: fetch, sit, etc.

### **Visual Startle**

- Recovery from visual startle responses can be conditioned as well.
  - Umbrellas blow dogs' minds. So much so that umbrellas are included in the American Temperament Test Society's tests.
  - Start by leaving an opened umbrella on the ground in the puppy play area for the first several weeks.
  - Allow them to freely investigate.
  - SLOWLY close umbrella, allow pups to investigate.
  - SLOWLY open umbrella, allow and encourage pups to investigate.
  - Toss treats around the umbrella to encourage interaction.

### **Strange objects and silhouettes**

- Put a large novel object in the play area with a blanket over it. Encourage and reward pups for investigating it.
- Have a friend come dressed in a large hat (think sombrero!) and long coat or blanket. Have them walk and act strange, then stoop to allow pups to interact, rewarding pups for doing so.

### **Other visually startling things**

- Baby strollers
- Shopping carts
- Wheel chairs
- Bicycles or scooters
- Fire hydrants, ironically

### **For either auditory or visual startle responses . . .**

- Once puppies startle, redirect their attention to something fun if they are unable to recover after about 30 seconds.
- Producing a toy
- Chasing a ball
- Get them out of the startle mindset ASAP.
- Try again later at a further distance, moving closer as the pup becomes more comfortable.

**REMEMBER!** The idea is to teach recovery from startle, NOT prevent startle.

**July 5th is the busiest day for animal shelters.  
The second busiest day is January 2nd. Why?**

**Mammals are born with 2 innate fears. One of them is loud sounds.**

**Most animals reflexively startle at loud sounds, strange objects,  
or sudden visual cues, but not all animals recover.**

**Startle-recovery conditioning trains dogs to recover from  
auditory or visual startle.**





**PRIMARY  
SOCIALIZATION  
PERIOD**

**(WEEKS 3-7)**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## **The most important 7 to 8 weeks of life.**

- Wild dogs and wolves form bonds with mom, littermates, and pack mates.
- Domestic pups bond with us
- As well as other animals that they will need to tolerate in life.

## **Puppies learn critical species-specific behaviors, such as:**

- How to be a dog
- How to get along with and communicate with other dogs
- Or horses, cattle, goats, sheep, kittens, chickens, etc.

## **Puppies will willingly approach anything or anybody between three to five weeks of age (without fear).**

This is the optimal time for introduction of strangers and novel things and events.

## **After five weeks, a fear response will develop.**

"Just 20 minutes of positive socialization once a week is sufficient to ensure attachments and acceptance of other dogs and animals." –Scott & Fuller

## Mother begins weaning around 7-8 weeks.

- Bite inhibition training is in full swing.
- Mom's role now includes teacher and disciplinarian.
- Mom starts to teach pups boundaries and discipline by controlling nursing and correcting pups.
- Maternal correction peaks at seven weeks old, a critical period for discipline training from the mom and another reason why pups should be left with mom during the seventh week.
- Mothers will use various maternal behaviors to discipline or reward the pups and teach them;
  - Nursing or withholding of nursing
  - Inhibited bites (air snaps)
  - Growls
  - Mouth threats (snarls)
    - Nibbling
    - Licking
  - Pups learn to warn and correct from mom. This is essential for interacting with other dogs and people later in life.
    - Puppies form strong attachments to places (including their "nest site")



**This is another reason it's best to keep pups with mom till eight weeks of age.**



**Pups learn signal play, predation, dominance, friendliness, passivity, submission, tolerance, and cooperation.**

Learn pack/family behaviors that make them wonderful companions.

- Sleeping together
- Feeding/eating together (dogs are competitive eaters, but must eat together)
- Walking, running, sitting, or lying together
- Investigating together
- Barking and howling together
- Grooming each other
- Sniffing, nosing, pawing, or licking each other
- Responding and yielding to one another's social cues.

**It is so important to leave with mom and littermates through this period!**

Simple learning by association and cause-and-effect is possible during this stage (recalls, sit, grooming, and accepting the leash)

# THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY...

## THROUGH PLAY, THE PUPPY IS LEARNING IMPORTANT LESSONS FOR LIFE.

### Play is essential:

- Teaches communal behavior.
- Teaches cooperation.
- Creates and strengthens social bonds with the other dogs, animals, and people.
- Play is practice for life. It molds appropriate social behavior.
- Puppies learn what it is to be a dog through play.
- Through trial and error puppies learn to interact and communicate with other dogs.
- Promotes physical health, dexterity, coordination, and mental stimulation.
- Permits experimentation and exploration of behavior under safe conditions. Puppies try out biting, fighting, and predation in a safe manner.
- Hones skills and teaches precision, timing, interception, intervention, and maintains balance.
- Stimulates inventiveness and teaches problem solving.
- Allows dogs an outlet to exercises dominant, submissive, sexual, predatory, and aggressive behaviors that can become problematic if “bottled up.”
- It can be used to advance the social status of a dog, it tests dogs’ “mettle,” and it can be done in a ritualized manner.
- It is necessary for the development of normal sexual and social behavior.
- Play deflects natural aggression and can even deescalate tension.

**Dogs have 3 games that they play with other dogs: possession games, predator-prey games (chase), and wrestling games.**

# WHAT YOU CAN DO



## Continue tactile and balance stimulation from Neonatal and Transitional Period checklist

1. **Continue startle response conditioning**
2. **Continue bite-inhibition training**
3. **Ensure each pup receives 10-15 minutes of individual attention with people away from mother and siblings**

### **Socialize! Socialize! Socialize!**

- Introduce to other puppy-friendly animals (cats, horses, cows, etc.)
- Introduce to friendly people outside of the family
- Different races/colors
- Children, especially if the pup is going to a home WITHOUT children!
- Various people throughout the family
- People with exceptionalities
- Allow play dates with other puppy-friendly dogs in your home

### **Allow your “pack” to instill manners**

- There’s no better teacher of manners than a cantankerous older female dog

## **Don’t correct mom for doing her job**

Teach mouthing-desensitizing (continually stroking and petting the muzzle to condition out the nip/mouth reaction)

## Begin basic puppy training

### Teach sit and down with lure and reward

#### Have puppies sit as much as possible:

- For petting
- For treats and food
- For entering and exiting areas, gates, and doors

### Introduce recall commands and reward puppies for following you

## Reward for pottying in designated location (grass mat, newspaper, litter box)

### Introduce leash training

- Allow pups to drag leashes around (supervised)
- Hold leash and encourage pups to follow you (don't pull or correct)

### Ensure pups are introduced to kennels

## Ensure pups are introduced to appropriate chew toys

Introduce to different floorings, surfaces, etc. (grass, tile, steps, concrete, gratings, ladders on the ground, inclines, etc.)

### Create an enriching environment

- Puppy nursery
- Introduce to specific scents for scent work

### Introduce to rag/tug work

- Teach tug rules
- Ensure teeth do not come in contact with the skin, or the game ends
- Must "Out" when asked, or the game ends

# HOW DO WE MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS?

## **The American Temperament Test Society** ([www.atts.org](http://www.atts.org))

- Developed for the promotion of uniform temperament evaluation of purebred and spayed/neutered mixed-breed dogs.
- In some countries, failure of this test results in immediate destruction of the dog (Germany).

**The test takes about 12 minutes to complete.**

**The dog is on a loose, six-foot (6') lead and three ATTS trained evaluators score the dog.**

## **Measures different aspects of temperament, including**

- Stability
- Shyness
- Aggressiveness
- friendliness
- instinct for protectiveness towards its handler and/or self-preservation in the face of a threat

**SIMULATES A CASUAL WALK THROUGH THE PARK OR NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE EVERYDAY LIFE SITUATIONS ARE ENCOUNTERED.**





## Dog negotiates visual, auditory, and tactile stimuli.

### Neutral, friendly, and uncertain social situations are encountered.

- The dog must be able to distinguish between non-threatening and actual threatening situations.

### Each breed or breed mix is expected to respond differently.

- A whippet will not have the same response to a threat as a Malinois (hopefully!)

### Failure on any part of the test is recognized when a dog shows:

- Unprovoked aggression (before, during, or after the test!)
- Panic without recovery
- Strong avoidance

### The ATTS Temperament Test consists of ten subtests divided into five subcategories:

- Behavior toward strangers (passive and friendly)
- Reaction to auditory and visual stimuli
- Tactile stimuli
- Self Protective / Aggression Behavior

# TEMPERAMENT TEST RESULTS

BREED NAME	TESTED	PASSED	FAILED	PERCENT PASSED
American Pit Bull Terrier	913	798	115	87.4%
Basenji	176	121	55	68.8%
Chihuahua	46	32	14	69%
Belgian Malinois	410	384	26	93.7%
Bulldog	141	101	40	71.6%
Doberman Pinscher	1733	1371	359	79.1%
German Shepherd Dog	3318	2827	494	85.2%
Golden Retriever	804	687	117	85.4%
Jack Russell Terrier	68	58	10	85.3%
Labrador Retriever	826	761	66	92.1%
Rottweiler	5866	4954	915	84.5%
Shetland Sheepdog	511	351	160	68.7%
Shih Tzu	48	37	11	77.1%
Yorkshire Terrier	42	35	7	83.4%

Retrieved from: <http://atts.org/breed-statistics/statistics>



**SECONDARY  
SOCIALIZATION  
PERIOD**

**(WEEKS 7-14)**



- **Pups are completely weaned from mother**
- **Most rapid learning occurs**
- **Pups begin to make lasting negative associations**
- **Punishments can have adverse affects and are not recommended for young puppies**
- **Consequences have the most lasting impact and will dictate all future reactions.**
- **The window of optimal socialization is closing!**
- **Pups are learning through play.**
- **Taking special precautions with singleton pups is essential!**

# HOW MANY PEOPLE SHOULD A PUPPY MEET?

**How many people should you introduce puppies to prior to going to their new homes?**

**Dr. Ian Dunbar suggests that:**

- Puppies should be introduced to 100 people prior to going to new homes at eight weeks.
- New puppy owners should continue socialization by introducing puppies to at least 100 people within the puppies' first month at their new home.

This may not be attainable for all breeders and owners, but the idea is to introduce them to as many different people as possible.

## FOR YOUR PUPPIES

- Tactile and balance stimulation
- Startle response conditioning
- Bite inhibition training
- Mouthing desensitizing
- Socialization
  - Puppy training
  - Chew toy training
  - Sits, recalls, walk on loose leash
  - Kennel
  - House training
- Ensure each pup receives 10-15 minutes of individual attention with people away from mother and siblings.

# FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY OWNERS

## Ensure puppy owners understand . . .

- That puppy training starts IMMEDIATELY, not once problems show up.
- How to continue puppy training for:
  - Recall
  - Sit
  - Crate /House training
  - Loose leash walking
  - Chew toy training
- If they don't want a 70-pound dog to do something, they shouldn't let the tiny puppy do it.
- Socializing puppies with friendly people and animals must continue.
- Allow for puppy owners to go to you with their questions.
- Have resources prepared.
- [www.ckcusa.com](http://www.ckcusa.com) is a GREAT place for free resources.
- Organize play dates and fun events for your puppy owners .
- Start a club or group.
- Explain to them that if they continue what you have started, they will navigate the next two periods with ease.

**IMPORTANT!** Separate puppies at nine weeks of age. After nine weeks, a hierarchy will form and can adversely affect the puppy temperament, especially of the lower betas and omegas.

# JUVENILE PERIOD

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Occurs between socialization period and puberty.
- Pups are usually in their homes for approximately four weeks.
- Their long bones are starting to lengthen, and most height growth occurs during this period.
- They've lost their roly-poly baby-like appearance
- The puppy-honeymoon is over
- They are starting to identify and test boundaries, starting to wander
- Leg-lifting in males (learned!), estrus in females signal onset of puberty
- Puberty starts upon completion of long-bones
- Pups begin to test boundaries and independence



# PUPPY OWNER SURVIVAL TO-DO LIST

- Be patient and consistent!
- Continue basic puppy training
  - RECALLS!
  - Sit for everything
  - Bite inhibition
  - Loose-leash walking
  - Housetraining should be well underway
- Continue socialization!!!

**NOTE: If puppy owners have not been doing their preventative maintenance, they WILL feel the effects in the next stage . . .**





# ADOLESCENT PERIOD

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Starts with puberty and ends with SOCIAL maturity (approximately two to four years of age)
- Interesting fact: Testosterone levels in male puppies begin to rise at around four to five months of age.
- Testosterone levels peak at approximately 10 months of age, reaching five to seven times the level of an adult male dog!
- This scent of the elevated testosterone draws the most attention from adult males and females who want to ensure the pup knows his place in the pack!
- Pups will continue to test the rules.
- They may not listen as they once did:
  - Not coming when called
  - May refuse to fetch, come when called, or try to initiate “chase” games
- Will start “marking” in yards and homes
- WILL test most all the rules
- Teething is still in full swing as teeth settle into place.



# PUPPY OWNER SURVIVAL TO-DO LIST

- Consistency and predictability on the owner's part are essential.
- This is the age most owners give up.
- Socialize and train!
- Seek support and guidance!
- Visit [ckcusa.com](http://ckcusa.com)
- Learn more through local manners and obedience clubs.
- Talk to your pup's breeder!



## JUVENILE AND ADOLESCENT PERIOD

**Puppies and owners need the most support during these phases.**

**Puppies are most often moved out of the house, rehomed, dropped-off, or surrendered during this time.**

**The foundation that you have created, along with the puppy owner's understanding and dedication, will keep your puppy from becoming a statistic.**

# GREAT LIFE-LONG RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN YOUR PUPPIES AND THEIR NEW FAMILIES START WITH HOW WELL YOU PREPARE BOTH.

**Inform puppy owners of everything that you have done to prepare your puppy for his new life. Show them how to continue the training and handling you've started.**

Now the success of their relationship with their puppy falls on them.

They should understand:

- The new pup is not like their old dog
- WILL shed
- WILL chew
- WILL nip/bite
- WILL dig
- WILL soil the house
- WILL jump up on them
- WILL pull on leash
- All until THEY (the owners) intervene with proper training.

## **When should I start training my puppy? Should I begin when the behavior problems show up?**

No! Puppy training starts the minute the new puppy goes home. Start training immediately to ensure that there will be no problems!

# MOST ARE FIXABLE WITH TRAINING

“Problem” Behavior	Fix
<b>Hyperactivity</b>	Is usually resolved at social maturity, however, training the settle command, providing adequate exercise, and providing stimulation goes a long way toward tamping down hyperactivity.
<b>Housetraining</b>	Crate train, crate train, crate train!
<b>Biting/Rough Play</b>	Rough play in which the dog play bites and wrestles with people should be discouraged. The dog may accidentally hurt someone, and the behavior could be mistaken for aggression. Instead, teach other games, such as tug. Teach bite-inhibition to ensure soft-mouths. Train to sit for everything!
<b>Destructive chewing</b>	Deny access to chewable items when away, supervise when home, provide access to acceptable chew items.
<b>Barking</b>	Train silent command, put barking on cue, and utilize no-bark collars.



# **IF A DOG'S BUTT IS ON THE GROUND, HE CAN'T . . .**

**Jump up on visitors and innocent bystanders**

**Engage in rough play**

**Run off/chase cats, cars, squirrels, other dogs, etc.**

**Pull on the leash, drag you**

**Bolt through a door or gate**

**Knock the food dish out of your hand**

# REMEMBER!

**The puppies that you produce are going to have a far-reaching impact.**

- Pictures, stories, and accounts of them will be shared with friends and family.
- Their pictures will be posted and shared on social media.
- They will (hopefully) be taken out into public and used as a goodwill ambassador for your breeding program, for their breed, and for dogs in general.
- Every person your puppies encounter as an adult will leave a lasting impression and experience. You want it to be a good one.

**You want your puppies, dogs, and owners to be so well-prepared for life together that giving up the dog is not an option.**

If there are no other options, a well-adjusted dog is easy to rehome, as opposed to a DWI (dog with issues).

**We can't get every person to understand dogs, but we can help our dogs to better understand people from the beginning.**

We can't prepare every person to interact with our puppies and dogs, but we can prepare every one of our puppies to live successfully with people.

**All it costs you is a little bit of time.**

# IF IT'S ON HIS BRAIN IT'S ON THE BLOG



Check out the latest  
breeding tips, stories,  
videos, product reviews,  
and much more  
[ckcusa.com/blog](http://ckcusa.com/blog)





**FIND MORE  
GREAT RESOURCES**  
[www.ckcusa.com](http://www.ckcusa.com)



## **PUPPY DEVELOPMENT & BEHAVIOR**

**Let's face it: dog breeding isn't for wimps. A successful breeder must possess a strong amount of determination, resilience, and knowledge to not only ensure that the litter a dam brings into the world is happy and healthy, but also to ensure that families get the best puppies possible. Since the beginning, the primary goal of the Continental Kennel Club has been to bring dogs and people together, which is why we are excited to provide this free book for breeders who want to bring well-adjusted, wonderful pups to loving homes.**

**It is our hope that the information in this book will teach breeders how proper care can greatly change the lives of a dam and her litter for the better. Inside, you will find strategies to make the pregnancy as smooth and easy as possible for the dam, and you will also learn why puppy handling and training is so important and how to do it the right way.**

**So, if you're a veteran breeder who wants to improve or a new breeder thirsty for knowledge, CKC values your commitment to strengthening the God-given bond between dogs and people, and it is our hope that this book will serve yourself, your dogs, and your customers well and for years to come.**



**[www.ckcusa.com](http://www.ckcusa.com)**