



INFORMATION BOOKLET

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DoggieRescue.com

Registered office: 8 Chiltern Rd Ingleside 2101
ACN 098 918 471 ABN 49 098 918 471

Postal Address: 8 Chiltern Rd Ingleside 2101
Adoption Centre: 70 Victoria Rd Drummoyne 2047

Phone: (02)9719 2022
Fax: (02) 9997 4421
Mobile: 0429 044 484

Email: Monika@DoggieRescue.com



Dear _____

Thank you for adopting _____ and giving him/her a family to belong to.

As you probably already know _____ came from Renbury Pound/Blacktown Pound as an unclaimed or surrendered dog after 7 days.

If you have any problems settling _____ into your home please feel free to give us a call. We have spent many years working with abandoned waifs and know that some need very special care.

As a DoggieRescue.com dog, he/she receives Vouchers to a number of dog training clubs (please see page 5)

Additionally we have taken the opportunity to enclose some material on dog training courtesy of Hornsby Dog Training Club.

A copy of our magazine is also enclosed for your perusal.

Thank you for giving an abandoned orphan a second chance in life.

Monika Biernacki

HORNSBY DOG TRAINING CLUB

HOW TO BE YOUR DOG'S GENTLE LEADER

Our modern dog is a direct descendant of the wolf. The wolf (and our dogs) is a creature of instinct-a pack animal that views other members of the pack in terms of their rank. He will respect and obey those above him and not those below him. Rank structure is rarely achieved through aggression. It is achieved through taking and being allowed to take certain privileges.

If your dog views you as being a higher rank and naturally allow you the privileges of that rank, the formal training of the dog will be natural consequence. The points that follow will help you understand some of your dog's instinctive behaviour and how you can gradually establish your higher rank on a non-confrontational basis, using the dog's language.

1. SLEEPING.

It is the right of the 'leader' figure to sleep where he wants, but nobody else sleeps in his bed. If your dog sleeps in your bedroom, it must never be allowed to sleep on your bed. Conversely you are the leader and as such have right to all the territory. Make a point occasionally sitting in your dog's bed and any other resting spot he might reside.

2. MEALS.

It is the right of the leader to eat first. The rest of the pack can have what is left after the leader has had his fill. Your dog should never be fed before the family and he should never be allowed to demand titbits from your plate. Even eating a dry biscuit in front of your dog before giving him his meal can be sufficient to signify your privilege to eat first.

3. GAMES/TOYS.

Being part of a hunting unit the instinct to avoid being injured or injuring another member of the hunting party is very strong. Therefore, dominant and submissive standards are reached through play. In this respect, we should not encourage our dogs to growl and pull at 'tug-of-war' games and much less let them win. A rough-play game should not be played when the dog becomes a little aggressive it is us who should end the game. Ensure that all games are controlled by you. Toys are your possessions and should be put away at the end of the play session.

4. DOORWAYS OR OTHER NARROW OPENINGS.

It is the right of the leader to proceed through narrow openings first. The rest of the pack holds back to allow him this privilege. Walk to a door (preferably one opening away from you), open it a crack and if the dog tries to push through slam the door in his face (don't catch his nose). Repeat this action until the dog learns to take a pace back and allow you to proceed first.

5. SLEEPING DOGS.

Never steps over or walk around your dog. Have him move out of your way. The leader controls territory.

6. STAIRS.

Do not allow your dog to preside over the top of the stairs. He is effectively standing over you. Furthermore you show difference by lowering your eyes to look where you are walking up the stairs. A temporary baby gate at the bottom of the stairs might help in this respect.

7. ATTENTION DEMANDING.

Don't allow your dog to force you to pat him by pushing you with his nose or pawing at you. Any demands for attention should be met with a command, eg. "sit", "down" "stay"...something simple that will EARN him the reward. Do not allow your dog to choose who pats him and for how long.

8. MOUTHING.

Mouthing is a dominant behaviour. Any attempt to mouth at hands lead etc should be met with a loud "Get Off" and piercing eye contact. No praise is given when the dog stops.

9. COMMANDS.

Give commands in a firm, definite voice and do not repeat a command. Give the command once and help your dog to comply. Don't work with your dog if you have lost your patience-try again later.

10. MUZZLE CONTROL. It is a dominant gesture. Place your hand over the top of your dog's muzzle for a few seconds at a time. Make this part of your patting.

Not all of these measures need to be permanent. Once a dog accepts its lower rank, most can be ceased. However being in the habit of feeding the humans first, or allowing your dog to rush through doorways ahead of you and not allowing him to sleep on your bed, is probably a good base to use in ensuring your dog can happily accept his place in the pack.

RECOMMENDED READING.

"Dog Training, The Gentle Modern Method" by David Weston
"Dog Problems, The Gentle Modern Method" by David Weston
"Think Dog" by John Fisher
"Dogwise" by John Fisher
"Why Does My Dog" by John Fisher

Following the adoption of a dog from Monika's Doggie Rescue the bearer of this letter is entitled to the following:

1. 12 months Complimentary Membership (this offer does not apply to existing club members or those re-joining)

AGILITY DOG CLUB of NSW

Castle Hill Showground – Carrington Road, Castle Hill

Ph: (02) 9654-1951

*Have fun with your dog every Thursday night

*Agility Training is fun and exciting for both you and your dog

2. 12 months Complimentary Membership

SYDNEY ALL BREEDS DOG TRAINING CLUB Inc.

Stanley St Concord

Ph: (02)9713-1437

*Affiliated with the Royal NSW Canine Council Ltd

3. Free Joining Fee

NORTHERN SUBURBS TRAINING CLUB Inc

St.Ives Showground-Mona Vale Rd, St.Ives

Ph: (02)9416-6080

*Dog obedience training classes and agility classes

*Held in community club atmosphere of friendship and fun -both for dogs and owners!

*All classes conducted by qualified experienced instructors

*Puppy classes – 6 week course

*Basic and Advanced Obedience

*Ku-ring-gai K9 Community Obedience Awards

*Annual membership \$10 +only \$2 per lesson (includes tea/coffee after class)

*Club Newsletter

*Please note: all dogs must be fully immunised +2 weeks (Certificate required)

4. Reduced Membership Fee to \$5

PIONEER DOG TRAINING SCHOOL INC.

79 Brisbane Ave

Umina NSW 2257

Contact: Lyn Whyte President

0243426026

5. Two Weeks Complimentary Lessons

SURF STORMERS FLYBALL DOGS

Killarney Vale (Central Coast)

Ph: 0407 435 699

www.surfstormers.org

*Relay retrieval races where dogs get to chase, jump, catch & compete

*Fun for dogs of all shapes, sizes – and their owners too!

*Small group of fellow dog lovers who enjoy quality time with their doggie pals

*Please note: dogs must be non-aggressive & have basic obedience skills

TRAINING CLUBS

PUPPY CLASSES

TEL Nos.

Ashfield Veterinary Clinic	9716-8270
Bankstown Veterinary Hospital	9790-1101
Balmain Veterinary Hospital	9810-7544
Berowra Veterinary Clinic	7456-2526
Chatswood & Roseville Vet Clinics	9411-6547
Eastwood-Brush Farm Dog Training Club	9869-1917
Elanora Heights (Hanna Moore)	9913-7242
Enfield Veterinary Hospital	9747-3999
Figtree Veterinary Clinic-Andy Robertson	9428-4700
Five Dock Veterinary Hospital	9713-7364
Gordon Vet Hospital-Jennifer Daniel	9498-3000
Hornsby Vet Hospital	9477-1233
Kenthurst Wraysbury School for Dogs	9654-1951
North Ryde Vet Hospital-Jennifer Daniel	9888-1833
Roseville-The Ark Vet Hospital	9411-3848
Seaforth Veterinary Hospital	9949-1288
Warriewood-Pittwater Animal Hospital	9913-7979
West Ryde & Fairlight-Dogtech Life Support	1300-650-739

DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINING

Arightway Dog Treining – Jenny Wright	0415 394644
Able Dog Training-Dogtech (all areas)	1300-650-739
Blacktown and Marayong-Blacktown Kennel & Training Club	9622-8663
Castle Hill/Strathfield/Canada Bay-Anne W Fitzgerald (private & class)	9894-4716
Castle Hill-Paws 4 Fun	9980-5030
Castle Hill-Hills District Kennel Club	9652-1764
Eastwood-Brush Farm Dog Training Club Inc.	9484-3516
Frenchs Forest-Warringah Shepherd Dog Training Club	9416-7047
Hawkesbury Dog Agility Club	4575-2222
Hornsby Dog Training Club	9990-7301
Lindfield-Metropolitan Mid-Week Dog Training Club	9873-2304
Manly-District Kennel & Dog Training Club	
• Deep Creek	9999-1586
• Mosman Oval	9960-3637
North Shore & Northern Beaches-Hanna Moore (private lessons)	9913-7242
Randwick-Eastern Suburbs Dog Training	0412-645154
St.Ives-Canine Good Citizens Course	9416-4278
St.Ives-Get SMART Dogs (evening classes)	9499-2119
Strathfield-Western Suburbs Training	9570-9144
Warringah-German Shepherds Dog League	9905-5287
Warringah-Velma Violet Harris (dog behaviour consultant/trainer)	9418-4343
St George Dog Training Club	9750-3776

VET DETAILS & MICROCHIPPING

MICROCHIP REGISTRATION OF YOUR DOG

Dog registration is compulsory under the Companion Animals Act and your dog is eligible for lifetime registration that is NSW wide. Many DoggieRescue.com dogs are also microchipped Australia wide under the Australian Animals Registry. Cost of life registration under the NSW system for a desexed dog is \$35.00 or \$15.00 for a pensioner. DoggieRescue.com sends your dog's microchipping information to your local council & you will be notified directly by your local council of registration details. You take the form council sends you, together with a copy of the desexing certificate and the prescribed fee to your local council for processing. At this time you can change the name of the dog & any other pertinent details.

VACCINATION

Vaccination papers for your dog are enclosed. Adult dogs should be vaccinated annually. _____ was last vaccinated on _____ with a C5 vaccination. The next annual vaccination is due _____. Puppies under 16 weeks come with 3 C5 vaccination & due dates are on the vaccination card.

FLEAS

Flea control throughout the year is the most effective way to reduce the flea population explosion during summer months. Your pet has been treated with **Advantage DUO** which kills not only adult fleas but kills flea larvae in the pet's surroundings as well. It is safe to even use on nursing mothers. Brochures are included for further information. _____ was last treated on _____ and is due _____.

GASTROINTESTINAL WORMS

Your dog has been wormed using **Drontal Allwormer** which kills all worms in dogs. **Adult dogs should be wormed every 3 months.** Puppies should be wormed at 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks, 4 months, 5 months and 6 months. A brochure is included for further information.

HEARTWORM

If your dog is an adult it has been tested for heartworm and the test was negative. _____ is now on monthly heartworm prevention treatment. Your dog has been given **Advantage DUO** to prevent heartworm. **Advantage DUO** gives dual protection from fleas and heartworm in a monthly spot-on treatment. _____ had his/her last monthly treatment on _____ and next treatment is due _____.

Other products are on the market to cover these aspects of your dog's health. Please consult your veterinarian for details.

If you have any queries or worries about your pet please don't hesitate to call-Monika Biernacki.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TICK POISONING

PREVENTION:

Daily search of the animal after removal of the collar, feeling with the fingertips, paying particular attention to the head, neck and shoulder areas. This gives three chances of finding and removing the tick before it can harm the animal.

Dipping or spraying the animal regularly in the worst months of the year, viz: Spring and early summer. Your veterinary surgeon can advise you on effective dipping compounds, as ticks can acquire immunity to certain chemicals.

Certain flea powders have a repellent action on ticks, and their use, or flea collars worn by the animal, reduces the risk of a tick attaching.

IF A PARALYSIS TICK IS FOUND ON YOUR ANIMAL, IT SHOULD BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY USING A PAIR OF TWEEZERS. AS SOON AS THE TICK HAS BEEN REMOVED, IT IS STRONGLY ADVISABLE TO CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN WITHOUT DELAY.

The Dog Tick (*Ixodes Holocyclus*) occurs only in Australia, mainly in the eastern coastal strip, its distribution roughly corresponding to that of the bandicoot, its natural host.

It can prove fatal to a number of species including man, but dogs and cats are its most common victims. The tick has to be attached to the skin, engorging for three days before it commences to inject its poison.

SYMPTOMS

The earliest signs are often dullness, vomiting, change in bark, a grunt in breathing, soon followed by a stagger in the hind legs. If left untreated this loss of control extends up the spine to affect the front legs, then the neck muscles, and finally the breathing centre in the hindbrain is paralysed and death occurs. The swallowing ability of the dog is often affected, so that food, fluids or medicine given by mouth usually finish up in the lungs causing pneumonia and death. Thus all treatment has to be given by hypodermic injection, and the early injection of ANTI-TICK SERUM favours recovery.

Secondary symptoms such as pneumonia, dehydration, heart failure and many others occur during the course of this disease, and are usually the cause of death; therefore nursing under veterinary supervision is of paramount importance.

Once tick poisoning is suspected home treatment should never be attempted for the foregoing reasons. Until the patient can be placed under veterinary care, heat, excitement and stress of any kind should be avoided, and food and water withheld.

TREATMENT

The most important drug used to treat dogs with tick poisoning is CANINE ANTI-TICK SERUM. This is a purified blood extract taken from dogs made hyper-immune to ticks. Thus their blood contains anti-bodies, which are chemical substances produced by the body to fight poisons. The serum, containing anti-bodies is injected into the blood stream of the poisoned dog so that the anti-bodies will immediately commence neutralizing the toxins produced by the tick.

ANTI-TICK SERUM

Most serum used for treating humans, such as anti-snake venoms, tetanus serum etc., is produced using the horse the donor animal. Donations of a gallon or more of blood can be taken without any ill effects, and the horse can be used frequently throughout the year. The dog is the only suitable donor for producing Anti-tick serum, can only safely donate a small amount of blood, and can only be used for a few months every year. To produce an effective antidote for the paralysis, the serum has to be concentrated; hence its production is an expensive process.

With adequate vigilance you can avoid tick poisoning in your pet, and the expensive treatment necessary to save its life.

TOILET TRAINING AND HELPLINE SUPPORT

VELMA VIOLET HARRIS
DOG TRAINER
Using Gentle Methods

Phone: (02) 9402 9509

TOILET TRAINING PROBLEMS



Common Causes

Dogs do not naturally soil their dens and homes. The most common causes of toilet training problems generally occur if:

- *The dog has a urinary infection or medical problem
- *They are denied or restricted full-time access to the outside of the home
- *They are expected to bark or signal that they want to go out to the toilet
- *They are expected to use newspaper or a litter tray inside the home
- *They have received mixed messages about toileting-they have been punished for toileting in front of a person and so are afraid to toilet in front of people-even when outside!

TOILET TRAINING PROGRAM RULES FOR PEOPLE WITH DOGS

Do's

- *Have a veterinarian examination of your dog to rule out any possible medical problems
- *Allow the dog full-time access to the outside of your home
- *Praise and reward the dog each time he/she toilets outside the home-**whilst the dog is in the process** of toileting-not afterwards or before
- *Teach the dog that toileting is Ok to do in front of you by giving praise
- *Remove all aromas of previously soiled area in the house
- *Remove any newspapers or litter trays in the house
- *Take the dog out for a walk on a lead, or a walk and play in the garden commencing with every half hour until the dog is no longer toileting in the house, and then gradually lengthen the time to every one hour, two hours, etc
- *Take the dog out for a walk on a lead, or a walk and play in the garden first thing in the morning (as soon as the first person gets up), as soon as the dog wakes from sleep or a nap, if the dog has become excited and after eating
- *Ignore toileting mistakes in the house-if this occurs-it is your fault for not observing these toilet training rules.
- *Contain the dog in a small area whilst left alone-preferably an area which can be easily cleaned if an accident occurs-a dog crate is ideal (never leave your dog in a small area or a crate for more than 3-4 hours)
- *Organise a dog-sitter if you have to leave the dog alone for more than 3-4 hours during the training process, or if the dog is left alone for a number of hours on a regular basis

- *Discuss this training program with all members of the household, including children, **and all people must be consistent with this training program** for it to work
- *Spend more quality time with your dog, playing with him/her outside in the garden on a daily basis
- *After toilet training has succeeded, give your dog a minimum of one on-lead walk a day and one off lead, full of running and playing exercise for 30 minutes
- *Enrol in a “good” dog training club and go every week or fortnight-this helps develop communication skills and a good rapport between you and your dog (a good pet dog training club never uses or even allows choke chains)

Don'ts

- *Show any sign of being upset if the dog toilets in the house ever again.
- *Leave any newspapers or litter trays in the house
- *Block or restrict access for the dog to get outside of the house to toilet-if you do, you'll be sorry!!!
- *Allow your dog the freedom of all the rooms in the house until he/she is fully toilet trained-contain him/her to an area which can be easily cleaned if an accident occurs
- *Expect your dog to understand English-they don't! They react to our body language, tone of voice and facial expressions

KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN TRAINING YOUR DOG

- *It takes a minimum of 30 days to form a learned behaviour or habit
- *Be aware of the signs of stress in your dog. On the first sign, relax your dog with play
- *Use body language and a happy tone of voice to keep your dog feeling relaxed and interested
- *Dogs learn easily when training sessions last no longer than 5 minutes, and between 5 to 10 times per day, every day for a minimum of 30 days.
- *As your dog learns one behaviour, go immediately onto the next behaviour you want your dog to learn, to prevent boredom for yourself and your dog
- *Intermittently, returning to the already learned behaviours, to keep them retained
- *The training program must be fun and rewarding to be effective
- *...So make sure you are having fun yourself during training

For dog training information, or to join 'Velma's Pet Dog Training Classes', using gentle, modern methods and dog psychology, please phone (02)9418-4343.

CANINE DEVELOPMENT

A dog's view of the world is shaped by a combination of its innate behaviors or instincts and the experiences he has throughout life. There are certain critical periods that are significant and these are mainly to do with the pup's social development, although there can be physical changes as well.

The specific ages are not absolute, but generally apply to most puppies. The Early Critical Periods are the same for all dogs, regardless of size and breed. The ages of later critical periods will vary depending on the size and breed.

EARLY CRITICAL PERIODS

Neonatal Period (birth to 12 days)

A newborn puppy is fully dependent on its mother during this period -- for food and for warmth. He is not able to regulate his own body temperature; needs its mother's stimulation to urinate and defecate; cannot hear nor see; is deficient in his sense of smell, taste, touch. He moves by just crawling forward on his tummy. His sole purpose is survival.

Transition Period (13 days to 20 days)

This period is marked by a number of physical changes. Its eyes begin to open; it starts to walk in a wobbly fashion; the first teeth start to erupt at around 20 days; he begins to chew and bite. He begins to react to sounds but unable to locate the source.

Canine Socialisation Period (21 to 49 days)

This is the Period when your dog learns to become a dog. He will learn and practice canine body postures, facial expressions, vocalisations through play fighting and interacting with its littermates. This is the time when social skills develop. It is also at this important stage that the pup learns to accept discipline. He learns it from its mother. When the puppy has committed a transgression she will give him a warning - a meaningful look often accompanied by wrinkling of the nose or twitch of the lip. If the puppy has not learnt the meaning of the look or continues to pester his mother, he will be disciplined by a growly snarl with a nip on the nose. The discipline is swift and to the point, is over as quickly as it started. Neither the mother nor the puppy holds any grudges. The puppy then learns what the facial expression means, learns that he can and will be disciplined by the leader of the pack and learns how to assume a submissive posture.

This period is also the time when the puppy starts to have some human contact, mainly provided by the breeder in the home environment as it is highly susceptible to infection. A good breeder should handle the pups everyday so they can get used to humans handling them. Even better are those pups that are used to household noises, TV, Kitchen noises to prepare them for life later as the family companion.

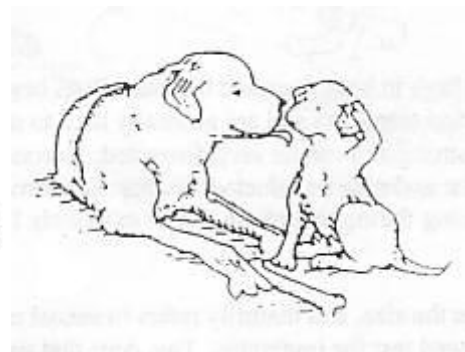
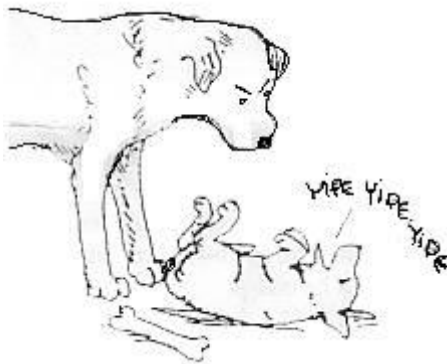
Therefore, it is vitally important that pups should stay with its mother and littermates up until at least 6-7 weeks so that he can learn the behaviors which make him a dog. If deprived of this opportunity he will never be able to learn these lessons again. Of ten they tend to become nervous, bark and bite and cannot easily accept discipline. They are frequently aggressive to other dogs as they do not know how to interact.

The practical implication of this period is obvious. I have this personal view that people should NOT buy puppies from pet shops. I am not against pet shops, but potential puppy owners are putting themselves at a big disadvantage for several reasons. They do not know when a pup was taken away from its mother (and I dare say most are taken away well before 6-7 weeks of age), and most importantly they cannot see the parents of the pup so they don't know what their temperament is like. Puppies do learn a whole heap from its mother. If the mother is nervous or aggressive, the pup will tend to learn that too. Furthermore, pet shop owners do not always tell their customers the drawbacks of the breed (if they know what they are) or whether the dog is going to be suitable for your lifestyle. Frequently no advice is given to novice owners as to how to bring up the pup. The price of these puppies are not cheap. Remember it is a business and there to make a profit. The best place to buy a pup is from a reputable breeder. Of course, there are good and bad breeders and it is up to us to find a good one. If you share my point of view, please try to help spread it to your friends and family who is thinking of buying a pup from a pet shop. If there is no demand, the supply of these puppies will gradually decrease and hopefully will discourage people from breeding for money.

MOTHER'S DISCIPLINE

Mother Dogs discipline their pups so they will learn respect for their pack leader.

Human Socialisation Period (7 to 12 weeks)

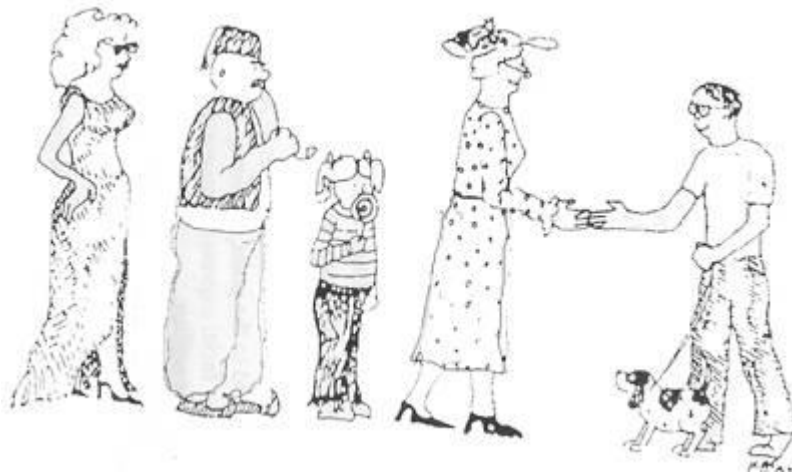


This is the optimum time for the pup to leave its mother and littermates and go to its new home. It is also the best time to introduce things to him that is going to play a major role in his future life. E.g., farm animals if it is going to live on a farm, cats, horses, traffic, practically everything that the pup is going to have to encounter later on in life. Guide dogs are so reliable because they are extensively socialised during puppyhood. It is important, though, to make sure all these encounters are positive and non-threatening because experiences learned during this period form a life-long impression on the dog.

7-12 weeks - The pup has the brain waves of an adult dog. This is the best time for going to a new home.

Unfortunately this is also the time that your pup is having its vaccinations and is susceptible to disease. I suppose the best way to tackle the problem is to use a bit of common sense. Do take your pup out and about, but be careful of other dog's droppings, and do not allow your pup to sniff lamp-posts and tree trunks where other dogs may have scent marked. Stay away from stray dogs. Adult dogs that you know that are up-to-date with their vaccinations and have an even temperament are actually very good teachers. Expose your pup to all sorts of people, all appearances, all ages and all things that may look strange to a pup. He will then learn to accept everything as normal instead of as something to fear and will therefore grow up to be a well adjusted and social animal. I must stress that time lost during this period cannot be made up easily as pups start to develop the fear response (necessary for survival in the wild) after about 16-18 weeks and will take considerably more time to socialize them (if ever completely successful) **SO ACT NOW**

This period is also the time when most rapid learning occurs. Any training must be done in a fun, non-punitive manner with plenty of praise and rewards the pup will learn whether we teach him or not. So try and lay down ground rules and stick to them. Consistency is the most important element in dog training.



Introduce your puppy to many ages and types of people.

Fear Imprint Period (8-10 weeks)

Having said that socialisation is important, it is also vital that the pup does not experience any traumatic, painful or frightening experience especially between the period of 8-10 weeks, as they form a lasting impact on the puppy. E.g., an unpleasant experience at the vet is going to make the pup apprehensive about further visits, so does any nasty experience with people or animals. Therefore, be extra careful during this period not to stress the pup out.

Seniority Classification Period (13 to 16 weeks)

This is called the "Age of Cutting" -- cutting teeth and apron strings. At this age the pup begins testing to see who is going to be the leader. It is very important for the leader to be absolutely consistent with rules that are already laid down and practice everything written in the handout "How to be your Dogs Gentle Leader", together with exercises taught in puppy classes. The more dominant the dog, the more important it is to have a strong, consistent leader.

LATER CRITICAL PERIODS

The ages of these periods can vary depending on the size of the dog. Small dogs tend to experience these periods earlier than large dogs.

Flight Instinct Period (4 to 8 months)

This is the period when the pup will test his wings. He will be a lot more independent and will venture off on his own and not come when called, whereas prior to this he has always come readily. This is the time when the most persistent recall problems will begin to surface. The pup learns that there are a lot of nice exciting things waiting for him to discover and the problem is increased tremendously when the pup returns to a raging owner ready to hit and scold the pup. The pup then learns that it is better not to return the next time. Therefore, it would be sensible to

put the pup on a long leash (30-40ft) so the owner remains in control and can enforce the command should the pup not obey instantly, but rewarding in a positive way if he obeys.



The Flight instinct period is rather taxing.

Puberty (6 to 15 months)

This is the time when hormones run high in both dogs and bitches. Dogs begin to lift their legs and mark territory whereas bitches come into season. They are like human teenagers and are generally hard to deal with. Extreme patience is required during this phase. The dogs can become terribly head-strong and can be very distracted. Second fear imprint period also surface where the dog shows fear to something or someone familiar and may be reluctant to approach something new. It is best to be patient and let the dog work things out for itself. Obedience training during this phase can be extremely taxing indeed.

Maturity (1 to 4 years)

This period varies a lot depending on the size, and maturity refers to sexual maturity rather than full growth. It is marked by an increase in aggression and by a renewed test for leadership. Two dogs that were friendly before may start fighting every time they see each other. Should a dog test for leadership, he should be handled firmly. Regular training with a firm approach, i.e. Praising for correct responses and giving him no opportunities to rise to the position of top dog will remind him who is in control.