



**INDEX**

	<b>PAGE</b>
Thank You Letter.....	2
General Information.....	3
Complimentary Memberships.....	5
Training Clubs.....	5
Vet Details and Microchipping.....	7
Tick Paralysis.....	8
What Not to feed your dog.....	9
Toilet Training.....	11
Canine Development.....	13
Introducing your new baby to your dog .....	17
Children and Pets .....	18

# DoggieRescue.com

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## THANK YOU

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

## TRAINING CLUB MEMBERSHIPS

**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

Ph: (02) 4342 6026

**5. Two Weeks Complimentary Lessons**

**SURF STORMERS FLYBALL DOGS**

Killarney Vale (Central Coast)

Ph: 0407 435 699

[www.surfstormers.org](http://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 – CONTACT INFORMATION

### 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
Hustville All Breeds Dog Training Club	9771 2582
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 \$40.00 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 **Advocate or Revolution** 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. \_\_\_\_\_ 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. If you are using Advocate, Drontal is not needed.

### 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 **Advocate or Revolution** to prevent heartworm. **Advocate or Revolution** 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.**

## WHAT NOT TO FEED YOUR DOG

Many common 'people' foods are actually harmful or can even be fatal to dogs. Some of these (listed below) will surprise you, while others are things you may already know. Some of these foods need to be avoided altogether, while some are safe in small amounts. If you use this list as a guide it will help you keep your new dog happy, healthy and safe. If in doubt you should always consult your veterinarian.

### **Chocolate**

We've all heard 'chocolate is bad for dogs', but many people do not realise how unsafe it can be. Chocolate contains thiobromine which is very toxic to dogs and causes liver damage. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is, however any chocolate in large enough amounts can cause death. For example, as little as 250-500g of milk chocolate, or 30-60g of cooking chocolate can kill a 5kg dog.

Signs of overdose include excessive salivation, neurological symptoms (seizures shuddering/shaking/twitching/convulsing), diarrhoea and vomiting – these can lead to a coma and death if left untreated. These symptoms may not show up for several hours, but can lead to death within 24 hours.

Chocolate overdose is life threatening and needs to be treated as an emergency.

Be sure to check the label on any 'dog chocolate' to make sure that it is made with carob instead of real cocoa.

### **Onions**

These contain thiosulfate, which will destroy red blood cells and can cause anaemia, weakness, and breathing difficulty. Avoid feeding large quantities of onion or small quantities over time as it will build up in the dog's system. Large amounts of garlic cause the same problems as onions, as well as chives, as they belong to the same family of plants. If your dog is showing signs of anaemia or has overdosed on onions, you need to see your vet urgently.

### **Grapes and raisins/sultanas**

These can cause kidney failure in dogs. As little as a handful of grapes or sultanas can kill a dog. If the dog doesn't eat enough at one time to be fatal, he/she can be severely damaged by eating just a few grapes or raisins regularly.

### **Macadamia nuts**

As few as SIX macadamia nuts can cause paralysis in dogs. Dogs with macadamia poisoning will appear anxious and have difficulty moving their rear legs. Other symptoms include pain (especially in the legs), depression and vomiting. Unshelled macadamias can also cause bowel blockages if eaten. If your dog has consumed macadamia nuts you need to take him/her to your vet urgently. The paralysis will generally disappear after several days of treatment.

**Walnuts and cashew nuts** are also poisonous to dogs.

### **Tomatoes**

Green/unripe tomatoes contain solanine, which can be toxic even in small amounts. Ripe tomatoes are very high in selenium, which is toxic in large doses. Ripe tomatoes are harmless in small amounts. If you have tomato plants in your garden make sure you keep your dog away from them (tomato plants, except for the tomato itself, are also poisonous to humans).

### **Cooked bones**

Chicken wings, necks, beef and other bones are safe to feed in moderation, as long as they are raw. When bones are cooked (particularly chicken bones) they can splinter and cause damage to your dog's digestive system, either by tearing or becoming stuck. This can be very painful for your dog and lead to serious health complications. Whenever possible your dog should be supervised while eating bones.

### **Caffeine**

Caffeine (from coffee, coffee grounds, tea, or tea bags) stimulates the central nervous and cardiac systems, and can cause vomiting, restlessness, heart palpitations, and even death within hours.

### **Artificial Sweeteners**

Diet products containing the sweetener Xylitol can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar, resulting in depression, loss of coordination and seizures. Unless treatment is given quickly, the dog could die.

### **Fruit seeds**

Apple seeds, cherry pits, peach pits, pear pips, plums pits, peaches, and apricot pits contain a small amount of cyanide, which is poisonous. Smaller seeds (such as apple seeds) will generally pass through your dog's system undigested, but if they are allowed to chew on larger seeds it can be harmful. Larger seeds may become lodged in your dogs digestive tract and cause serious health problems.

### **Fatty and Salty Foods**

Ham and bacon, as well as other things like turkey fat contain too much fat and too much salt, and can cause pancreatitis (inflammation of the liver) and kidney problems. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea and a painful abdomen. Dogs that eat salty food may also drink too much water and develop a life-threatening condition called bloat (most common in large breeds of dogs with large chests and thin waists). This is where the stomach fills up with gas and within several hours may twist, causing death. If you suspect your dog has pancreatitis or bloat you need to go to your veterinarian urgently.

### **Liver and liver treats**

Raw liver or too much cooked liver can lead to vitamin A toxicity. This can cause deformed bones, excessive bone growth on the elbows and spine, weight loss, and anorexia. If you must feed your dog canned food, be sure to check that it does not contain too much liver.

### **Plants around your garden**

Some garden plants can also be toxic if eaten by your dog. Poinsettias are mildly toxic to dogs – while most dogs who eat them will experience no symptoms at all, some dogs will drool or vomit after eating them. Holly causes intense nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Mistletoe causes vomiting, diarrhoea, neurological problems and heart failure. Wild mushrooms can cause abdominal pain, drooling, liver damage, kidney damage, vomiting, diarrhoea, convulsions, coma, or death.

For a list of plants that are known to be toxic to pets, visit: <http://www.sniksnak.com/plants-toxic.html>

For a list of "Dog Safe" plants to add to your garden, visit <http://www.sniksnak.com/plants.html>

### **Toxic substances**

The following substances are commonly found around the home or in your neighbourhood. Great care should be taken at all times to keep your dog from coming into contact with the following substances:

- "1080" fox baits
- Alcohol
- Anti-freeze
- Cigarettes and nicotine
- Cleaning products
- Fertiliser
- Insecticide
- Lead and products or items containing lead
- Paracetamol ("Panadol")
- Petrol, paint thinner etc
- Prescription medication (unless prescribed by a veterinarian, specifically for your dog)
- Rat Bait (or rats who have died from rat poison)
- Snail bait

If your dog has swallowed or inhaled any of these poisons it is important that you contact your veterinarian **immediately** to arrange treatment.

# TOILET TRAINING AND HELPLINE SUPPORT

By **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.

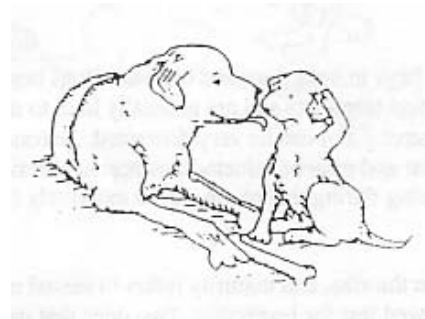
Therefore, it is vitally important that pups should stay with its mother and littermates up until at least 6-7 weeks so that he can learn the behaviors which make him a dog. If deprived of this opportunity he will never be able to learn these lessons again. Of ten they tend to become nervous, bark and 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)

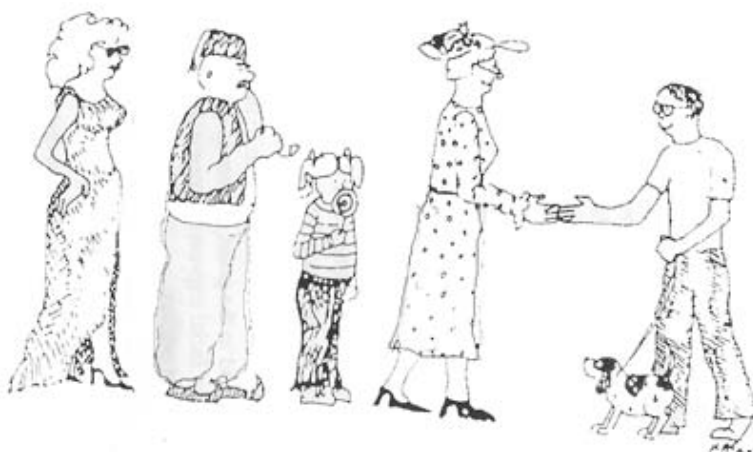
This is the optimum time for the pup to leave its mother and littermates and go to its new home. It is also the best time to introduce things to him that is going to play a major role in his future life. E.g., farm animals if it is going to live on a farm, cats, horses, traffic, practically everything 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.

## INTRODUCING YOUR NEW BABY TO YOUR DOG

By Vikki Semsarian

I recently appeared in DoggieRescue's magazine announcing the arrival of our baby boy Greg, along with our first child – Demon the Alaskan Malamute. When I was asked to write a piece on how Baby and Doggy are getting on together, I was very enthusiastic to do so for many reasons.

Let me explain why - during my pregnancy I had an endless amount of people approach me whilst I was with Demon and first question they would ask is "How are you going to cope with a dog of that size (60 kg) and a baby? Won't the dog be jealous?" My immediate response was "*No, because Demon won't have a reason to get jealous*".

It is so sad when you see a family who own a much loved dog that has complete run of the house, is spoilt rotten and taken on walks and whatever else dogs love to do. Then baby comes along and the dog's world is turned upside down because they've gone from being completely loved, to being completely neglected and they can't understand why. All they know is that ever since this little '*crying human*' came into the house things are not normal. How sad – and we wonder why so many dogs who have been treated this way will snap at the baby/child given the first opportunity.

Let's put it this way – would you ignore your first born child by not hugging them, not taking them to play group, not reading to them just because you are expecting your second child? The answer is NO, you wouldn't dare – if anything you would pay the first child even more attention to avoid sibling jealousy. This same rule should apply when dealing with your pet and a new child.

### **These are the steps that we took to introduce and maintain a loving relationship between Demon and Greg:**

- Upon arriving home from hospital we allowed Demon to smell Greg's feet (the only bit that we let him reach at that point in time). Once he was used to seeing and hearing Greg, we would then let Demon into Greg's room while he was in his cot so that Demon could observe his new brother but couldn't reach him.
- Once we were confident that all was going well, we would sit with one of us holding Greg while the other one was patting Demon. Again when we were sure of this step, one of us would hold Greg and pat Demon at the same time. This was very important so that Demon could see that Greg was not a threat and was a part of our "Pack" so to speak. In all honesty, it probably took a good 2 weeks of constant 'togetherness' time for Demon to be comfortable with Greg and for us to be comfortable with Demon and Greg together.
- The most important aspect of this is that during the whole introduction process, Demon was still treated as No. 1, was smothered with hugs and kisses, never missed his usual walk and swim, still had free run of the house – if anything – he's never had so much attention in his life! I firmly believe that if you avoid giving your pet an opportunity to become jealous, then there will be nothing but fun times ahead!

**And most importantly of all, make sure that you continue with the level of care and love you showed your pet before your new little bundle of joy arrived. Try and see the situation from their point of view – put yourself in their paws!**

## CHILDREN AND PETS

By Vikki Semsarian

### **Common sense must always be used with 'children and pets'**

**Never ever** leave your child alone with your pet – this rule should apply to children as old as 13. Whether you have a Labrador, a Poodle or a Malamute, as long as your dog has teeth it has the ability to bite. After all, children, either by accident or on purpose, are prone to pull tails, ears and fur!

**Never ever** allow your child to play with toys around your pet unless you are completely confident that your pet will not try to grab the toy from the child. Many hands have been bitten by dogs who are playing and trying to reach for the same toy as the child.

**Never ever** feed your child with your dog present, or feed your dog with your child present. Most dogs are instinctively protective of their food, and it's best that children be taught this from an early age.

**Never ever** allow your child to wake a sleeping pet, who might react out of shock.

**Never ever** let your child out of your sight at a designated off-leash area for dogs – you should always stand within arms reach of them. Many young children have been accidentally knocked off their feet because a group of running/playing/tumbling dogs can build up speed and more than often don't look where they are going!

**Never ever** let your child run around screaming at a designated off-leash dog area. You may know your own dog's temperament but you don't know the temperament of other dogs playing at the park, who may take your child's behaviour as a signal to chase and play.

**Never ever** let a younger child hold the dog's leash even for a minute, children are easily distracted and it only takes one slip and the dog may run into the road or just take off.

**Never ever** let a younger child be responsible for walking the dog. Unfortunately not all dog owners are responsible and other dogs may be wandering or off-leash and this may lead to both your dog and child being thrust into an unsafe situation where one or both may be injured.

**Never ever** let a younger child be responsible for important pet care such as coat maintenance, ear/eye cleaning, medication etc. Responsibility for monitoring grooming, cleanliness and a dog's health must lie with an adult carer.