

SOCIALIZING AND TRAINING

“Statistically speaking, your puppy has a much greater risk of developing permanent behavior issues if not properly socialized, than of contracting a disease while properly socializing.”

We have already started socializing and training your puppy for you. The pups have been in the kitchen and utility room to make sure they are used to all manner of noises, including the washing machine. We also bang pots and pans and their dinner dishes, so they are used to louder, strange sounds. As part of this socializing, we go around stamping our feet and clapping our hands, so puppies think of it as a game. We recommend a de-sensitization CD if you think your pup will be affected next year with fireworks or at New Year, they are currently listening to a Sounds Sociable CD, either this CD or the radio plays 24 hrs. a day for them from the minute they are born. We check pups on a daily basis and keep repeating, ears, eyes, and teeth to them as we check them over. When it is feeding time, we call them by saying Din, din, dins, and it lets them know it is indeed feeding time! You



will laugh at their reaction. After feeding we tell them to go pee-pee or potty and they all head off into their various favorite corners and do their business.

Also remember to try and learn to read the signs early in your puppy as they are clean by nature. Always let them out after feeding straight away and as soon as they wake up or stop playing and keep telling them the commands and give remarkably high praise when they perform for you, this makes your life much easier, definitely spoken from experience, our gang's last

command of the night is to 'go pee/potty'!! And they do not get in until they 'perform'!!

Playtime is important for your puppy. You decide when playtime starts and finishes NOT the pup, set the rules now and be consistent. Your puppy will tire easily and please remember if you have children-DO NOT let your children pick up the puppy as accidents can happen very quickly.

Instead encourage your child to sit on the floor and have the puppy in its lap. Children may get upset as the puppies will go through the usual biting stage as they are teething, do not let this behavior from the dog go unpunished, a sharp word or a loud OWE! Usually works, also a motherly type of shake of the neck or nip on the ear works well and then put puppy in the cool down zone, which may be a separate room from where you are sitting. Try not to use the crate (if you are intending using one) as the place for putting the reprimanded puppy as it has to think of that as a safe place, its own wee haven and where it sleeps at night and when you are out. There is no problem in using a crate, please do not think it is a bad thing, in fact it will keep your puppy from getting into mischief, especially if you have another dog in the house, as puppies can sometimes be quite unforgiving, especially on an older dog. Your puppy will be used to both the hard plastic beds and an open crate before they leave us. We strongly advise the use of a crate for your puppy. Buy as large a crate as space will allow.

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Remember if you have another dog/s that there is a pecking order, and your pup has to fit into this. Do not let your puppy dominate the other dogs in the household, it must learn its place in the hierarchy, and they do have to sort themselves out to an extent but always keep a watchful eye out for any bullying of your pup by the older dog/s.

Your puppy has already been introduced to a vast array of people, and of course they are very used to the dogs. Pups have also been out in the car, but only once to go to the vets. Occasionally we go to the coffee stand and/or short errands.



Now is the time to start asking all your friends and family to visit so puppy can interact with them all. Start your puppy-on-puppy classes as soon as you are able to take them out (usually 1 week after the last vaccination), take them to ring craft or obedience classes. There is now an excellent scheme run by the Kennel Club or ARBA which gives your dog different awards for levels

of obedience, called the Good Canine Citizen Scheme, it may pay to phone the Kennel Club or log on to their website for more info.

The “sensitive period” of socialization is between 3 and 14 weeks according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Early Puppy Socialization

Proper socializing is exposing your puppy to as many people, sounds, smells and healthy dogs/animals as possible, in a positive way. Make sure your puppy is having a positive experience; help make a connection between these experiences and good, safe feelings. Proper socialization at a young age is **critical to raising a well-balanced dog.**

What to do:

Take your puppy somewhere everyday if possible. Meet and get affection from many types of people. Take rides in cars, on busses, boats, trains, etc. Meet healthy, fully vaccinated dogs, cats, farm animals, etc. Go to sporting events, restaurants, car shows, stores, banks, city streets, beaches, pools, farms, parking lots, etc. Try to do everything & go everywhere you want your puppy to enjoy as an adult dog.

What to Avoid:

Until your puppy is fully vaccinated, stay out of “dog walk” and “pet elimination” areas, dog parks, highly populated - overwhelming places, dogs you do not personally know, loud noises such as

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firework shows. If your puppy gets scared of something, stop until s/he feels safe. Later, try again, slowly, with lots of play, treats, and praise. **KEEP IT FUN for you and your puppy!**

Do not bore your dog by overtraining, a few mins everyday will do, remember, this is a breed that wants to please you and be with you so it should not take a lot of effort. Please, please do not be too demanding of a young puppy, let them have their puppyhood.

Make sure your pup has plenty of toys, try and set up an activity center for your dog, especially if it is going to be in a run as, when boredom sets in, so does the chewing! Make life easier for yourself and try and keep your puppy occupied. You may end up with a hyperactive puppy, be patient and do not force the training issue, we have seen some young dogs almost broken in spirit by over jealous owners. We always adapt the training needs and methods to each individual, try various methods and use what works for the dog. We also recommend monthly subscription to BarkBox or Super Chewer box. All our dogs and pups at Guardian Boerboels enjoys their

BarkBox!



REMEMBER- SET THE RULES AND BE CONSISTENT!!!!

