



PUPPY DEVELOPMENT STAGES

What to expect with your new puppy



0-16 WEEKS

The Imprinting Period

This is easily the most important developmental time in your puppy's life. From 6 weeks onward is when they start to develop opinions about the world so every experience they have is an important one, from vet visits to interactions with people and other animals. This time is not only about making sure your pup is exposed to as many new things as possible, but it is about making sure every new experience is a positive one.

Healthy socialization training should take priority over obedience training.

4-6 MONTHS

The Juvenile Period

Your puppy is gaining independence and confidence. They become more active, more adventurous and more mischievous. Having healthy outlets for their energy is important. Find interactive games that you can play with them, a solid group of well-balanced dog friends for socializing and enjoy this fun time with your pup.

Now is a great time to start teaching your pup to become the dog you want them to be and start to introduce obedience training.

6-12 MONTHS

The Adolescent Period

This is often the most difficult period for dogs and their humans as dogs will begin to test boundaries. Their tolerance for boredom and inactivity are low. But this is also when their attention spans really increases, making training and engaging games much easier and more fun.

Minimize the opportunities for your dog to make poor decisions, such as ignoring you when off leash as these will quickly become ingrained habits.

12-24 MONTHS

Entering Maturity

This stage will happen at different times for different dogs and different breeds. Small dogs tend to mature more quickly and large dogs tend to mature more slowly, sometimes maintaining their puppy status for a couple more years.

Around 1 and a half years of age is when dogs tend to develop more serious behavioural issues so it is good practice to maintain consistent boundaries with your pup to ensure these don't develop.

FEAR PERIODS

Helping your pup develop confidence

Puppies typically go through 2 fear periods, both approximately 3 weeks long. The first is from 8-11 weeks and the second is usually between 5-6 months.

Instead of feeling curious about the world, they feel nervous and afraid.

During these times, be sure to be upbeat, positive and tell your pup how good they are. Your confidence will rub off on them.

