

"PUPPY'S RULE OF 12"



Make sure all experiences are safe and positive for the puppy. Each encounter should include treats and lots of praise. Slow down and add distance if your puppy is showing signs of fear!



BY THE TIME A PUPPY IS 12 WEEKS OLD, THEY SHOULD HAVE:

(If the puppy is over 12 weeks start right away with this socialization guide.)

1 EXPERIENCED 12 DIFFERENT SURFACES...

Wood, wood chips, carpet, tile, cement, linoleum, grass, wet grass, dirt, mud, puddles, deep gravel, grates, uneven surfaces, on top of a table, on a chair, etc...

2 EXPERIENCED 12 DIFFERENT OBJECTS...

Fuzzy toys, big & small balls, hard toys, funny sounding toys, wooden items, paper or cardboard items, milk jugs, metal items, car keys, etc...

3 EXPERIENCED 12 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS...

Front yard, other people's homes, school yard, lake, pond, river, boat, basement, elevator, car, moving car, garage, laundry room, kennel, veterinarian hospital (just to say hi & visit, lots of cookies, no vaccinations), grooming salon (just to say hi), etc...

4 EXPERIENCED 12 DIFFERENT NEW PEOPLE...

Include children, adults (mostly men), elderly adults, people in wheelchairs, walkers, people with canes, crutches, hats, sunglasses, long beards, people of all colors shapes and sizes etc...

5 EXPERIENCED 12 DIFFERENT FAST MOVING OBJECTS...

Skateboards, roller-skates, bicycles, motorcycles, cars, people running, cats running, scooters, vacuums, children running, children playing soccer, squirrels, cats, horses running, cows running, etc...

6 EXPERIENCED 12 DIFFERENT NOISES...

Thunder, fireworks, garage door opening, doorbell, children playing, babies screaming, big trucks, motorcycles, skateboards, washing machine, shopping carts rolling, power boat, clapping, loud singing, pan dropping, horses neighing, vacuums, lawnmowers, birthday party, etc... (ALWAYS make positive and watch the puppy's comfort level -no fear)

7 EXPERIENCED 12 DIFFERENT CHALLENGES...

Climb on, in, off and around a box, go through a cardboard tunnel, climb up and down steps, climb over obstacles, play hide & seek, go in and out a doorway with a step up or down, automatic doors, umbrellas, balloons, balloons popping, walk on a wobbly table (plank of wood with a small rock underneath), jump over a broom, climb over a log, bathtub etc...

8 HANDLED BY OWNER (& FAMILY) 12 TIMES A WEEK...

Hold under arm (like a football), hold to chest, hold on floor near owner, hold in-between owner's legs, hold head, look in ears, mouth, in-between toes, hold and take temperature (ask vet), hold like a baby, trim toe nails, hold in lap, etc...

9 EATEN IN 12 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS...

Back yard, front yard, crate, kitchen, basement, laundry room, bathroom, friend's house, car, school yard, bathtub, up high (on work bench), under umbrella, etc....

10 PLAYED WITH 12 DIFFERENT PUPPIES...

Do this as much as possible! Experience playing with safe and appropriate adult dogs is important too.

11 LEFT ALONE, SAFELY, 12 TIMES A WEEK...

Ensure this is away from family members, and other animals at least 12 times a week. Start with what the puppy can handle and work up from there. (Example: 5 minutes to 45 minutes)

12 EXPERIENCED A LEASH/COLLAR 12 DIFFERENT TIMES IN 12 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.

