

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER SOCIALIZATION FOR YOUR PUPPY

The importance of proper socialization of your puppy is critical to both you and your puppy's future life together. Socialization describes the process by which a dog learns to relate to people, other dogs, and his environment. Please note that your dog will continue to learn throughout his whole life, and the building blocks of socialization provided to him as a puppy will insure a wonderful companion dog. However, during the various stages of his/her puppyhood is when you experience something (either good or bad), which has the greatest impact on your puppy. This impact is long-lasting and will remain for the rest of his/her life. As the new owner of a puppy you must take the following steps to insure the puppy's socializing process. Socialization forms the foundation for your dog's behavior later in life. It is also a great "bonding" mechanism for you and your puppy. REMEMBER: Everything you do during your puppy's critical first year will impact the rest of his life. We, at Kelstrin Collies, will have the following socialization steps completed prior to the purchase of your puppy:

- Early neurological stimulation from Day 1 through Day 16. The "Super Dog Program"

Super Dog Program:

Five benefits of the Super Dog "Bio Sensor Stimulation Exercise:

1. Improved heart rate. Cardio Vascular Performance.
2. Heart beats are stronger.
3. Adrenal glands are stronger.
4. A higher tolerance to stressful situations.
5. A higher resistance to disease.

The U. S. Military in their canine program developed a method that will serve as a guide to what works. In an effort to improve the performance of dogs used for military purposes, a program called "Bio Sensor" was developed. Later, it became known to the public as the "Super Dog Program." Based on years of research, the military learned that early neurological stimulation exercises could have important and lasting effects. Their studies confirmed that there are specific time periods early in life when neurological stimulation has optimum results. The first period involves a window of time that begins on the 3rd day of life and last until the 16th day. These consist of five exercises that will produce neurological stimulation, none of which naturally occur during this early period of life. The program is more fully outlined in the attached link.

- During the fifth and sixth weeks individual attention is imperative. Clarice Rutherford and David Neil state in their work "How to Raise a Puppy You

Can Live With”, that during the sixth week, “it would be a catastrophe if you neglected to give each individual pup individual attention.” Each pup will be given individual attention on a daily basis. Your puppy will be introduced to a crate and a car ride.

- Puppies will be puppy temperament (aptitude) tested on the 49th day. The 49th day is the ideal timing for the puppy aptitude test to be done. The brain waves of the puppy are the same as a mature dog, but the puppy’s brain is a clean slate. If the puppies have been properly socialized and are not somehow traumatized before the test (by being taken for their first car ride to the test site, or being crated for the first time) the test is a reliable measure of their suitability for whatever role in life they are expected to fulfill. This also provides us an excellent aid in placing puppies in compatible homes.
- Your puppy will have the rudimentary initial beginning of shaping with a clicker.

As your new puppy’s owner the following is a list of exercises you should commit to do:

- Vacuum cleaners, hair dryers, washing machines, clothes dryers, and other loud household appliances.
- Interacting with your children, your children’s friends, their friends and your friends.
- Visiting with friends and family at different homes, locations, etc., even for a very short period of time.
- Riding in the car.
- Meeting and greeting the mailman, or other delivery people who come to your home regularly.
- Constant walks around the neighborhood for exploration purposes. Your puppy’s brain is a “sponge” and everything learned at a young age will remain for the rest of the puppy’s life. When taking your puppy for a walk, take a lot of health treats, stop talk to people or kids, have them pet your puppy, and give your puppy a treat. Have them meet people of all sizes and colors.
- Larger animals (farm animals like cows, horses, etc.).
- Pets you already own.
- All situations/events, so that when your puppy encounters anyone or anything new, he/she will greet it with inquisitiveness, rather than fear or aggression. Expose your puppy gradually, and not in a stressful manner. Be calm.
- Introduce your puppy to a variety of different people. People with glasses, hats, tall, short, thin, fat, young, old, etc. in a non-threatening manner.
- Have your puppy sit or lie down on command prior to putting his food down. Remember you are the source of all that is good. The puppy

should know that it has to earn his/her rewards. If you have a multi-dog household, mix up the order of who gets fed first.

- Take puppy classes, get your AKC STAR Puppy recognition, obtain your Canine Good Citizen title, and take basic classes. You don't have to go into the canine performance sports, just take your puppy to classes. The learning and bonding you both will obtain will be immeasurable in your lifetime together. Most importantly play, play, play with your puppy.

References:

Dr. Ian Dunbar *"After you Get your Puppy"*, James and Kenneth Publications, 2001.
Clarice Rutherford & David H. Neil, MRVCVS, *"How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With,"* Lowell Alpine Publications, 1981.

http://breedingbetterdogs.com/pdfFiles/articles/early_neurological_stimulation_en.pdf