

6 crucial developmental deadlines in puppy training



As soon as your puppy comes home, the clock is running. Within just three months, your puppy will need to meet six crucial developmental deadlines. If your puppy fails to meet any of these deadlines, he is unlikely to achieve his full potential. In terms of your dog's behaviour and temperament, you will probably be playing catch-up for the rest of your dog's life. Most important of all, you simply cannot afford to neglect the socialisation and bite inhibition deadlines.

Six Developmental Deadlines

1. Your Doggy Education (before searching)
2. Evaluating Puppy's Progress (before selection)
3. Errorless Housetraining (before homecoming)
4. Socialisation with People (by 12 weeks of age)
5. Bite Inhibition (by 18 weeks of age)

6. Preventing Adolescent Problems (by five months)

The first three developmental deadlines cover the search and selection for a suitable puppy and his first week at home. The first three developmental deadlines are extremely urgent and crucial, and leave no room for mistakes.

The final three developmental deadlines cover the first three months the puppy is in your home. The clock is still running, but you do have three months to get things done.

It is vital that you know what and how to teach your puppy, before you get it. So in addition to this blog, read other books, watch videos, observe puppy training classes, and above all, test drive as many adult dogs as possible. Talk to owners at puppy class and discover what types of problems they are experiencing. New puppy owners are ruthlessly honest when describing their puppy's problems. If you already have a puppy and feel that you are behind, do not throw in the towel. You must acknowledge, however, that you are well behind and that your puppy's socialisation and education are now a dire emergency. Immediately do your best to catch up.

Invite family, friends, and neighbours to help you with your puppy's remedial socialisation and training. Maybe take a week or two off of work to devote to your puppy. The younger your puppy, the easier and quicker it is to catch up on its developmental timetable and minimize losses. Every day you delay, however, makes it harder.

1. Your Doggy Education

Before you look for your perfect puppy, you need to know what sort of dog to look for, where to get it, and when to get it. An educated choice is generally far better than an impulsive puppy purchase. Additionally, you need to thoroughly familiarise yourself with the developmental deadlines; they become urgent and crucial the day you select your puppy. Take your time to review this booklet, observe a number of puppy classes, and then make a thoughtful choice. Your dog's future depends on it.

2. Evaluating Puppy's Progress

Before you select your puppy (usually at eight weeks of age), you need to know how to select a good breeder and how to select a good puppy. Specifically, you need to know how to assess your puppy's behavioral development. By eight weeks of age, your puppy must have become thoroughly accustomed to a home physical environment, especially to all sorts of potentially scary noises; your puppy should already have been handled by many people, especially men, children, and strangers; your puppy's errorless housetraining and chew toy training should be underway; and your puppy should already have a rudimentary understanding of basic manners. At the very least, your puppy should come, sit, lie down, and roll over when requested. In other words, in preparation for household living, the litter of puppies must have been raised indoors and around people and not in some secluded backyard or fancy kennel.

3. Errorless Housetraining

You need to ensure that an errorless housetraining and chew toy training program is instituted the very first day your puppy comes home. This is so important during the first week, when puppies characteristically learn good or bad habits that set the precedent for weeks, months, and sometimes years to come.

Be absolutely certain that you fully understand the principles of long-term and short-term confinement before you bring your new puppy home. With a long-term and short-term confinement schedule, housetraining and chew toy-training are easy, efficient, and errorless. During her first few weeks at home, regular confinement (with chew toys stuffed with kibble) teaches the puppy to teach herself to chew chewtoys, to settle down calmly and quietly, and not to become a recreational barker. Moreover, short-term confinement allows you to predict when your puppy needs to relieve herself, so that you may take her to the right spot and reward her for eliminating.

4. Socialisation with People

The Critical Period of Socialisation ends by three months of age! This is the crucial developmental stage during which puppies learn to accept and enjoy the company of other dogs and people. Thus your puppy needs to be

socialised to people by the time it is twelve weeks old. However, since his series of puppy immunization injections is incomplete at this point, a young pup needs to meet people in the safety of his own home. As a rule of thumb, your puppy needs to have met at least a hundred different people before he is eight weeks old and then meet an additional hundred people during his first month at home. Not only is this easier to do than it might sound, it's also lots of fun.

5. Bite Inhibition

Bite inhibition is the single most important lesson a dog must learn. Adult dogs have teeth and jaws that can hurt and harm. All animals must learn to inhibit use of their weapons against their own kind, but domestic animals must learn to be gentle with all animals, especially people. Domestic dogs must learn to inhibit their biting toward all animals, especially toward other dogs and people. The narrow time window for developing a "soft mouth" begins to close at four-and-a-half months of age, about the time when the adult canine teeth first show. Providing your puppy with an ideal forum to learn bite inhibition is the most pressing reason to enrol him in puppy classes before he is eighteen weeks old.

6. Preventing Adolescent Problems

To ensure that your well-rounded and well-schooled puppy remains a mannerly, well-socialised, and friendly dog throughout adulthood, your dog needs to meet unfamiliar people and unfamiliar dogs on a regular basis. In other words, your dog needs to be walked at least once a day. Your puppy may be taken for rides in the car and to visit friends' houses as early as you like. Start walking your puppy as soon as your veterinarian says it's safe to do so.