

TIPS FOR TRAINING

Inoculating puppies to the weirdness of the world

Are you feeling a bit overwhelmed not knowing where to turn in this jungle of misinformation and contradiction about raising a puppy? We hear you! Just how do you make sense of what's out there?

Before their teeth fall out

If we could tell you nothing else about puppies, if you know something about that early development stage before their puppy teeth fall out that there is a ticking clock going on for everything you may want to do with that dog. There is a highly accelerated brain development in puppies as compared to adult dogs. We know how critical this time is but we run into this huge dilemma, the worry of disease. Owners have been well educated on vaccinations and inoculations and what needs to be done physically to keep puppies safe but we have not done enough to educate owners on, puppies must learn what normal is.

What's normal?

Normal is everything you think they will experience in their life before their puppy teeth fall out. This can be done either in a safe way using passive socialization (making sure the puppy gets out in the world where nothing bad happens,) or better yet, bump it up by linking good stuff (food) with new experiences. Every bit of food that is given to your puppy in the safe comfort of your kitchen is wasting time when it could be used in making critical associations with new experiences.

Let the brain washing begin

Take field trips often and bring kibble. You don't have to go on a walk just sit in front of some store or any safe place where there will be plenty of novel stimuli and just hold your puppy on your lap. Wheelchairs will make you hand feed some of your food and umbrellas, balloons, cars, motorcycles and every freakish thing that humans have. If you would like your dog to react to everything in the future with, "Wow that's cool" you must make the necessary linkages. Dogs that have had enough novel sounds, sights and smells are the coolest dogs. If you can do this with everything your puppy will see, he will go "Ooooo something new, it must mean food"! These are bulletproof dogs, and they have become conditioned to the human world and all the crazy stuff in it.

The clock is ticking

Because we get puppies at eight weeks you have trusted someone else to do the first eight weeks of this linkage, and very few breeders do this. For most puppies that first eight weeks is wasted time. When you first get that puppy you are going to circle the calendar at sixteen weeks and expose her every day to the weirdness of the world before sixteen weeks, mostly to the strange variety of people. Different races matter, different heights matter, the way people walk matter. Don't give your puppy a meal where all calories are associated with nothing. You can inoculate puppies against the weirdness of the world as well as against diseases.