



### **Training & Behavior - The Social Pet**

The socialization period for dogs can start when they are young (between 4-12 weeks of age and older). During this period the puppy may tend to accept new experiences and therefore not be fearful of them later in life. It is important that socialization is carried out in an appropriate environment where your puppy is not at risk of being exposed to disease or other dangers.

It is also a good idea to get your puppy used to being handled when they are young. Gently looking into their eyes, ears, mouth, and feeling their legs and tail helps bond with your puppy and will hopefully allow your puppy to feel more relaxed on visits to the veterinarian, groomer, etc.

Although there are many ways to train your pet, here are some general reminders that we believe to be very helpful:

- be consistent to avoid confusing your pet
- train for short spells as puppies have a short attention span
- puppies respond better to cheerful and upbeat voices
- play with your puppy gently to encourage trust and to help create a strong bond
- *be patient*

We encourage your pet to be as social with other animals as possible, all while being safe. There are many ways in which you and your new pet can explore the social scene - between training and social classes that you and your pet can attend, to dog parks and other social settings, there are many adventures that you can have together.

There are several trainers and behaviorists in our area who offer classes, and some individual instruction where needed. Contact us today for recommendations on the most appropriate trainer for your pet and your needs.

Although we recommend fecal testing on all pets on a yearly basis, please be sure to periodically test your social pet. A social dog is like being in a kindergarten classroom. They are bound to share all sorts of things that can be good *or* bad. Pets can have parasitic infection(s) while showing no signs of disease. Some parasites are zoonotic, which means they can be transmitted from pets to people.

We will let you know when your pet has been vaccinated sufficiently to start socializing but just let us know if you have any questions before you start your adventure!