

Wholistic Hound

Positive Training-Powerful Results

Primary Socialization Period Four-Sixteen Weeks of Age

Here's a schedule of how a puppy learns during this time:

- Between three to five weeks of age, puppies are just becoming aware of their surroundings, companions (dogs and people) and relationships, and beginning to learn how to play.
- Between four and six weeks of age, puppies are learning about being a dog through socializing with their littermates.
- From four to 12 weeks of age, puppies are most influenced by their littermates and people. They're also refining their play, social skills, inhibited bite, social structure/ranking and physical coordination.
- By five to seven weeks they're developing curiosity and exploring new places. They need positive experiences with people during this time.
- Between seven to nine weeks of age, they're further refining they're physical skills/coordination (including housetraining) and full use of senses.
- By eight to ten weeks of age, they experience real fear -- puppies can be alarmed by normal objects and experiences; they need positive training and socialization at this time.
- Between nine and 12 weeks they're refining reactions, social skills (appropriate interactions) with other dogs and are exploring the environment, spaces and objects. At this time they begin to focus on people. This is a good time to begin training.
- Around four months of age, they experience another fear stage. Inanimate objects that they ignored, such as vacuum cleaners, might suddenly become scary to them.