

SUPER DOGS ARE MADE NOT BORN

THE CRITICAL PERIODS ARE DIVIDED

INTO SEVERAL MAJOR TIME FRAMES FROM THE NEO-NATAL THROUGH MOST OF THE FIRST YEAR OF LIFE

IMPORTANT PERIODS

1ST —BIRTH TO 3 WEEKS

2ND —4TH WEEK

3RD —5-7 WEEKS

4TH —8-12 WEEKS

5TH —13 TO 16 WEEKS

JUVENILE 5TH TO 7TH MONTH

FIRST PERIOD

NEEDS: FOOD, SLEEP, WARMTH, MASSAGE. RESPONDS BY REFLEX, BENEFITS FROM CAREFUL HANDLING. ABOUT 10TH DAY EYES OPEN.

SECOND PERIOD

CRITICAL WEEK. PUP BECOMES AWARE OF ENVIRONMENT AND OCCURRENCES. RAPID DEVELOPMENT-CAN SEE, HEAR, SMELL, TASTE AND FEEL, INDICATES TRANSITION TO 2ND PERIOD WHEN “STARTLE” RESPONSE IS EVIDENT. SOCIALIZING WITH ADULTS, CHILDREN SHOULD BEGIN. STARTS TO LEARN AND BENEFITS FROM BEING TAUGHT SIMPLE EXERCISES

NEEDS FOOD, SLEEP, WARMTH, LITTER, MOTHER, AND LIMITED HUMAN CONTACT. UNALTERED ENVIRONMENT, DO NOT REMOVE FROM SIBLINGS, LEARNING TO BE DOGS. DO NOT WEAN SUDDENLY, TRANSITION MUST BE EASY. DO NOT PERMIT NEGATIVE EVENTS TO OCCUR.

THIRD PERIOD

NEEDS PERSONAL ATTENTION AWAY FROM LITTER, SLOWLY AND CONSISTENTLY. THREE SHORT PERIODS DAILY IS IDEAL. TEACHING AND SOCIALIZING SHOULD BE INTENSIFIED. HOUSETRAINING AND WEANING CAN BEGIN.

LEAVE WITH SIBLINGS, THEY ARE LEARNING GREETING, DOMINANCE, SUBMISSIVENESS AND PLAY GESTURES. DO NOT COMPLETELY REMOVE THE MOTHER OR YOU WILL BECOME THE SURROGATE MOTHER FOR CARE AND DISCIPLINE.

OPTIMUM LEARNING TIME IS 21 TO 49 DAYS OF AGE. THINGS TO DO IN THE OLT; LEAD BREAK, EXAMINE TEETH, TESTICLES, EARS, FEET; POSE, PILL

DOSING, FINGERS IN MOUTH, RETRIEVE, COME.

FOURTH PERIOD

THE BRAIN IS FULLY DEVELOPED

NEEDS SOCIALIZING WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. REMOVE FROM THE MOTHER OR ROTATE WITH SIBLINGS. DOMINANCE IS REINFORCED DURING THIS TIME. TRAINING SHOULD CONTINUE AND SOCIALIZING WITH OTHER DOGS IS IMPERATIVE. OPTIMUM TIME FOR LEARNING, GREAT RESPONSIVENESS.

AVOID FRIGHT OR PAIN DURING 8 – 12 WEEKS. FIRST FEAR PERIOD IS DURING THE 8TH WEEK. THE PUPPY WILL REMEMBER WHO/WHAT HURT IT AND AVOID IT FOREVER.

FIFTH PERIOD

NEEDS: TRAINING, FORMAL OBEDIENCE, LESS EXPOSURE TO DOGS. DOMINANCE AND FLIGHT INSTINCT IS MORE PROMINENT. FLIGHT PERIOD CAN COME AT ANYTIME BETWEEN 4 – 8 MONTHS OF AGE DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE BREED.

EMOTIONS ARE FIXED BY THE 16TH WEEK. IF TRAINING HAS NOT BEEN STARTED BY THE 16 WEEK, THE DOG WILL NEVER REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL.

NOTE PERMISSIVELY RAISED PUPPIES, UPON REACHING SEXUAL MATURITY, WILL TREAT OWNERS WITH COMPLETE INDIFFERENCE AND PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED OR DISCIPLINED, MAY REACT WITH AGGRESSIVE VIOLENCE.

JUVENILE

MAY SHOW FEAR OF NEW (EVEN OLD) SITUATIONS. ATTAINS SEXUAL MATURITY. DOMINANT TRAITS ARE ESTABLISHED.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS: THESE PERIODS REPRESENT AVERAGE TIME FRAMES FOR AN AVERAGE PUPPY. NOT ALL PUPPIES ARE THE SAME AND ONE MUST PROVIDE FOR INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES AS PUPPIES GO THROUGH EACH PERIOD

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