

Central Coast German Shepherds

Newsletter

Puppy Ears



Puppy Ears go up and down while teething. Please don't make a puppy selection based on if your puppy's ears are up or down or 1 up and 1 down or laying across the top of their head! Genetics do play a role in whether puppies' ears are soft and will stand or not. We have strong genetics and excellent success in our puppies ears standing! Quality nutrition will also support strong, healthy ears.

Smaller puppies will usually have their ears up first. Sometimes they will go back down when they start teething and sometimes they won't. If a puppy's ears have not gone up by 8 weeks of age it is usually because they are a larger puppy or they have popped up and fallen again while getting their puppy teeth in. Most puppies do not have their ears up by 8 weeks of age. Larger puppies

have heavier ears and their ears take longer to pop up. You may also see 1 ear up and 1 ear down, this is normal. Sometimes you will see an ear laying completely flat across the top of the head. Ears like this are very strong at the base and totally normal. Once teething is over they will stand straight up. Puppies will start teething again somewhere around 5 months of age. Be sure to provide plenty of teething toys that they can chew on that will also strengthen the muscles at the base of the ears. Kissing or whistling to your puppy to alert your puppy will also cause him to use the muscles that help to strengthen the ears. You will notice at different times when your puppy is excited his ears are tighter at the base, this is good exercise for your puppy's ears.

Don't be afraid to play with your puppies ears! Some people say playing with the ears will affect whether or not they will stand. We play and handle our puppies ears all the time! Ears are made of cartilage. Playing with the puppies ears by gentle massage helps them to relax and trust you for when you need to look into their ears to clean their ears. We have not seen any puppies ears not stand because you massage and handle their soft ears.

If your puppy is 5 months old and his ears are not standing, give us a call so we can see if we need to provide some simple assistance by taping. Ear infections or injury can cause ears not to stand. If they have been up and then fell back down, don't worry, they will go back up! It is rare for our puppies ears not to stand but, let us know so we can monitor his ears to be sure they stand if your puppies ears are not standing by 5 months of age.

Enjoy the crazy ups and down times and oversized ears during puppy hood. Take lots of photos because this stage doesn't last long! Let us know if you have any questions in the meantime. Thank you.

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