

Newsletter

We're on our way home...Now what?



INTRODUCING YOUR NEW PUPPY TO YOUR FAMILY: Your puppy has been well socialized up to this time. He has been raised in our home and handled by our children and family. But, there is a lot more socialization you need to do. We expose our puppies to concrete, rocks, grass, dirt, tile, wood, vinyl and carpeted floors. They climb dirt piles and over rocks and sticks. They have been bathed several times and blow dried. They get their nails trimmed weekly and we play and push gently between the pads of their feet. We roll them onto their backs while talking to them and rubbing their bellies which

is a submissive action. Socializing includes introducing your puppy to anything new! He's off to a great start and it's your job to continue on where we left off. Socialization is about teaching your puppy that his ENVIRONMENT is Safe, PEOPLE are Safe and other ANIMALS and Dogs are safe. Puppies that are not properly socialized typically develop fear aggression. Fear aggression is much harder to retrain than to teach initially that his environment is safe, people are safe and other animals are safe! **Fear Aggression is the number 1 reason why people give up on their dogs** and dump them! Get out and socialize your puppy! Fear aggression is most often developed because of LACK OF SOCIALIZATION. You hear me talk about socialization a lot. That's because in my opinion it is the number 1 most important thing you can do for the happiness and wellbeing of you and your new puppy. Use our Checklist. Get Creative. At 6 weeks of age I see a puppy tilt his head in the yard. He hears a new sound and at first he looks up a bit and then at me with a question in his eyes. It is a Bird. Wow, we take it for granted that a bird won't hurt a puppy but, he needs to learn that! I watch him, listen, smile, and we go onto the next exploration. I have seen adult dogs that won't go out in the rain! That's because it doesn't rain here much and if they don't get exposed when a puppy, they may not want to go in the rain as an adult.....even to go potty!

Boredom is Second reason people give up their animals because they become destructive and the owners don't know why! German Shepherds are social animals. Even when you have multiple dogs a German Shepherd will not be happy just living in your yard. They will develop anxiety over time as a result and become destructive and vocal (Bark, Bark, Bark). Take time to spend time with your puppy. He is part of your life, part of your family. It's amazing what a short walk daily or throwing a ball for your puppy will do for their mental and physical health. Don't expect them to go out and play with themselves. They will find things to do and likely you won't be pleased.

You must be able to commit to training your puppy. German Shepherds are very intelligent and need to stay mentally stimulated to stay healthy. **They need to go to a Puppy Class (starts after your puppies 2nd Vaccination) and Basic Obedience AT A MINIMUM!** The Puppy class is for continued socialization primarily, the Basic Obedience teaches your puppy the basics and more importantly teaches YOU how to train your puppy and yes, it continues your socialization of your puppy to new environments, new people and new dogs.

German Shepherds need a job. Whether that is just to be by your side to keep you on your daily walks to keep you exercising or watching over your little ones, they need a job and will be much happier in life if you give them one. German Shepherds were bred as herding dogs. Don't be surprised if you notice them pacing around your children. They are herding them, watching over their flocks!

If you have children in the home you will need to teach your children that this puppy is a baby and will need to be handled gently and **need plenty of quiet time to sleep**. Puppies play for 40-45 minutes and then sleep for 2 -3 hours! Then they wake up, potty, eat and play for 40-45 minutes and sleep for 2-3 hours and repeat. Many kids are very excited about their new puppy and they show their puppy so much attention when they first get it and then the attention drops off after a couple weeks. Limiting the time of play can help keep the attention more stable therefore eliminating possible problems down the road of lack of attention or separation anxiety when your daily life gets back to normal.

If you have other animals in the home, place your puppy in his crate, in the same room as your other animals and under supervision, let them adjust to each other through the crate. This takes time! If you have a cat do not let your puppy loose to chase it or he might end up having it for lunch when he

gets big. You must socialize your puppy with your Kitty, Bird or whatever other animals you have, or don't have for that matter. You need to assure your puppy that those animals belong in your home and they are not a play toy. Once upgrading from out of the crate when they have both or all relaxed then keep your puppy on a leash to do close up socializing. ALWAYS retain control of the puppy!! I can't stress this enough. Letting your puppy run free in your house or yard is NOT retaining control. If you have control he will learn faster with positive reinforcement. If this is done right your puppy will accept the other pets in your home. Don't expect this to happen overnight! It takes time. If you don't take the time to do this, your puppy may go into a prey drive and the outcome can be disastrous. WATCH the LEERBURG Videos on Puppy Management in your home. You can sign up for the Videos right from our website and the "How we Manage Puppies In our Home Video Series is only \$10.00! It's the best \$10.00 you will ever spend.

Your puppy needs lots of rest, remember he is just a baby. Be sure to allow a quiet place for your puppy to sleep after playing. If you do not allow your puppy time to rest, he may start to get irritated with you from being over tired. Just think about how easily you get irritated when you are overtired!

Don't go looking or touching other puppies that you can't confirm have had all their vaccinations (age appropriate) until your puppy has had all of his vaccinations. Deadly diseases can be carried home on the bottom of your shoes! You must continue to socialize your puppy. I have to question if the risk of contracting disease by taking him out while young outweighs the socialization needed. I feel very strong about the need for lots and lots of socialization to have a well balanced puppy as he gets older. Just take precaution. Don't take your puppy to places that you know people take sick dogs and puppies. Stay away from the veterinary office if at all possible and if you do need to go, take the additional precautionary actions as recommended below. WE still can't guarantee that your puppy won't pick up

a disease, even when fully vaccinated, but your risk can be greatly reduced. When you take your puppy home he will have at least one vaccination and have been dewormed 3 times. Your puppy could become sick very easily until he has had all of his vaccinations. **Public places such as parks, pet stores, and veterinary offices are great examples of places where you could pick up a deadly illness for your puppy.** If you must go to the vet, take your puppy in a crate. Ask your vet if they have had any recent Parvo BEFORE you go. Do not let everyone handle him and bring a towel from home to place on the table to put your puppy on. Disinfect the towel when you get home. If your Vet appears offended, just explain that you are trying to be really careful after all, you don't know what animal was in that room before you walked in and people bring sick animals to the Vet. I don't know about you but I have walked into vet offices and found hairballs in the room and have had to ask the staff to clean the table better. These are simply precautions and are not guarantees.

PLEASE continue to socialize your puppy! A puppy class is a great way to do this. We have done the groundwork for your puppy but you must continue to expose him to as many people and things, noises etc. to reduce potential social and development issues as he ages. Adolescent aggression is generally caused by the lack of continual socialization as a young puppy. YOU MUST continue to socialize your puppy, ESPECIALLY between the age of 8-16 weeks to have a well balanced adult dog.

Going to a new home and leaving the environment that your puppy is accustomed to can be very stressful for a young puppy. Be sure you keep up on his **NUVet Plus and NuVet Joint**. These supplements will help keep the gut healthy during this stressful time and keep his joints healthy.

Did you know that most puppies go through a natural fear stage at or about 8 weeks old? Add to that by taking them away from their mother and littermates, out of the environment that they are used to, at the same time.

You can help make the transition to his new home a little less stressful by assuring him he is safe in his new environment! Whining and crying is a sign of stress. Yawning and licking his lips is another sign of stress. Your first night will be a little difficult with your new puppy. By the second night you will have less crying and he should be settled in quite well. Remember, when you bring a new puppy into your home, it is like having a new baby. DO NOT Reward your puppy by taking him out of his crate if he's crying. As long as he has been fed, had water, been out to potty, let him settle himself. Rewarding him will just encourage bad behavior. It's o.k. to occasionally tell him "you're o.k." but, better to praise and reward when he's quiet. That is hard to do sometimes. We naturally don't communicate when they are being quiet, we communicate when they are crying! Try it and see how it works both ways. Praise while crying causes more crying.

Please be sure to have your Puppies Food AND NuVet Supplements at home PRIOR to bringing your puppy home. Your puppy will be eating Life's Abundance All Stages Dog Food when you pick him up. You can also feed the Life's Abundance Puppy food which is slightly higher in protein. Refer to the Feeding Page on this website for the importance of Feeding a quality food to your German Shepherd. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the recommended feeding products.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Central Coast German Shepherds

805-203-0318

