

PUPPY DEVELOPMENT

0-2 WEEKS= NEONATAL

- Most influenced by their mother
- Touch and taste present at birth

2-4 WEEKS= TRANSITIONAL

- Most influenced by their mother and littermates.
- Eyes open, teeth erupt, hearing and smell developing
- Beginning to stand, walk a little, wag, bark.
- By four or five weeks, sight is well-developed.

3-12 WEEKS=SOCIALIZATION

- During this period, puppies need opportunities to meet other dogs and people
- 4-6 weeks they're most influenced by their littermates and are learning about being a dog
- 4-12 weeks they're most influenced by their littermates and people. They're also learning to play, including social skills, inhibited bite, social structure/ranking and physical coordination.
- 3-5 weeks they're becoming aware of their surroundings, companions and relationships, including play.
- 5-7 weeks they're developing curiosity and exploring new experiences. They need positive "people: experiences during this time.
- 7-9 weeks they're refining their physical skills/coordination including housetraining and full use of senses.
- 9-12 weeks they're refining reactions, social skills and appropriate interactions with littermates and are exploring the environment, spaces and objects. Beginning to focus on people. This is a good time to begin training.

3-6 MONTHS=RANKING

- Most influenced by "littermates" (playmates now include those of other species).
- Beginning to see and use ranking (dominant and submissive) within the pack, including humans
- Teething
- At four months they experience another fear stage

6-18 MONTHS + ADOLESCENCE

- Most influenced by human and dog "pack" members
- At 7-9 months they go through a second chewing phase-part of exploring territory
- Heightened exploration of dominance, including challenging humans
- If not spayed/neutered, beginnings of sexual behavior

