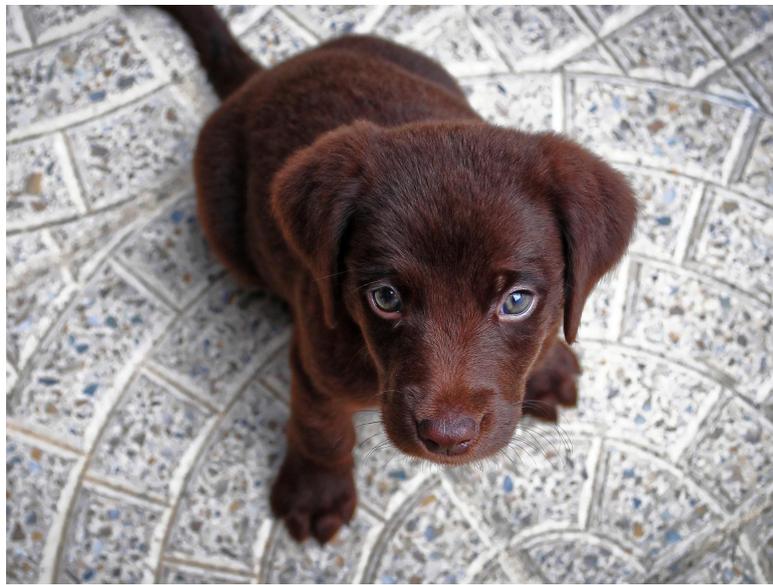


# PUPPY DEVELOPMENT STAGES BY WEEK



## Puppy Development Stages By Week

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Thanks so much for requesting downloading this PDF.

This is some helpful information about how puppies learn right from being born and the key training times for a puppy to help shape their future behaviour.

I am giving away this PDF ahead of my book “Step By Step Guide To Train Your Puppy From 8 weeks” being releases as I know it will help many future puppy owners take the right steps towards training their new puppy.

I have never given any content away for free before, but I feel strongly about giving a puppy the right start in life, so I put together this PDF.

I can't wait to hear your thoughts after you read the PDF and hopefully use the information learnt to good effect with your next puppy.

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## **What Owners Need To Know**

The more a dog owner knows about these key points before a puppy comes into their home the better.

Hopefully then the education and training needed at an early age will be put into place to give a puppy a better chance of being a happy confident dog when it is older.

Within this PDF you will find out how important it is to understand the learning process of a puppy and how it adapts to life.

A more educated owner, hopefully creates a happier confident dog in the future.

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# Newly Born Puppy

Right from a puppy being born they need special attention from their mother. The first two weeks of a puppies' life is called the neonatal stage.

Being a newly born puppy it is reliant on their mother for feeding them and being cared for right from the start. This is because it is unable to move around due to being unable to support its weight until it is stronger.

The nutrition will come from the mother's milk when feeding at this time.

A puppy is unable to see and their hearing is not that good either, and so they will stay close to their mother spending a lot of the time sleeping and as well as staying close to the other puppies, to keep safe.

Keeping close also provides warmth and comfort as their body cannot regulate their temperature.

Within this period, they cannot control their bodily functions either and will just toilet at random times or through the mother licking the puppies' genitals to stimulate the puppy to toilet.

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## Two To Four Weeks

This is a transitional time for puppies' where their eyes and ears start to function and they are starting to become more mobile.

A puppy will start responding more to noises that are going on around them.

Bodily functions now start to be more controlled than what they were previously and will urinate and defecate on their own without their mother stimulating the action.

Due to their senses starting to function and starting to become more mobile, they start to interact more with other littermates.

In the middle of this period, at around 3 weeks of age. A puppy will start teething and signs of the baby teeth will come through into the mouth.

Now a puppy will start eating solid food too around this point and the mother will start weaning the puppy off as its baby teeth (Deciduous teeth) come through and she can feel the new teeth nipping her.

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## Five To Seven Weeks

This is a valuable time for a puppy. Their senses are fully open; they have their baby teeth and they are interacting with other littermates and the mother and learning how to be a dog.

It is also a great time to be handled by humans to help get them ready for the future. This period of time that a puppy learns is called the primary socialisation period.

It starts around three weeks of age until twelve weeks of age, though the key time of this is around six to eight weeks in this timeline.

The reason for this is that the puppy is having interactions with all its other littermates and its mother and it is learning to bite, show different postures towards littermates and learn communication skills.

They learn to chase and bark at each other, but mainly it is learning how to act. Now, they can learn from positive and negative experiences in this time that will shape their future behaviour.

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## Eight To Twelve Weeks

This is such a crucial time for a new puppy.

At 8 weeks of age latest, it needs to leave the other puppies and mother and start its journey with its new human family.

It has learnt as much as it needs over the last few weeks and now it is time to move on.

Why?

Because, the puppy is now coming into a human socialisation period. Learning at this time is now permanent due to also being in a fear period too.

The first fear period in a dog starts around 8 weeks to 11 weeks and can have a significant impact on a dog. Anything scary or traumatic can impact a dog and have a lasting effect on it.

Also, this time coincides with leaving the other puppies, and the taking in of new experiences which could be unpleasant until the puppy adapts and learns how to cope with them.

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Unpleasant experiences at the beginning could be sounds, people handling the puppy, vet visits etc.

The important thing is we need to keep the puppy happy and positive in these situations, especially ones that might unnerve it so that it copes and handles any new situations that it encounters.

This is a great time to meet people as they need to bond quickly with the human household and its new family.

Ideally in this window of opportunity, before the human socialisation period finishes at twelve weeks, it is ideal to meet at least one hundred new strangers in that time to help cement positive interactions with humans to help set the puppy up for success.

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## Twelve To Eighteen Weeks

This a key time in a puppies' life. This is because all the learning they have done in this short space of time is helping them shape their future self.

Once a puppy gets to around sixteen to eighteen weeks of its life then learning is reduced. I am not saying that cannot learn in the future, they can and will. But the brain is nearly fully formed so the more your dog encounters early on in a safe controlled manner the better.

This is also a key time for helping a dog meet loads of dogs too. The more dogs a puppy meets through good socialising at this time will help it when it is older.

If a puppy has a lack of socialisation at this point with other dogs or has bad experiences, then it may be anxious in the future or have poor communication skills due to what happens around this time of learning.

In this period puppies need to be discouraged from mouthing and biting our hands and body. They need to learn that teeth touching our skin is not what we like.

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Yes, they may have done it to other dogs previously, but now they must learn that biting is not allowed. This can be done through various positive methods to help the puppy learn right from wrong.

It so important to have this completed soft mouth training within four to six weeks of a puppy coming into the new puppy dog owners home.





## Twenty Weeks

Welcome teenager!

Around twenty weeks of a mentally wise a puppy turns into an adolescent dog. Yes, they are still growing and the adult teeth have started to come through, but mentally wise the puppy has now turned into a teenager.

Now dogs need continued training and guidance to help shape their future behaviours.

You need to keep going to new places, meeting people and dogs in a courteous friendly calm manner.

You may find that the adolescent dog starts to play up more and not listen to commands and push boundaries a little as the hormonal changes take place.

The dog will be having tooth ache and needs things to chew on while its new teeth come through and may want to chew on other things too.

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## Six To Fourteen Months

Now the dog has had a lot going on with growth spurts, new adult teeth coming through. Though there not going to be settled into the jaw for a while, so it will want to chew on things.

Plus, the adolescent changes will add to the mix too. So, the dog needs clear calm relaxed guidance and training to keep it going in the right direction to help shape a great future dog, so it is being set up for success.

Some owner may take their foot of the gas training wise at six months. Some, start now, instead of at eight weeks, when it was needed.

Either way, a dog then goes into another fear period between six and fourteen months.

In this timeframe, a dog can struggle in certain circumstances and this could be down to going through a growth spurt and going through sexual maturity.

A dog may react more defensively in this time. It may start to bark or lunge or pull on the lead when it hasn't previously. It may stop listening to the owner when out.

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These can be down to new fears developed towards new and even common situations that it has encountered before.

What needs to be in this period is carry on socialising and working through conditioning the dog in a positive manner without getting frustrated or worked up, as the dog needs guidance and positive associations at this critical time.

Never force a dog to do something it doesn't like or fears doing. If it develops a fear now, working through it by making the experience a positive one will definitely help.

If you can't, or are unsure how to work through it, contact a professional for help.

Going through a fear period is about keeping a dog's confidence high and dealing with anything that crops up in positive way so that the dog doesn't get effected by what happened.





## Final Phase

Around fourteen months of age you will notice that a dog is fully grown by then and shouldn't get any bigger.

Then, dependant on the breed and size of dog they will become an adult around eighteen months up to around three years of age.

So, an extra small breed could turn into an adult around eighteen months to two years and a giant breed can be anything around two and half to three years' age for turning into an adult dog.

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