

Handling Your Puppy

Socialization for your puppy is more than just people and animals. There is a physical aspect as well. You need to accustom your puppy to being handled or restrained in many different ways. This will teach the puppy that being handled is not a negative action and to be comfortable while being held.

By handling your puppy from a very early age in the highly sensitive zones like the muzzle, ears, paws, in the most gentlest way will prepare him to accept those touches without creating a defensive reaction. Make sure that you even include your puppy's collar in the handling. If your puppy is not used to being handled by the collar it could cause hand shyness, which may cause the puppy to be defensive if ever it should be unexpectedly grabbed.

Physical touch and handling creates many benefits for your puppy, you and other people. It will make veterinary examinations, training, grooming, regular bathing, and nail trimming very easy for your puppy with less stress. Gentle handling can lead to accepting restraint when needed and will also create trust between you and your puppy if done in a positive way. **Reward your puppy with each new touch.** Cuddling with your puppy not only makes you feel good but it can also teach your puppy when it is time to be quiet and calm when he is excited or when you temporarily stop a play session.

In the end, the more handling your puppy has, first by you, and then once it is comfortable, with other people the better the chance that it will have a low defensive reaction should it ever be handled inappropriately.

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