

Humane Society Elkhart County HSECFosters@elkharthumanesociety.org

Various Online Tutorial:

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Preparing for a foster puppy



How to bottle feed and stimulate to go to the bathroom



Weaning from milk to puppy mush



Crate Training tips

Puppy Feeding

• How Often Should I feed my foster puppy/ puppies?



1-2 Weeks old Feed Puppy Milk Replacer Feed every 2-3 hours

3-4 Weeks Old

Feed puppy Milk Replacer and a mix of wet puppy food (mush)
Feed every 4 hours

5-6 Weeks Old

Feed a Mix of dry puppy food and wet puppy food. Feed every 6 hours or when they seem hungry.

7-8 weeks old

Feed Wet puppy food and Dry puppy food Allow access to dry food at all times.



Everything you need to know about fostering puppies!

Socialization

Between the ages of 3-13 weeks, puppies are forming bonds towards people, dogs and other animals which will last them a lifetime. Puppies who are not exposed to and/or do not have good experiences with other people, dogs, and other animals during this period can end up with fear and aggression problems later on.

As much as possible (while keeping the puppies safety in mind), get the puppies around all kinds of people--Including children, big, uniformed men, etc. and make sure they have good experiences (play, petting, and treats).

It is also a good idea to expose the puppies to cats to maximize their chances of growing up to like cats.

• Sights and Sounds

Puppies are cataloguing other things in their environment besides people and animals. Make sure they see and hear common household things like the vacuum cleaner, tv, etc. Reward puppy with treats every time they come into contact with something new so they have a positive association with these experiences.



• Handling

Handle the puppy ALL THE TIME! Touch them all over their body play with their feet, hug them, brush them and give them treats while you do this so they learn to love it.

Offer multiple toys, chew items, and feeding stations to reduce the competition and the need to guard.

Teach your puppy to willingly give up an item by offering a higher value treat in exchange.

Always use positive reinforcement techniques like praise and treats when the puppy readily gives up an item.

Never try to forcefully take a toy or food from your puppy while they are eating or playing.

Puppies are programmed to bite. In a litter of puppies they bite each other continuously. But, when one puppy bites the other too hard, the bitten puppy will yelp and stop playing. This is how dogs learn to inhibit the force of their bite.

Probably one of the most important things we can begin to teach puppies in our care is to have a soft mouth...if a puppy is never allowed to mouth from the very beginning, he will grow up to have a rude/hard mouth.

When you are handling a puppy or playing with him, as soon as you feel a hard bite, dramatically yelp "OUCH!!" in a high pitched voice. If the puppy pulls back, begins to lick or stops biting, immediately praise and continue playing. If he does not immediately stop biting hard, turn your back and do not look at the puppy. Just before you turn your back, make it a big deal—"OKAY THAT'S IT! I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE!" After just 5-10 seconds, resume interacting with the pup. Go back to them talking in your happiest, giggliest voice.

The important thing is that the puppy learns that there is an immediate consequence for hard bites. Repeat several times, as needed, until you notice a marked difference in the pressure of the bites.

ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND IT'S THE HARD BITES WE WANT TO DISCOURAGE—NOT THE PUPPY'S PLAYFULNESS OR LOVE OF PEOPLE AND LIFE!

You can practice mouthing exercises. Feed the puppy kibble or tiny treats one by one, releasing only for gentle takes. If he takes it hard, say "OUCH!!" and withdraw the food. Say "gentle" and offer them a treat. Do this over and over until they begin to learn that a gentle mouth will earn them a treat.

Fear Periods

Fear periods are a normal part of puppy development, but they can also be overwhelming for puppies. During fear periods, puppies become more sensitive and aware of the world around them. Your puppy will experience two fear periods, both of which are a normal evolutionary part of your puppies development.

No amount of socialization can prevent them, but you can help your puppy to work through them and come out the other side more confident.

If your puppy suddenly develops a fear about someone or something it can be tempting to try and force your puppy to get closer to see that it isn't scary. This approach is far more likely to backfire and create a bigger and possibly long lasting fear.



. Don't force your puppy to engage in things that scare them. Instead give them the space to explore and choose to engage at their comfort level.

Reward them with treats. Remember, your puppy is taking in an overwhelming amount of information about the world. They are looking to us for reassurance and guidance.



All you need is LOVE to save a life.