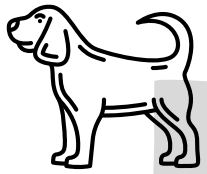


# Stages of Development

Puppies go through multiple stages of development, both physical and mental. Understanding what your puppy is experiencing can better help you handle issues which may arise.



## 8-16 WEEKS

Between 8-10 weeks is the ideal time for a puppy to go to their new home. It is an excellent age for forming strong bonds with humans. During this time, your puppy may go through their first "fear period". It is important for your puppy to have as many positive experiences as possible with people, other animals, new locations and strange items. From 10-16 weeks is the ideal time to sign up for puppy classes!

## 0-7 WEEKS

Your puppy goes through so much during this time. They learn how to behave appropriately with other dogs through interactions with their mother and siblings. This is the time when they learn bite inhibition, how to play appropriately with others and all of the dog social standards of interacting with each other.

## 6-10 MONTHS

This can be a difficult period for your dog. During this time, your dog needs companionship and high amounts of activity while their tolerance for boredom is low. Keep your young dog entertained and make sure that you give them ample opportunities to socialize with other dogs, people and especially new locations. During this time, your dog will experience their second "fear period".

## 4-6 MONTHS

This is the pre-adolescent period in which your puppy will begin to increase their confidence and independence. They will begin to wander out of curiosity about the world. Continue with training classes and take your puppy as many new places as possible!

## 12-18 MONTHS

During this period your dog will reach emotional maturity. Small breeds will mature faster than large dogs. Your dog will have their habits solidly formed by this point.

