

*Promoting well conformed,  
healthy purebred show dogs and  
well adjusted family members*

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Frenchies are in very short supply at the moment due to the extremely high level of demand.

Contact a few reputable breeders to find out when their next litters are available. Breeders will want to get to know you and you need to find a breeder who will give you advice and backup should problems arise and who you feel comfortable with.

You will need to be careful to ask questions and a few things to keep in mind are:

- Don't pay more than \$4000
- Ask to see xray results of spine and hips
- Ask to see at least one parent
- Where and how the dogs are kept and bred
- Don't pay deposits, at least until puppies are 3 - 4 wks old and/or you have been for a visit.
- Puppies should come vaccinated and microchipped.
- Be wary if breeders won't allow you to view their dogs at home.
- Breeders should not charge more for any particular colour or sex, they are all Frenchies. Ask to see at least the mother. Also ask to see where the puppies are raised. Do not meet breeders at an arranged venue, this should ring alarm bells.
- Ask what health testing has been done on parents

Advertised "Rare" colours are non-acceptable colours, they are dilute and recessive genes that should not be bred for. They are being bred by unscrupulous people who are "ripping" the public off by charging exorbitant prices. By breeding solely for these rare colours, there is a strong risk that the genes for such complaints as: Alopecia, deafness, cardiac problems will be displayed at a far higher incidence than when these dilute and recessive coloured puppies occurred from a normal reputable and health tested breeding program. It has to be understood that these colours have an extremely narrow historic genetic base within the total French Bulldog Gene Pool. Also "Merle" actually represents a cross bred as the colour does not naturally occur.

Some Frenchies are not great apartment dogs and many are not couch potatoes as some articles on the internet tell you. Some are fine in apartments but it would be up to the breeder to ascertain which ones may suit apartment living. Most are very active, the females can be naughtier than the males, if left alone they can get very destructive. It is preferred that adoptees have someone at home most of the time, or can leave the puppy in Day Care or with someone familiar with flat faced breeds and their **special needs**.

Frenchies are very possessive and also obsessive, being very clever dogs, they are very inventive and will look for mischief if left to their own devices for long periods of time, sometimes to the detriment of their own well being, or your furniture, anything timber, TV controls, shoes, etc.

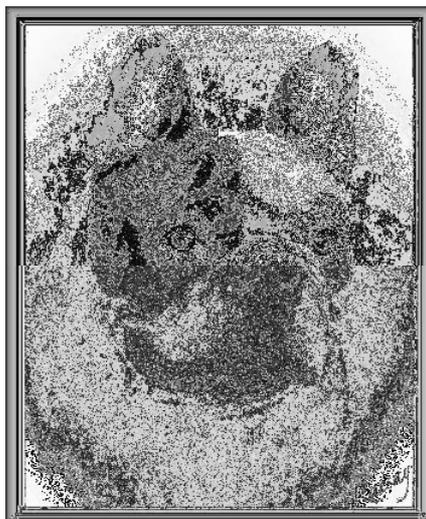
Frenchies are very endearing and love to be as close to you as they can get. But, they do have potential health issues, so you not only need the price of the puppy, you possibly could also need enough money to pay high veterinary costs if things go wrong.

As you are probably finding out, it is very difficult to find a Frenchy from a reputable breeder at present. Most reputable breeders only breed once or twice a year as they are very time consuming, difficult and expensive puppies to breed and rear, with health testing, DNA testing, registering with Council and the state ANKC organisation.

We are getting reports of some pretty horrendous health issues and no back up from the breeders, so be very careful and be patient until you find someone who is reputable and you feel very comfortable with ... it is well worth the wait. Nobody can guarantee that there are no health issues in their lines, but the reputable breeders will give backup and advice for the life of the dog. The puppy farmers will tell you they do, but when it comes to the crunch, they duck for cover and will not want to know you. It is strongly advised that you take out Health Insurance.

You need to find a breeder that you feel very comfortable with so you can go to them to discuss anything that may go wrong with your puppy.

If you need any further advice, please phone The Secretary, Jacqui Webb, President: Frank Huckstepp, or either of our Vice Presidents.



# **THE FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB OF VICTORIA**

recommends that before you buy your puppy you read the Club's Brochure thoroughly.

Buying a puppy is a lifetime commitment for the dog and you need to be fully aware of the breed's characteristics, temperament, needs and suitability for your lifestyle.

It is essential that you buy a healthy puppy who has been properly reared and socialised.

This flyer aims to help and guide you to find that puppy.

Adult Frenchies ideally should weigh 10 – 12 kgs females, 11 – 13 kgs for males.

**Registerable colours are:** Brindle, Fawn, Pied

**Regular Grooming** should be at least weekly, with a rubber grooming brush, then a soft bristle brush. Nose Roll and ears should be cleaned out regularly to avoid infection.

**Eyes** can be bathed with luke warm black tea, cod liver or castor oil regularly.

**Temperament** should be happy, outgoing, active. Frenchies love children and human companionship, they do not fare well if left alone for long periods of time.

# **... PSSST !! ... You want a Frenchie?**

***“FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES FOR SALE  
CHAMPION LINES  
RARE BLUE FAWN  
Ready to go in two weeks  
\$6,000— \$25,000 Registered Breeder”***

Hi, I'm enquiring about the French Bulldog puppies you have for sale.

**What do you want to know?**

I'm looking for a female pup with papers.

**I've got 2 females although the blue fawn is \$6,000 be-cause they are very rare. They both have papers so you can breed later on.**

Are the parents health tested?

**Yes, the vet checked the mother when she was in whelp and the father has sired 6 litters with no problems at all.**

No—I mean have the parents been X rayed for hips and spines and are they good breathers?

**Why would we want to do that, they all run around just fine and obviously they are all breathing good (laughs).**

Do you show your dogs and how many champions have you bred?

**Can't be bothered with all that, its just a beauty pageant anyway. All my dogs would be champions if I wanted them to be. There are champions in the pedigree some-where.**

Do you belong to the French Bulldog Club of Victoria (or some other state)?

**Oh no—they are very clicky, they only use each others dogs and they have to do all that health testing because all their dogs have problems. I'm a registered breeder with Dogs Victoria.**

Can I come and see the puppies?

**No problem. We are renovating at the moment but I can meet you in the car park at McDonalds with the 2 females. By the way if you want a puppy you will have to leave a 50% deposit, cash not cheque and this is non refundable if you change your mind.**

What about seeing the parents?

**I'll bring photos. Does the French Bulldog have any health issues I should know about? Definitely not, they are the healthiest breed around—see you in the car park at Maccas at 2 o'clock.**

*6 months later*

Hi—I bought a Frenchie from you and I'm having a few problems.

**I will take the puppy back and refund SOME of your money, the puppy will be euthanased.**

But I don't want to give the puppy back, my family and the children all adore the puppy. Would you refund the purchase price or an agreed percentage and allow us to keep the puppy, we would then pay for all ongoing costs.

**If you won't give the puppy back, you're on your own, too bad and no refunds!!!**

**MAKE SURE YOU FIND A BREEDER YOU FEEL AT HOME AND COMFORTABLE WITH. THEY WILL GIVE YOU LIFETIME ADVICE AND BACKUP FOR YOUR FRENCHY.**

# **THE FRENCH BULLDOG – ITS OVERALL HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROBLEMS**

## **GENERAL**

The French Bulldog, is on the whole, a fairly sound dog with a few structural problems that need to be noted and that breeders need to be aware of. Being a brachycephalic breed that is fairly short and compact with a screw tail, the “Frenchy” is prone to the associated problems these conformational characteristics will bring.

**Body** - While small in size, the Frenchy is incredibly solid for its height and weight, which to the uninitiated, can be very deceptive. The breed is a miniature mollosoid (mastiff), in that a large head and solid body is called for. The height at the shoulder relative to the bone and muscle weight ratio is phenomenal when comparing this breed to almost any other. Males ideally should weigh around 12kgs, bitches around 10kg.

Despite their small stature, the strength of the Frenchy holds it in very good stead. The strength of bone and generally good ligament strength makes them quite a hardy breed, unlikely to break bones or injure themselves, even though they play fairly hard. Launching off beds and chairs even while quite young, rarely causes any damage – only heart attacks to the owners!

The French Bulldog is also incredibly agile on the whole, able to spring up onto sofas, chairs, lounges, beds etc in a single bound – usually without having to back off and take a run at it. In play, they often jump up in mid air, turn 180 degrees and come down facing the other direction. Chasing and playing with bigger dogs is no problem. As they are fairly easy going, they don't generally start fights, but are quite willing to give an opinion on whom they are backing and will line up in support.

When lifting this breed, one should be careful to shift the majority of the lift to just behind the shoulders due to the front-heavy head and chest of the breed. As they trust you totally, they are very good at throwing themselves forwards in your arms – be prepared and have them securely held at all times.

**Temperament** - The breed was developed to be a comical and affectionate companion – whether you wish to put affection before the humour is your decision! These are incredibly easy going dogs and are very easy to live with, once the stubborn little darlings are fully house trained! They are easily spoiled rotten and are good natured enough to deal with this very well, and take it as their due. This should not however, extend to you being unable to hold them for an ear clean or nail cut – some discipline is needed, and you will need to be firm at these times – teach them early or it won't sink in.

**Lifespan** - The Frenchy is on the whole, a reasonably healthy breed and lives between 12-16 years of age, and usually has a good old age with minimal diseases.

## **BREED PROBLEMS/CONDITIONS**

### **BIRTH DEFECTS/ CONGENITAL DEFORMITIES**

**Cleft palate/hare lips** - The combination of brachycephalic head, short body and screw tailed nature of the breed makes the incidence of midline defects more frequent. Cleft palates and hare lips are the most common defect seen. Anasarca (walrus/fluid) puppies are seen but are infrequent, the incidence of Spina Bifida is very low. Breeders often supplement the bitch

during pregnancy with extra folic acid (Vitamin B6) and zinc to reduce the chance of having any midline defect affected puppies.

**Hemivertebrae** – various congenital abnormalities of the vertebrae are seen in short backed brachycephalic screw tailed breeds. These are more commonly seen affecting the thoracic (chest) vertebrae and generally do not result in severe spinal cord deviation or narrowing, nor appear to be a cause of major problems in later life.

The defects in the lumbar area where there is a definite kinking or twisting on the spine, these defects are much more likely to have detrimental effects on the caudal spinal cord of the puppy as it develops.

Excessively short bodied puppies tend to have more defects of the spine than the longer bodied puppy. Severe deviations as a result of the hemivertebrae will cause problems, but these are of relatively low incidence. Where they occur, these individuals should ideally not be bred from.

**Ideally**, one would be advised to X ray the spines of French Bulldogs prior to breeding to at least know what level of hemivertebrae is present and to screen out those dogs with severe defects. Puppies can be checked from a young age (6-8 weeks ) if a severe defect is suspected. For breeding purposes, an X ray around 12-15 months would be a good time to check the dogs – need a lateral view and a DV view (down through the middle - one can usually get the hips on the same view if needed) to get a clear picture.

## **BONE DISORDERS**

**Hip Dysplasia** – the breed is generally fairly sound in this area if the ligaments are tight. If concerned, screen hips prior to breeding (over 12 months). Excessively loose and or shallow hips should ideally not be bred from.

**Knees/Stifles** - generally very sound, some cases of slipping patellas – not very common, seen more frequently in combination with very straight stifles and loose ligaments.

**Back problems** – not uncommon in the older Frenchie (5-6 years and up). This is most commonly as the result of intervertebral disc problems, which can cause hindquarter paresis (incoordination, scraping of the hindfeet), to severe cases where the hindquarters are totally paralysed. X rays are usually required and most respond well to ongoing anti-inflammatory treatment. There is a suspected inherited component to this problem in the breed. Most dogs respond well to rest and arthritis medication without requiring surgery.

**Spondylitis** – not uncommon to see degenerative changes along the spines of the older dogs. These respond well to treatment.

## **BRACHYCEPHALIC AIRWAY SYNDROME**

This is a syndrome with a combination of a long soft palate, narrow nostrils, everted laryngeal sacculles and under development and narrowing of the trachea. The most common finding in all cases is the long soft palate.

**Signs** of respiratory distress, very noisy breathing, decreased exercise tolerance and heavy snoring are all common symptoms. Warm/hot/humid conditions, increased weight, exercise, excitement, allergic reactions - all of these are added risk factors that can result in severe respiratory distress and possibly death if not treated.

**Treatment** of affected dogs usually involves removing part of the soft palate, allowing a freer passage of air into the lungs. This operation will usually improve the airway flow by at least 60%, care should still be given with these dogs in regards to weight, exercise, hot weather etc.

The percentage of French Bulldogs affected with this condition varies according to the bloodlines involved. Overall percentage seen that are severely affected would in my estimation be around 10%. The majority of the severe cases are seen under 1-2 years of age. The odd older dog that is diagnosed as having significant obstruction of the airways often was marginally affected as a youngster and may have developed secondary problems such as obesity and/or hypothyroidism (which can also cause obesity).

Severely affected dogs should be surgically corrected and ideally, not bred from. If used, it should only be to sound partners with no history of problems themselves and preferably where the parents are also sound.

### **MANAGEMENT OF BRACHYCEPHALIC BREEDS IN HOT WEATHER**

Because all brachycephalic breeds have varying degrees of the predisposing anatomical features of airway obstruction, even if it is subclinical, it is appropriate to treat all brachycephalic breeds as ***having the potential for upper airway obstruction***. It is worth remembering that with the shorter face, the less the air will cool before it reaches the lungs.

**Predisposing Risk Factors** - Heat, humidity, exercise, excitement can all increase panting as the dog attempts to lose heat and cool itself – this excessive panting in turn can produce local swelling (oedema) and further airway narrowing, increasing anxiety and body temperature; creating a vicious cycle.

**Treatment** - If panting hard, cool the dog all over by hosing the dogs down in a bath or a wading pool. Pay particular attention to the head, throat and belly. Do not attempt to make the dog swallow – ice packs placed along the belly, under the throat will help cool the dog – keep going for a minimum of 10-15 minutes, until the respiration rate slows down. If the dog is still having problems, get the dog to the veterinarian as soon as possible. Keep the car air conditioned with the cold air directly in the face of the dog.

**Prevention** – be aware of the temperature on a daily basis, weather forecasting generally will give a good idea well ahead of hot weather. Place your dogs on extra electrolytes in their food – this can help them cope with the heat better. Keep your dogs in cool conditions with plenty of through ventilation. Extremely hot weather – the more affected dogs may need to be kept in air conditioning. Fans, wet towels on the floor etc can all be useful items to leave out on hot days. **NOTE: During heatwaves, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR FRENCHY UNATTENDED, IF THERE IS A POWER OUTAGE YOUR AIRCON WILL NOT BE WORKING.**

### **CARE IS NEEDED WITH ANAESTHETISING OR SEDATING BRACHYCEPHALIC BREEDS**

With any brachycephalic breed there must be particular care taken with anaesthetics and the use of sedatives and your veterinarian should be well aware of this.

There can be a closing off of the trachea and soft palate obstruction when brachycephalic dogs are sedated or anaesthetised, so extra care must be taken when undertaking either procedure. The level of care needed is high, and these dogs must be kept under close observation from the time they are anaesthetised until they are fully out of the anaesthetic and are capable of holding their heads up.

The majority of these breeds are pretreated with Atrophine to dry out the mucous surfaces and ideally the anaesthetic agent should be of short duration. The head is kept in an extended position, particularly while recovering and the dog watched very carefully for a good 10-15 minutes after the endotracheal tube is removed.

Sedation over and above the anaesthetic used, particularly with sedatives that lower the blood pressure (eg. Acetylpromazine 'ACP') and/or any compound that prolongs the effects of the anaesthetic, **are not desirable** and should ideally not be used.

The safest sedative to use if a dog is anxious while recovering from an anaesthetic is Valium\*, as it calms the dog without dropping the blood pressure, or relaxing the upper airway muscles.

## HEART

**Defects – uncommon to rare.**

**Congestive heart failure - Even in old age, this breed seldom requires heart medication, and are generally very sound in this aspect.**

## EYES

'Cherry eye' an everted (rolled out) 3<sup>rd</sup> eyelid with the gland underneath exposed – this occurs usually secondary to loose eyelids and inflammation of the eye. Usually seen over 6 weeks and under 6 months of age. Low incidence as most Frenchies have tight eyelids.

**Corneal ulcers** are not uncommon as Frenchies age, due partially to the prominent nature of their relatively large eyes. These respond well to treatment, provided it is prompt and effective. Any ulcer that fails to respond to treatment quickly needs to be reassessed frequently by your veterinarian and may require surgery in the form of a third eyelid flap to rest the eye while it heals.

**Pannus** – deposition of black pigment on the cornea and subsequent drying (dry eye) of the cornea. Seen in the older Frenchie (8 years and up). This is considered to be an autoimmune condition in many breeds. Once the black pigment starts to deposit on the cornea, usually in the medial edge and accompanied by inflammation on the outer edge of the pigmented area, it cannot be stopped but can be controlled for long periods. Eventually the pigment will cover the entire cornea, resulting in blindness – this process usually takes several years.

Treatment - the condition responds well to the use of cortisone drops and/or Cyclosporin\* eye drops. Liquifilm eye ointment to keep the cornea moist is needed in the more advanced cases. Interestingly, most cases I have seen have also been affected by hypothyroidism. Incidence around 10-15% in the aged Frenchie.

## THYROID

Hypothyroidism does occur in the breed - there is a small but significant percentage of hypothyroid French Bulldogs seen in general practice – probably around 8-10% in older dogs, generally over 5-6 years of age. Symptoms seen generally include bilateral hair loss and thinning of the coat, low fertility (less common) and obesity.

Treatment involves replacing thyroid hormones and regular checks initially to ensure the condition is under good control. Within 6 weeks most dogs are under very good control.

## SKIN CONDITIONS

Other than thyroid problems, skin health is generally very good. Some cases of grass allergy are seen where dogs will bite and chew their feet – this is more commonly seen in pied dogs. The dogs respond to appropriate treatment and ideally, there should be decreased access to wet, fast growing green grass.

## **EPILEPSY**

It does occur in the breed, generally seen over 1 year of age, with a higher incidence seen in males. Luckily, the overall incidence within the breed at present appears to be very low.

## **TESTICLES**

Male Frenchy puppies are occasionally affected by cryptorchidism, but the incidence on the whole is relatively low. If the testicles are nearby but not fully descended, add extra zinc to the diet and decrease the weight on fat puppies.

## **TUMOURS**

French Bulldogs are not high on the tumour lists and usually not under 8-10 years. The tumours more commonly seen would include:-

**HAEMANGEOSARCOMA** – of the spleen or liver;

Skin tumours – mast cell, squamous cell tumors, melanomas – more commonly seen in older pied animals.

Bone tumours – fairly rare.

Mammary Tumours – as in all breeds of dogs, these are commonly seen in the older non desexed bitch. Desex your bitches as soon as they have finished being bred from – this will greatly decrease the incidence of mammary tumours and remove the risk of pyometra.

**Article Credit: Karen Hedberg (BVSc)**

## **CRITICAL STAGES OF CANINE DEVELOPMENT**

The notion of critical stages of canine development has been well covered in both scientific and popular literature and is based primarily on the work of John Scott and J.L. Fuller in the forties, fifties, and sixties. Clarence Pfaffenberger's book

NEW KNOWLEDGE OF DOG BEHAVIOR introduced these stages of development to breeders, trainers, and pet owners over 20 years ago. Jack and Wendy Vollhard and Richard Wolters further popularized this field by introducing puppy aptitude testing based, in part, on Scott and Fuller's findings. Drs Michael Fox and Iam Dunbar, initially studying canine development and behavior in clinical settings, have written copiously for the lay press regarding puppy socialization.

Unfortunately, many other writers unfamiliar with the original research have led new puppy owners into believing that a puppy purchased an age older than exactly 7 weeks will bond less well and be less trainable than a puppy purchased at exactly 49 days of life.

This "urban myth" is most vexing to breeders as the 49th day of life may be the earliest time a puppy may leave its litter mates, but may not be the best time. So here to debunk some of these myths is a synopsis of the critical periods of puppy development from a breeders point of view:

### **FIRST PERIOD–BIRTH-21 DAYS**

#### **A. Neonatal sub period 0-13 days**

Characters: Puppies are "fetuses out of the womb." They can not see, hear, regulate their own body temperature, or climate without stimulation and are totally dependant upon their dam or segregate mother.

No emotional development, social attachment, or learning takes place during this period. Puppies brain waves remain constant whether sleeping or awake. Puppies do, however, exhibit reflex

reactions to hunger, cold, touch. They pile for warmth or spread out if too hot but cannot regulate their own temperature by shivering or panting.

During this neonatal period puppies will crawl backward and forward and will swing their heads from side to side, often repetitively while mewling or trilling. These movements appear to be involuntary and prepare pups muscles, nervous system, and inner ear for further development.

Breeder Do's: Keep bitch happy, healthy and well-fed. Her physical and emotional well being will supply everything the puppies need during this stage.

Handle puppies very gently with very slow massaging movements. Very light stimulation of the nervous system ("called pre-stressing") may be beneficial when applied during the second week of life. This could involve rotating the pups gently in your hands, applying light pressure to the ear leather, and holding each pup gently on its back for a few seconds each day.

Pups should, of course, be weighed daily to monitor growth and this would be a good time to handle each pup. THIS IS NOT SOCIALIZATION OR TRAINING. Pre-stress does, however, assist in developing brain cells.

Breeder Don'ts: Don't allow visitors (human or canine) during this period. Avoid anything that will stress the bitch (house guest, parties, home repairs, etc...) Also try not to move puppies or remove mother from the litter at this time. If the pups or dam need to see a veterinarian try to arrange for a home visit.

Despite the common practice, this is not a good age to take a litter to a dog show in you van, trailer or motor home.

B. Transition Sub Period 13-21 days.

Characteristics; Eyes and ears open and pups slowly begin responding to light, movement and sound. Puppies become more mobile as they gain awareness of their surroundings, their mother, litter mates, and objects. Pups may also begin to alert to human presence during this period. This is still a reaction to stimuli rather than a social bond or emotional attachment.

Pups will attempt to get up on their feet, but continue crawling backward and forward. They may begin trying to get out of whelping box toward the end of this period.

Breeder Do's: Introduce toys as obstacles to climb over or bump into.

This helps pups develop spatial awareness. Some pups may begin briefly interacting with toys near the end of the third week. Continue handling pups daily using slow, massaging movements. Pups are growing fast and need frequent nail trimming. Introducing brushing with soft brush. Again, this is not training but stimulation.

Breeder Don'ts; Avoid startling pup with loud noises or sudden movements while hearing and eyesight are developing. If you must move or change puppies environment, this is the time to do so. Do not remove dam.

SECOND PERIOD 21-28 DAYS

Characteristics; Most important period with rapid sensory development. Puppies are fully alert to their environment and will startle easily at sudden sounds and movements. During this time they are able to recognize their breeder and other significant humans by smell, sight and sound. However, they have lost the natural insulation of the neonatal period and negative events can easily imprint basic behavior during this period.

Social bonding begins to occur during this week.

Neonatal behaviors such as head swinging, mewling and crawling back and forth stop. Pups are more active and moving well on their feet. This is a time of rapid physical change. There are also significant changes in brain waves during this period and pups are now able to learn from experience and to retain what they have learned.

Breeders Do's: Introduce new tactile sensations in puppies box pups enjoy borrowing in shredded newspaper, for example, or crawling over a rolled towel or blanket. Continue daily handling, adding new sounds and sights to the environment radio, TV, telephone, computer and printer. Introduce toys and make sounds.

Pups can be removed from the box and placed on new surfaces. Do this with two pups at a time rather than separating from litter.

Breeder Don'ts: AVOID LOUD NOISES OR SUDDEN CHANGES DURING THIS

PERIOD. Negative events can permanently imprint on the pups during this week. Do not run vacuum cleaner around pups, blow hair dryers, run clippers etc.

Postpone having work done on your home and ask prospective purchasers or curious friends to wait to the end of the 4th week to visit puppies. Do not move puppies or separate from dam during this week.

### THIRD PERIOD 21-49 DAYS

Characteristics: Social awareness, learning to become dogs (note: first week of this critical stage of develops overlaps with second period of development). Play fighting behavior becomes increasingly intense. Pups are developing problem solving abilities, physical coordination, bit inhibition. Mother begins weaning pups during this period, those beginning to initiate discipline. During this time puppies will begin to move to the far corners of their bed, box or pen to urinate and defecate.

House breaking can begin!

Breeder Do's: During entire period leave pups together as litter and allow dam free access to pups.

During 4th week (21-28 days) introduce food to pups without removing the dam. You can feed her in the litter box at the same time. Begin escalating sensory experience (see notes on critical period). Continue daily handling by breeder and family members.

During 5th week (28-35 days) Introduce pups to the outdoors. Take them outside to urinate and defecate after drinking or eating. When this is not possible provide pups with a designed bathroom spot to begin the housebreaking.

Begin handling pups individually away from litter mates and dam for at least 10 minutes each day. Enlist the help of family members, friends, neighbors and prospective puppy owner in this process. If you cannot handle 10 minutes each day, do 5 minutes. Daily experiences away from litter mates are crucial.

During the 6th and 7th weeks (35-49 days) Increase sensory experiences with brief car rides. Introduce pups to vacuum cleaner. Puppies can begin simple training routines using food lures and social attraction at this time. Start teaching pups to stand on grooming table to be examined or to be brushed.

This is the prime socialization periods. Introduce new people, especially children. Pups enjoy interaction with a gentle adult dog kindly auntie or uncle who will baby-sit with patience.

Introducing situations that will stimulate problem solving behavior- - tunnels, cardboard boxes, gates. steps, fences, logs, etc.

Allow pups to have successes and reinforce these successes with food.

**Breeder Don'ts: DO NOT REMOVE PUPPIES FROM LITTER DURING THIS**

**PERIOD!!** Do not completely remove mother. Do not correct for play fighting, housebreaking errors, or mouthing.

**FORTH PERIOD 49 DAYS TO 12 WEEKS**

**Characteristics:** Enlarging social awareness and bonding outside of litter. Mental abilities are fully formed but pups lack experience. This is the optimum time to teach new things and is, in fact, the period of fastest learning. Research has shown that behaviors can be shaped and modified most easily during times when learning is occurring most quickly. Training during this time will actually increase the capacity to learn by increasing brain cells in the appropriate regions of the brain.

Bladder and bowel control developed and pups are capable of sleeping through the night without accidents.

**Breeder Do's:** Greatly enlarge the puppies world between 49 and 56 days. Begin puppy rotation, playing and sleeping in smaller groups. Pups that remain with breeder can be created with one or two other pups. Be sure to switch puppies around.

Continue individual grooming, play and training sessions with each pup. Gentle but firm discipline from humans may be begun. Begin teaching response to simple commands such as sit, down, stand, come, walk on lead at this time. Pups during this period can learn complex behavior chain and can make associations.

**Breeder Don'ts:** Do not isolate from humans or unnecessarily restrain during this period (only restraints should be crate or necessary fencing). Avoid inadvertently reinforcing fearful responses.

**NOTE: FIRST FEAR IMPRINT PERIOD OCCURS BETWEEN 8-10 WEEKS, AVOID**

**PLACING PUPS DURING THIS TIME. AVOID SHIPPING PUPS, EAR CROPPING OR ANY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES.**

Pups that have been properly socialized and bonded with breeder can be successfully placed at 10-12 weeks after they have passed the fear imprint period and while they are still young enough to be "babies".

**FIFTH PERIOD 3-4 MONTHS**

**Characteristics:** Dominance period where pup solidifies position. Pups will begin testing their place in the world during this time. They tend to become emboldened. This is a period of very fast physical growth.

**Breeder/Owner Do's:** Pups must be treated as individual dogs. If they are still with the breeder they should no longer be treated as part of a litter and should sleep alone in individual crates at night and all training and grooming sessions should be individual.

Introduce behavioral dominance exercises, "Alphabetize" yourself and your family - feed pup after you eat, move crate to different locations so pup doesn't become site protective, take food and toys away while pup is eating or playing.

Continue socialization and obedience training providing slight distractions. **TEACH THE RECALL AND PRACTICE IT SEVERAL TIMES EVERY SINGLE DAY!!!!** Do this before pup enters the "flight period" at about age of 16 weeks.

**Breeder/Owner Don'ts:** No tug of war games. Do not allow pup to sleep in bed with humans. Absolutely forbid all chasing games with children.

VERY, VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: DO NOT RAISE LITTER MATES OR TWO UNRELATED PUPPIES TOGETHER DURING THIS PERIOD!!!

#### SIXTH PERIOD 4-6 MONTHS

Characteristics: The flight period, corresponding to teething. Pups begin testing limits. May attempt to assert dominance over human pack members (especially children). May "forget" housebreaking.

This period is characterized by independence and willfulness. Owner or breeder is no longer Mommy substitute.

Breeder/ Owner Do's: Keep pup on lead when outside fenced enclosures.

Continue recall training and response to commands. Continue dominance exercises and handling all parts of pups body.

Breeder/ Owner Don'ts: Do not let pup off lead if at all possible. Do not chase pup or play chasing games.

#### SECOND FEAR IMPRINT PERIOD 6-14 MONTHS

Characteristics: Sexual maturity, hormonal changes. Fearfulness of new situations, objects, people, other dogs. Male dogs begin lifting legs.

Some individuals will pass through this periods faster than others, often with no noticeable problems. Others may display marked changes in behavior in strange situations.

Reinforce the behaviors you want: do not reinforce fearfulness by coddling to protective behavior. But also try to avoid punishing fearfulness. Try to adopt a firm but patient and kindly attitude to the pup's fearful behavior. Continue socialization to humans and other dogs. Avoid or postpone extremely stressful or traumatic experience for the animals that appear to be in the fear imprint period.

NOTE: This primer on critical stages of development is an attempt to consolidate information appearing in a variety of publications from a number of authors, and to tailor that information specifically to the needs of breeders.

Remember that consistency and PRAISE are the key words.

#### **NOTES:**