

Module 1: Breed Behavior and Stages of Development Study Aids

The study aid section lists key points covered in the training DVD. We encourage you to add your own notes to your workbook to provide a personalized resource that you can use to complete evaluation exercises, consult to improve your skills and as a reference book after completing the course.

Primary Goals in Providing Pet Care

- Minimize stress
- Provide personal service
- Create an enjoyable environment
- **Happy Pets!**

Dog Management Handling Rules



You should receive a separate handout of the rules that are specific to your pet care center.

Dog Groups and Breeds

Complete the Purpose or Background information in the chart below from the information presented in the DVD for each Breed Group.

Group	Breeds	Purpose or Background
Sporting	Golden Retriever Cocker Spaniel Brittany Weimaraner Labrador Retriever Irish Setter	
Hounds	Beagle Dachshund Whippet Basset Hound Bloodhound Greyhound	
Working Group	Rottweiler Boxer Great Dane Doberman Husky Mastiff	

Group	Breeds	Purpose or Background
Terriers	Bull Terrier West Highland White Terrier Schnauzer Irish Terrier Norfolk Terrier Scottish Terrier	
Toy Group	Toy Poodle Pug Chihuahua Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Maltese Pomeranian	
Herding Group	German Shepherd Shetland Sheepdog Collie Australian Cattle Dog Border Collie Corgi	
Non-Sporting Group	Dalmatian Miniature Poodle Chow Chow Bulldog French Bulldog Shar-Pei	



Match the breed photos to the behavior traits listed on the slide during the DVD session. Write the breed for each photo in the chart below.

Behavior Trait	Photo Letter	Breed
Guarding		
Digging		
Nipping		



A.



B.



C.

Caring for Different Breeds

- Breed background contributes to personality and behavior
- Be aware of breed temperament as you approach each dog
- Consider breed temperament when interacting with each dog
- Mixed breeds – look at physical and behavior clues

Stages of Development

- Important phases of development as puppies grow
- Smaller breeds tend to develop quicker than larger breeds
- Development times will vary by individual dog
- Note several phases do overlap

Shaded stages are those that a puppy goes through early in life and before they typically would be using services at a pet care center. The DVD program covers stages of dogs that are typically seen in pet care centers.

Development Stage	Key Developments	Off-leash Playgroup Considerations
Neonatal (birth – 2 weeks)	Devoted to obtaining nutrition. Senses - touch & taste (eyes closed & deaf); reacts to cold & pain Slow crawl Vocalization – distress calls	Too young for playgroup Puppies can be harmed physically more than psychologically.
Transition (2-3 weeks)	Changes in basic sensory & motor capabilities. Period begins with eyes opening & ends when sounds cause a startle response. Teeth form. Begin to see adult behaviors, movements & nutrition.	Too young for playgroup Puppies begin to show communication through body language.
Awareness (3-4 weeks)	First uses senses of sight & hearing. Key period of development so puppy should be kept stable & not moved. Develops comfort from the “familiar”.	Too young for playgroup Puppies begin to learn what it is to be a dog.
Canine Socialization (1-2 months)	Critical period for psychological development/damage; social & location relationships important. New behavior patterns related to mother & littermates; puppy investigates. Weaning to solid food with eliminations outside nest box. Adult behaviors in playful form, social play, develops relationships easily, tail wag begins.	Too young for playgroup Puppy learns to use dog body language & vocalizations to communicate. Learns to accept discipline from mother. Social bonding with humans & others. Key time to be with pack to learn dog language; stay at least through 7 weeks.

Development Stage	Key Developments	Off-leash Playgroup Considerations
Human Socialization (2-3 months)	Good time to introduce puppy to new home & environment. Attention span is short & learning is permanent. Fear response to strangers.	Puppy socialization in small groups with properly matched puppy & adult dog playmates. Begin positive puppy training.
Fear Impact Period I (2-3 months) "overlaps"	Any traumatic experience may have a lasting impression on puppy. New experiences must be non-threatening and extra care taken to make puppy feel safe.	Critical that all social interactions be fun & positive. Fearful adult behaviors can result from experiences puppy perceives as threatening.
Seniority Classification (3-4 months)	Period of adjustment, all sense organs fully developed. Permanent teeth growing; results in chewing & biting behaviors. Leadership is challenged with some aggressive behaviors displayed.	Playgroups with good experienced leadership. Discourage all biting behaviors. Consistent enforcement of rules & boundaries with a lot of patience and positive reinforcement.
Flight Instinct (4-8 months)	Dog's natural instinct to explore new territory is evident. May ignore "come" cue & see human chasing them as a game. Teething continues & so does chewing behaviors.	Playgroups with properly matched playmates. Reward "come"; be sure no negatives or discipline are given if dog does come. Needs to learn "come" is a safe cue to follow.
Fear Impact Period II (6-14 months)	Fear of change or new experiences. Dependent on growth spurts so dog may go through more than one during period. May be reluctant of new situations & people; the "unfamiliar". Do not force dog into situations or provide comfort when showing fear.	Playgroups with properly matched playmates. Work to build confidence and do not force into new situations. Leader must have patience & understanding; allow dog to come around on their own.
Maturity (1-4 years)	Timing differs by breed with average being 18 months – 3 years. Smaller breeds mature earlier than larger breeds. Dogs may renew leadership challenges & display aggressive behaviors. Challenges for position within the family pack. Human leadership is critical to minimize aggression, bites and territorial displays. Reward "watchdog" behaviors you want & correct high arousal displays.	Playgroups with properly matched playmates. Strong leadership is very important with consistent enforcement of rules. Do not allow resource guarding or inappropriate aggressive behaviors. Dog social rank challenges will be observed & should be supported by human leadership as long as dog conversations are appropriate.



Identify two key stages of development where the care provided in a pet center can potentially have a long-term negative impact on an individual’s dog behavior.

Name of Stage	What situation could lead to a negative impact on dog behavior?

A puppy that refuses to come to you when at the end of their exercise session may be in which stage of development? _____

A puppy that arrives for their second groom appointment at your center and does not want to go into the holding cage may be in which stage of development? _____

Summary

- Treat each pet with respect
- Create an environment that pets enjoy
- Remember breed make-up contributes to an individual dog’s personality and behavior
- Remember the puppy stages of development
 - Fear periods are critical times and require special care
 - Have patience and be consistent in handling