

## ***Early Training & Socialization for Your Puppy***

Early training and socialization are critical foundations for raising a well-adjusted, confident, and obedient puppy. The prime window for socialization typically begins around 3 weeks and peaks between 8 and 16 weeks of age, when puppies are most receptive to new experiences, people, sounds, and other animals. During this sensitive period, gently expose your puppy to a wide variety of positive stimuli—different surfaces, household noises, friendly strangers, children, and vaccinated dogs—in controlled, rewarding environments to prevent fearfulness or reactivity later in life. Simultaneously, begin basic obedience training with short, fun sessions using positive reinforcement techniques like treats, praise, and play: teach commands such as sit, stay, come, and leash walking, while establishing house-training routines and bite inhibition. Consistency, patience, and keeping experiences upbeat are key, as harsh corrections can damage trust. By investing time in early training and socialization, you'll help your puppy grow into a happy, polite companion who navigates the world with ease and strengthens the bond between you.