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**Cochrane & Area  
HUMANE SOCIETY**

*Pets Deserve Loving Homes ~ Loving Homes Deserve Pets*

## **Puppy Socialization and Tips**

Congratulations on adopting your new family member!

Puppies are wonderful and exciting additions to any family. They add to our lives and bring laughter, joy and boundless energy into our homes. We all want to keep the warm fuzzy feeling towards our puppies as they grow into adults. In order to help them grow into happy, well mannered and well adjusted adults we need to help teach and give them opportunities to live and learn in a positive and enriching environment.

### **Tips for success**

Give your puppy a few days to settle in before you start inviting people over to meet your new puppy.

Start your routine as soon as you get your puppy. If your pup is going to be left for short periods of time during the work week, start getting him used to his crate and time alone from day one. (See included "Crate Training" hand out)

Use a crate whenever you are not able to supervise your puppy or when you leave the house. Have your puppy safely in his crate to prevent house training accidents and prevent misguided chewing sprees.

As a rule of thumb your puppy can only be expected at max to hold his bowels for his age in months plus one. So a three month old puppy should not go any longer than four hours without a bathroom break.

Try to introduce your puppy to as many people of all sizes, ages and races as is possible. A good goal to try for is ten new people a day for at least the first two weeks that you have your puppy. Always make sure that the introductions are positive for the puppy. Have the stranger give your puppy yummy treats and calm and gentle petting sessions.

Get your puppy used to unusual items such as strollers, walkers, wheel chairs and canes. Search out as many unusually objects as you can and introduce them to your puppy slowly and make sure it is a positive experience.

If your puppy shows fear towards a human, other animal or object it is important that you do not push or pull your puppy towards the object of his fear. This will only serve to

*Cochrane & Area Humane Society, 62 Griffin Industrial Point, Cochrane, AB T4C 0A3  
Phone: (403) 932-2072 Fax: (403) 709-0009 Email: [shelter@cochranehumane.ca](mailto:shelter@cochranehumane.ca)  
[www.cochranehumane.ca](http://www.cochranehumane.ca)*



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increase the fear response and possibly damage your bond with your puppy. Instead move away until you reach a distance from the object that your puppy is no longer afraid and slowly work towards the object offering yummy treats and praise.

Take your puppy to dog friendly stores, hotels and vet clinics and expose your puppy to as many positive life experiences as possible.

**Do not punish your puppy for mistakes;** instead reward the good behaviour to establish a strong and trusting lifelong relationship.

Seek out supervised play groups to help socialize your puppy with other puppies. There are certain things that only puppies can teach each other so it is critical for your puppy to be exposed to other well mannered dogs and puppies. (Visit our website for a schedule of puppy play and socialization classes @ [www.cochranehumane.ca](http://www.cochranehumane.ca))

Enrol in a puppy class, even if you are confident in your training skills. Do not wait until your puppy is six months old, the younger that your puppy is exposed to these experiences the better. The benefits of a puppy class go beyond basic obedience and help to socialize your puppy to a multitude of experiences and confidence building exercises that will help your puppy blossom into a well mannered adult dog. (Visit our website for upcoming classes @ [www.cochranehumane.ca](http://www.cochranehumane.ca) and note your training discount in your adoption package)

We have included a Crate Training handout.

Recommended reading:

Before You Get Your Puppy – Ian Dunbar

After You Get Your Puppy- Ian Dunbar

Adolescent Dog Survival Guide – Sarah Whitehead

Raising Puppies and Kids Together – Pia Silvani & Lynn Eckhardt

How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With – Clarice Rutherford & David H Neil

The Perfect Puppy – Gwen Bailey

Norms Nook, CAHS on site store, carries most of the recommended reading materials. If we do not carry the book that you are looking for you can order online @

[www.dogwise.com](http://www.dogwise.com)

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