



A quick start Glossary of Terms for New Puppy Owners

This quick start guide is intended to help demystify some of the terms that New Puppy Owners may come across as they explore the Puppy Culture suite of resources.

As such, it's not exhaustive and some of the descriptions have intentionally been simplified.

Activated Sleep

Twitching of muscles during sleep - seen in neonate puppies. This helps build muscle and form the connections that will allow the puppies to develop motor coordination.

Read more and see a video example by visiting madcapuniversity.com and search for our article [Puppy Dreams](#). You can also read fascinating research on the function of sleep-twitching by visiting psychology.uiowa.edu and searching for [The Function\(s\) of Sleep: Why Twitch by Mark S. Blumberg](#).

Active Enrichment

Enrichment based around problem solving and learning in conjunction with a human - things such as training and field trips, as opposed to passive enrichment such as toys and gadgets.

Altricial

Born in an undeveloped state requiring care and feeding.

Antibodies

Proteins that bind to foreign invaders to signal the immune system to work.

Aversive

Something that evokes a feeling of dislike or disinclination.

Brindle

Brown or tawny colour fur with streaks of another colour.
Bijou in the "Unplugged" series is brindle.

Classical Conditioning

Pairing a first thing that evokes no response in the puppy with a second thing that evokes an involuntary response (such as drooling, flinching, blinking, etc). This done over and over again, until the first thing evokes the same involuntary response as the second thing. The most famous example of this is Pavlov's dog.

Clicker

A small, hand-held, plastic tear-drop or box shaped object that makes a distinct "click" noise when pressed. Used as a marker signal in training.

Colostrum

The first milk the bitch produces in the first few hours after whelping. Contains many key nutrients, and the all-important maternally derived antibodies that will allow the puppy to survive until their immune systems mature enough to make their own antibodies.



Counter Conditioning

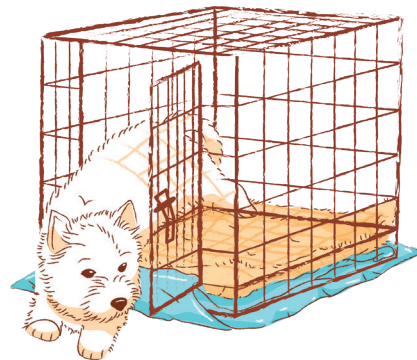
To change the dog's emotional response, feelings or attitude towards a stimulus. This is the same as classical conditioning except that, instead of the first thing being neutral and having no meaning, the first thing is something aversive or frightening to the puppy.

Crate

A dog enclosure with a door for security or transportation.

Curiosity Period

A developmental window in young puppies (usually around 6 weeks old) where they have the most curiosity and the least fear they will ever have in their lives.



Dam

The female parent of puppies.

Defecate

To empty the bowels.



Development Period

Period of the puppy's physical and mental growth that is categorized by distinct physical developments (for example, eyes opening) and behavioral developments (for example, a puppy starting to urinate independently). There are several developmental periods in puppies, including the neonatal period, the transitional period, and the socialization period.

Docile

Gentle, accepting of handling, and easily taught.

Dystocia

Difficulty giving birth. Can be primary, where the bitch never has sufficient contractions to go into active labor, or secondary, where a puppy gets stuck in the birth canal or the uterus stops contracting well after giving birth to some but not all of the puppies.

Et-epimeletic

Sounds that infants of any species make which induce adults to care for them.

Enrichment Effect

The result of being raised in an enriched environment typically leading to increased emotional stability, better recovery from fear, less fear-based aggression, being calmer and quicker to learn basic "commands".

Fading Puppy Syndrome

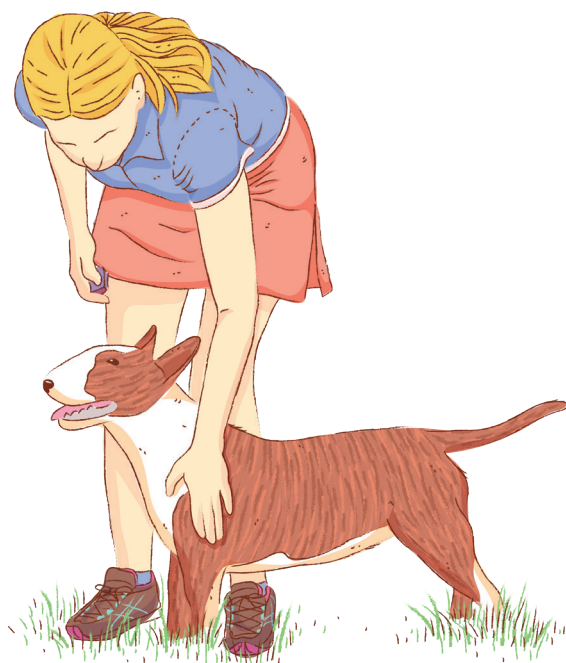
Neonatal death of puppies for unknown and uncontrollable reasons.

Fear Imprint Periods

Periods where puppies have a heightened sensitivity to fear, usually around 5 weeks old and 8 weeks old, although studies have shown that this can vary, on average, by more than two weeks, depending on breed.

Free Stacking

Show dog walking into a stack on his own, on a loose leash, without any adjusting of feet or position by the handler.



Hip Dysplasia

A hip socket that doesn't fully cover the ball portion of the upper thighbone which allows the hip joint to become partially or completely dislocated.

Hypoxic

Deprived of oxygen.

Kibble

Dry dog food.

Lean Muscle Meat

Meat that has a low-fat content and high protein content, typically of less than 5% fat.

Manding

Teaching a puppy to ask for things with a behavior. "Sit" is the most common behavior used, but a paw wave, bark, or any other behavior can be used, as well.

For a detailed explanation of manding, visit journal.iaabcfoundation.org and search for Jane's article on [Manding Puppies](#).

Nanny Dogs

Dogs in the breeder's household that will step in and take over puppy rearing duties when the dam is done with the puppies and wishes to wean them.

Neo-natal Period

From birth to the time when the puppies eyes open, usually around two weeks.

Neuter

A surgical procedure to remove the productive organs of a male dog.

Operant

In the context of young puppies, a puppy is operant when he spontaneously offers behaviors in an effort to produce rewards.

Opposition Reflex

The instinct to pull/push against applied pressure - as in automatically pulling harder when leash pressure is applied.

Passive Enrichment

Enrichment that involves toys and enriched environment, but not training or problem solving while working with a human.

Passive Immunity

In the context of puppies, immunity derived from a source other than their own antibodies - specifically, antibodies derived from their mother through drinking colostrum in the first few hours of life.

Protocols

A set of procedures to help improve a puppy's behaviour.

Resource Guarding

Displaying behaviour (growling, barking, biting etc.) to convince other dogs or humans to stay away from a resource such as food, treats, toys, bed or even a person.

Separation Anxiety

Dogs panicking when they are left alone. Can lead to dramatic destruction or even injury to the dog.



Singleton

A one-puppy litter.

Sire

The male parent of puppies.

Socialization

A process where young puppies are exposed to things they can be expected to encounter during their life, and also what kind of relationship they should expect with humans, other animals, and other experiences. The puppy learns what is and is not good and safe, what they should love and what they should fear.



Socialization Period

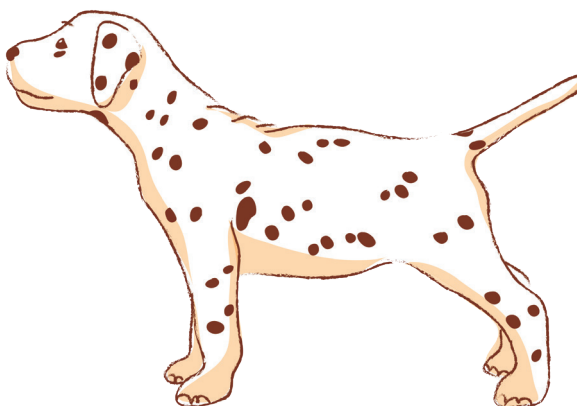
A developmental period during the early part of a puppy's life where they are particularly sensitive to imprinting emotional experiences. Begins when the puppies first startle on hearing a sound and ends when they reach their minimum tendency to approach new things and their maximum tendency to flee. The socialization period runs approximately from 3 weeks old through 12 weeks old.

Spay

A surgical procedure to remove the reproductive organs of a female dog.

Stacking

Getting a dog to pose in a way that displays his best points to a judge.



Transitional Period

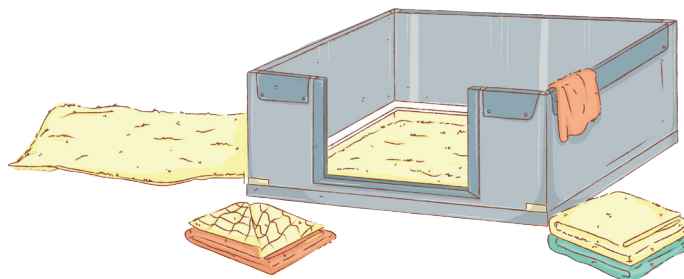
The developmental period that starts when the puppy's eyes open and ends when they startle upon hearing a sound (usually around three weeks old).

Training Marker

A unique sound such as a clicker or high-pitched word.

Vaccination

Treatment with a vaccine (a substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies) to produce immunity against a disease.



Weaning

To accustom the puppies to managing without the mother's milk.

Whelping Box

A nesting box to protect puppies during birth and early life.

Whelping

A female dog giving birth.

