



## **SOCIALIZING YOUR NEW PUPPY WITH TREATS**

Socialization is the process where your puppy develops relationships in their environment. The experiences that they have during the first four months of life will dramatically influence their adult personality. To prevent antisocial behavior, fear and biting, it's very important for your puppy to have frequent positive experiences with everyone they meet during these early months. Be sure to avoid physical punishment and any interactions with people who make them anxious. Puppies who receive insufficient socialization to people, other animals, and new environments during their first four months may develop irreversible fears, leading to anxiety or aggression.

It is very important, therefore, for every puppy to meet as many new people as possible in a variety of situations after they are fully vaccinated. To facilitate introductions, encourage each person who meets your puppy to offer them a treat. This will teach your puppy to look forward to meeting people and discourage hand shyness, since the new puppy will learn to associate a new friend with an out-stretched hand with something positive. Once your puppy has learned to sit on command, have each new friend ask them to sit before giving them the treat. This teaches puppy a proper greeting and will make your puppy less likely to jump on people. Be certain your puppy has the opportunity to meet a wide variety of people; all ages, races, appearances and both genders in the formative months that are bearing smiles and treats!

Since obesity is a dangerous condition for growing dogs, treats should never be used as merely as snack or to win the pet's affection. Your puppy will actually develop a closer attachment to you if you show leadership and only provide treats when they earn them. Once your puppy has been well socialized, the treats can be used for other training applications. Your bond will grow with time, love and attention.

Best Wishes for a long and happy relationship!

Creekside Veterinary Clinic