

NorthPaws

Neurological & Socialisation Policy

At NorthPaws we follow several neurological and social development programmes. All puppies are individuals and are treated as such while with us. The work we do aims to understand them as an individual and build a 'profile' for each puppy. We strive for happy puppies who are confident in their world and aim to find the right fit for both you and our puppies.

- Early Neurological Stimulation & Early Scent Introduction
- The Rule of 7s
- Tellington Touch (TTouch)
- Sound Desensitisation & Socialisation

ENS & ESI

Early Neurological stimulation (ENS) and Early scent Introduction (ESI) are simple exercises in which puppies are exposed from day 3-16 to help aid their development, resilience and coping mechanisms.

Early Neurological Stimulation is a concept developed by Dr Carmen Battaglia, a breeder, AKC judge, researcher and writer. It encompasses tactile stimulation, thermal stimulation and exposure to mild stressors, which improve your puppies' stress responses.

Early Scent Introduction is a concept developed by Dr Gayle Watkins, a Golden Retriever breeder, scientist, researcher and competitor in a range of dog sports. Scent is the way puppies experience the world. Introducing natural scents early on can help puppies be introduced to new scents in a controlled way, enhancing their confidence, making stable adults and reducing behavioural issues in the long term.

The Rule of 7's

Dr. Carmen Battaglia created the Rule of 7's as a guide to increase puppies exposure to the wider world. Much like ENS the Rule of 7s introduces the puppies to small stresses that will help boost confidence and develop social behaviour.

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NorthPaws start at the age of 4 weeks by introducing the puppies to 7 new things they hadn't had a lot of contact with before. Four days later we change these to 7 new items. So by the time you pick up your NorthPaws puppy they have been introduced to 49 different or new things/changes.

Your puppy has experienced:

- Walking on 7 different surfaces
- Playing with 7 different toys
- Being in 7 different locations
- Meeting humans with 7 different features
- 7 different challenges
- Eating/drinking from 7 different containers
- Eating in 7 different locations

Tellington Touch (TTouch)

Linda Tellington-Jones developed the Trust Touch in 1983 using her work with horses to see the benefits to all animals. Tellington TTouch is a gentle form of bodywork consisting of circles, lifts and slides done with our hands all over the dogs body. The benefits to both the animal and owner are amazing and helps develop the interspecies language without words.

NorthPaws use: The Mouth TTouch (to develop trust and focus); The Ear TTouch (to calm) and TTouches on Paws (to ground and support nail clipping).

Sound Desensitisation

NorthPaws are a household of three adults, three dogs, three rabbits, a tortoise, fish tank and pond. We are busy and at times loud. We live in the countryside so it can be quiet but also have some noisy moments with farm machinery, livestock, horses, wildlife and RAF jets passing over the house. To help puppies become more ready for the wider world we try to introduce them to as many sounds as we can while with us. We use real life situations and The Dogs Trust Sound Clips.

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Socialisation – only the beginning!

While with us at NorthPaws puppies will have been exposed to pleasant social interactions with human adults, children, vets, other dogs, other pets as well as careful exposure to different environments such as: areas in the home, outside spaces, travelling in car, vacuum cleaners etc.

The window of time for this imprint development is from birth up to 16 weeks. Therefore, it is important that you continue this in the puppies new home, as during this period an important transition is taking place in the puppies abilities to take in new situations as his natural fearfulness increases. The free app PupStanding has been created by Preventive Vet, it has advice and guidance on how to introduce puppies to a variety of life experiences. This is an excellent resource and website that NorthPaws highly recommends using to support you during this vital stage in your puppies development.

Even if puppy has experienced several things while with us at NorthPaws, puppy is by no means fully socialised and will continue to learn each and every day.