

## THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR FOSTER PUP

- **Handle them** – they need to receive positive body handling
- **Encourage them** – coax them to come to you, run around obstacles, figure things out
- **Build confidence** – give each pup one-on-one time so they don't freak when they first leave their siblings
- **Never force** – this is the time to show pups that people are safe and encouraging
- **Play!** Play is the most important activity in developing social behaviors both with humans and with other dogs; play is how puppies learn and explore limits
- **Teach** your puppy **balance** using balance balls or paddle boards
- **Protect** – puppies are like young children it's your responsibility to protect them



pranaDOGS Behavior & Rehabilitation Center, is a not-for-profit canine training facility located just outside of Durango, CO.

We work with Shelters and Rescues to help dogs who need a bit more time and attention than a typical organization can provide.

# Dogs Rock!



pranaDOGS

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## FOSTERING FOR SUCCESS



STRATEGIES TO HELP  
FOSTER  
PUPPIES BECOME  
FANTASTIC DOGS

## Problem Solving

### Nipping

Puppies learn their environment by putting as much of it as possible in their mouths. Our job is to teach them that humans are soft and cannot handle their strong teeth and jaws.

When a puppy mouths you, act like a drama queen and give a big “Ouch!” and walk away for 30 sec. Typically 2-3 repetitions is all that’s needed for a pup to figure out they can mouth softer.



### Housetraining

Housetraining isn’t difficult but it does take consistency. At all times until the pup is housetrained, they should be in 1 of 3 places -

**With you** - and you’re paying attention

**In a crate** or small bedding area

**Outside** or in a place they can go

Dogs are attracted to smell so if a dog has gone to the bathroom in your home it’s imperative that you get the smell completely out. Use an enzymatic cleaner rather than an ammonia based one for success.

# THE RULE OF 12 FOR PUPPIES

-Margaret Hughes

**Socialization is a process of exposing your puppy to a variety of people, places, noises and situations through a *positive experience* so they don’t become shy or reactive as adults**

- 🐾 **Experience 12 different surfaces**
- 🐾 **Play with 12 different objects**
- 🐾 **Experience 12 different locations**
- 🐾 **Meet & play with 12 different people**
- 🐾 **Expose to 12 different noises**



Balancing socialization with vaccinations is important but not difficult. A puppy is not fully vaccinated from dangerous diseases (think Parvo or Distemper) until they’re 4mo old or have had a number of vaccines (2-3 depending on age). But a puppy’s crucial socialization period is between 2-4mo – so how do you do both?

Bring puppies to a friend’s house or places where you know the adult dogs have been vaccinated. This is NOT the time for public sidewalks, parks or anywhere else where they can run into something left behind by an unvaccinated one. If you don’t know, pick your kiddo up to be safe (this includes inside many stores!)

**“AT 16 WEEKS OF AGE MOST PUPPIES ARE EITHER SUBMISSIVE OR DOMINANT AND WON’T CHANGE THROUGHOUT LIFE.”**