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Puppy Preschool at Del Ray Animal Hospital

A 2008 statement by the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior encourages puppy socialization classes as early as 7 to 8 weeks of age.

Why?

Behavioral issues rather than infectious diseases are the number one cause of death for dogs under 3 years of age. Puppies go through a sensitive period of socialization until 3 to 4 months of age where they develop coping mechanisms. If not properly socialized, they may grow up into dogs that are unable to adapt to new situations and be relinquished to a shelter.

How we can help: Offering puppy socialization classes

Class requirements: Puppies between 8 and 16 weeks

Must have been in home 10-14 days prior to class

Must have had first round of distemper and parvovirus vaccine 1 week prior to class

What occurs in class?

Q&A

Object socialization- ex. bike, skateboard

Handling exercises

Discussion topic- grooming, dental care

Benefits: Owner education. Allows owners to positively affect puppy development before problems develop.

Provides support to new puppy owners.