K-9 COACH
Bed & Bark

Children & Puppies

When a puppy's experience with children is not positive and pleasant, the result is often fearful and or aggressive behaviors toward them.

Typical Child Behavior

Children's behaviors are quite different from adults and many of these typical behaviors can cause problems.

- Many children, especially young ones, view puppies more like playmates or toys and not necessarily as living things.
- Children often suffer from poor impulse control.
- A child's concept of personal space is not fully developed.
- Children are typically noisier than adults, cry more often, shriek and scream, fall for no apparent reason and have unpredictable in movements.

Although these behaviors are normal and part of our developmental process, they can intimidate a puppy and increase the levels of anxiety and arousal. Additionally, puppies tend to get confused, frustrated and will act aggressively when their environment is chaotic and not well controlled.

Typical Puppy Behavior

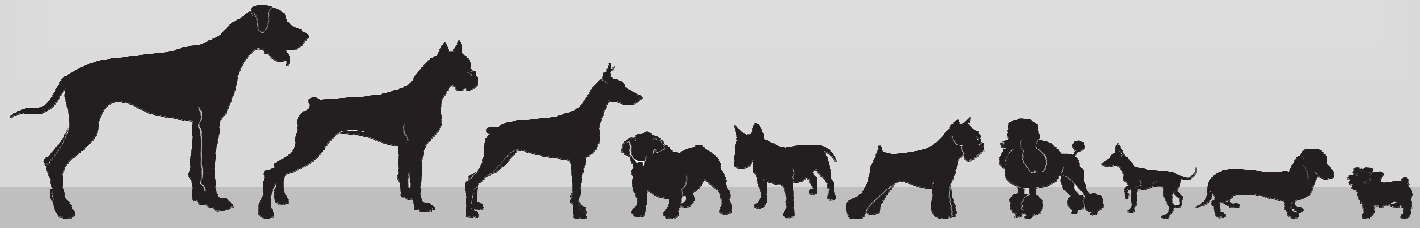
Just like children, puppy behaviors are quite different from grown dogs and, when combined with child behaviors, can make the experience stressful.

- Puppies have no idea or understanding of how children are supposed to be treated, especially during play sessions.
- Puppies are quickly aroused and over-excited.
- Puppies behaviors are governed by instinct, energy and emotions - not right or wrong.

When puppies act in inappropriate ways, regardless of the cause, this can create a negative experience for children and influence their perception of and attitude toward dogs.

At K-9 Coach, our mission is enrich lives by providing professional, personalized services designed to ensure that customers experience a lifetime of reward with their beloved pup(s)...

AND THIS STARTS WITH PUPPIES AND CHILDREN.



4870 South Atlanta Road - Smyrna, Georgia 30337
404.603.9744 **OFFICE** - 404.603.9746 **FAX**

© K-9 Coach, LLC. All materials are the exclusive property of K-9 Coach LLC and may not be reproduced for any reason without written consent.

K-9 COACH
Bed & Bark

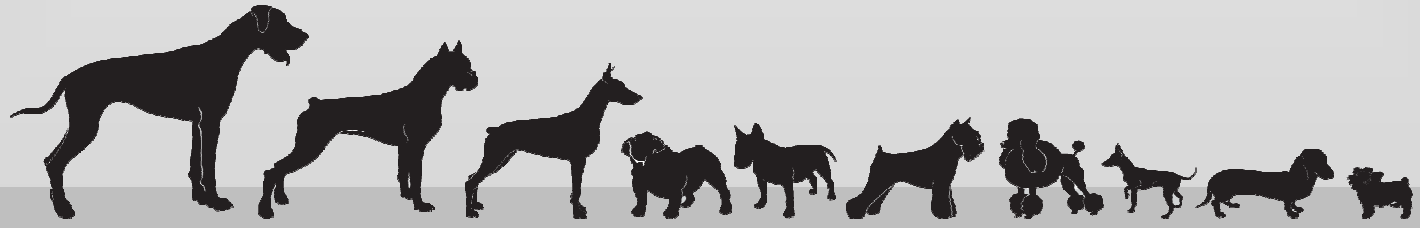
Children & Puppies

Strategies & Suggestions

- Ask your child to stand upright and walk calmly towards the puppy. Or, they can squat down in their own space and allow the puppy to come to them. You should not approach a puppy or dog in a bent over position with arms extended. Many dogs view this as an invasion of their space and see this as threatening and controlling.
- Teach children to keep their hands low and relaxed, by their side and to bring their hand toward the puppy's face at a normal pace and on a level plane with puppy's head. This will prevent startle and allow the pup to sniff their hand.
- Hugging, holding and otherwise restraining may be uncomfortable, frightening or just plain annoying to puppies. The use of physical restraint by one dog to another is usually done for control and to assert dominance. When a puppy's warning signals go unnoticed, they become more afraid, uncomfortable and frustrated and may resort to biting to "make them stop".
- Try to prevent your child from running in the house while puppy is loose or unattended. This will excite the puppy and can cause them to become over aroused and can lead to injuries when child and puppy become tangled and fall.
- When a child moves or reaches toward and puppy and then hesitates and quickly moves away, the puppy becomes unsure as to what the child's next move is. This can cause fear and a lack of trust. A timid or shy puppy may back away, crouch down or avoid the child altogether. In turn, the child may take a more aggressive approach, since the puppy is moving away. This can increase the fear in the puppy and cause the child to become frustrated and repeat the behavior, etc..., etc...
- When the puppy is sleeping or resting (tired), they should be left alone. If puppy is continually handled during this time, he may become possessive over his sleeping area(s) or be on guard when the children are home. When tired puppies are cranky and grumping, just like children, they need their rest. Let "sleeping dogs lie".

Make sure to join us for one of our children and dogs or kids and dogs training workshops and...

ASK YOUR COACH for specific strategies for you and your family.



4870 South Atlanta Road - Smyrna, Georgia 30337
404.603.9744 **OFFICE** - 404.603.9746 **FAX**

© K-9 Coach, LLC. All materials are the exclusive property of K-9 Coach LLC and may not be reproduced for any reason without written consent.