Mica Dog Training LLC
1- (888) – Mica Dog
info@micadogtraining.com

Socializing Your New Puppy With Children

Puppies and children can become great companions, with your gentle guidance. Below are some tips to help you introduce your new puppy to children.

Continually supervise children and puppy interactions to prevent injuries. Focus on the quality of your puppy's interactions with children as well as the quantity. The key is for your puppy to have a wide range of positive experiences.

Instruct children on how to greet your puppy calmly and politely. Do not allow children to pick up your puppy. This can frighten your puppy and we don't want a bad experience for the puppy or the child.

Let puppies approach children at their own pace. Don't put a puppy in the middle of a large group of children. Rather, let puppies meet children one on one and instruct children on how to pet puppies gently. Children should always use gentle hands with puppies.

Let children offer your puppy treats by placing the treat in the middle of their open palm. This will encourage your puppy to take the treat by licking it and minimize the chance for the puppy to nip the child in excitement.

If you don't have children, see if you enlist the help of children in your family or your neighbor's children to help socialize your puppy. You want to be sure to have your puppy around noisy children, children with loud toys, children with hats and boots, children of different races, heights, hair color. Expose your puppy to a wide variety of children. The key is to keep these experiences positive.

If your puppy appears to be frightened of children, proceed slowly. Take your puppy to children's playgrounds and keep your puppy at a safe distance where he can get used to the different sounds children make without having to interact with them. Bring your puppy's favorite treats and toys with you. As your puppy becomes more comfortable and isn't hiding behind you or trying to run in the opposite direction, allow one or two of the older children to calmly approach your puppy and offer him treats from their open palms. If your puppy is crazy about his ball then you can also have children play ball with your puppy. Be sure to supervise closely, you don't want children pulling the ball out of your puppy's mouth. We want to encourage your puppy to think that good things come from children.

Some puppies may need additional help becoming comfortable around children or help with another issue entirely. All puppies learn at their own pace. If you are patient with your new family member and provide gentle guidance, you will be rewarded with wonderful companionship in the years to come.