



What Can I Do With My Puppy Before The Final Vaccination?

Many people ask us this question on a daily basis. It is important that you understand several things about vaccinations and about puppy behavioural development.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are a form of insurance against your puppy becoming sick. They are not, unfortunately, a guarantee. Puppies are vaccinated twice. Once at six to eight weeks and then again when they are at least 10 weeks.

This is because a puppy's mother can pass some temporary immunity to it in the colostrum or "first milk". This will protect your puppy for between six and twelve weeks. While this is a good thing, it has a down side. This immunity will interfere with a puppy responding properly to a vaccine. There is no way to know when this interference runs out.

For this reason a puppy will do one of two things when it is vaccinated. It will either be protected or it won't be. Again there is no way of knowing which group your puppy is in. The only safe assumption is that your puppy is not vaccinated until about two weeks after the last puppy vaccination.

Puppy Behavioural Development

It is important for puppies to have social interaction and to learn about their world as youngsters. The main time that a puppy is able to be socialised is between about ten and sixteen weeks. This means that it is important that puppies are allowed to meet other dogs and to learn about the world outside their own backyard. Cars, trucks, people, smells and anything else out there in the wide blue yonder.

Recommendations

To balance these important needs for your puppy, our recommendation is that they can have limited access to the outside world.

This means that low risk activities will, in most cases, be OK.

By this we mean

- ❖ Puppy school is OK. (please notify a member of staff if you think your puppy may not be completely healthy).
- ❖ Visiting friends or family that own well behaved and annually vaccinated healthy dogs.

- ❖ Short walks on clean concrete footpaths restricting access to posts, trees, parks, bushes and passing dogs.
- ❖ Short walks along the shoreline if close to beaches