

PUPPY DOG

Bundle of Joy, or Irritating Liability?





Puppy Dog - Bundle of Joy, or Irritating Liability

Author

John Greyvenstein's love for and interest in animals were the main reasons for his research into working dogs while in the process of obtaining his BSc (Zoology) (Hons) and MSc degrees in Genetics.



The subject of his thesis, "The heritability of practical important characteristics in working dogs" is an indication as to why he is regarded as a world authority in this field. Articles and papers by John are deemed brilliant by international authorities on the subject. He is also a sought-after speaker at relevant congresses and seminars.

He was head of the dog centre of ESCOM (the South African Electricity Supply Commission) and is one of only a handful of A-level DH5 accredited instructors in South Africa. He is also a qualified Assessor and Moderator to the highest level of dog training and trainers.

He founded Bio-Dog Services (now **Braveheart Bio-Dog Academy**) in 1987 and developed it into one of the largest private training centres for working dogs in Southern Africa, also rendering highly specialized services to international clients.

John is in constant demand by governments internationally to act as Project Manager for the establishing of specialized dog training and operational centres for a variety of applications.

Since 2005, Braveheart Bio-Dog Academy has also emerged as the world leader in developing advanced training methods and aids for the detection of Narcotics and Explosives.





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1. **Puppy Socialization: One of a Dog's Most Important Formative Phases**

Training a dog is like building a house: One should start at the foundation.
Puppy Dog



Training lies the foundation for all future behaviour and is designed to develop a balanced relationship between the dog and humans, and between the dog and other dogs and animals. The foundation is also laid for life-long self-confidence of

the dog. Puppy Socialization must be done when a dog is between 8 and 16 weeks old.

Like with a child, educating your dog must start at the puppy stage to ensure that it grows up to become a reliable, even-tempered family member, yet an effective watch and protection dog.

Puppy Training results in basic control by its owner or handler, and obedience by the dog; and the dog develops the ability to react correctly to instructions. Through this process, harmony is created between the dog and humans as well as other dogs and animals inhabiting its living space.

You want a dog over which you have control to ensure its consistent effectiveness, positive behaviour towards children as well as adults. When you walk in the park or take your dog on holiday with you, you want the assurance that your dog has the social skills to interact positively with other dogs, can easily adapt to a new environment and is easy to control.

In short: you will have a dog with self-confidence and good social skills.

What Results can you Expect from Puppy Training?

- The foundation is laid for life-long self-confidence of the dog.
- Basic control by you, and obedience by the dog are created during the socialization process.
- The dog develops the ability to react correctly to instructions.
- **Harmony is created between the dog and humans as well as other dogs and animals inhabiting its living space.**

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2. Socialization is the Ideal Prelude to Further Training

Socialization is the cornerstone for the development of the puppy into a balanced mature dog resulting in:

- unconditional loyalty and companionship
- loving personal protection dog that can save you and your family's lives and protect your property
- successful sporting activities with your socialized dog
- guarding your assets



Your socialized dog can also be trained for special applications like:

- tracking and trailing for sport or for working purposes
- narcotics detection
- explosives detection
- or other substance detection

All these advantages start with scientifically based puppy training.

Braveheart Bio-Dog Academy's scientifically developed command structure moves away from spaced repetition training, moving into the realm of an association process that results in a more predictable outcome in the communication process between dog and owner/family.





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3. Making the Correct Decision

There are differences between breeds in terms of behaviour as developed over time. Many people still believe that certain breeds cannot socially interact with either people and/or other animals in a positive way. This leads to a forced incorrect perception regarding the suitability of such breeds for certain training and interaction.

There are many theories about how to make the best choice of puppy. However, the quality of the puppy is not of paramount importance on its own – the role of the owner in developing its personality can turn even a “bad choice” into a star performer. For instance:

- On one occasion, a minister of religion chose a puppy to buy from Braveheart that was regarded by Braveheart as the weakest of the litter. He however insisted that he wanted that specific puppy.

By giving the puppy lots of unconditional love and attention it turned, against all the scientific odds into the most wonderful family dog one could wish for. When he brought the grown puppy for formal personal protection training it had undergone the most incredible transformation and turned into an ideal family and watch dog – all because of the family's love and attention.

- A young farmer in the then Transvaal province and his little Maltese dog had to cross a river on horseback. About an hour later his wife heard something scratching on the back door – it was the Maltese, drenched to the bone who kept on jumping up barking and then running a few yards as if to entice her to follow him, which she did.

On arriving at the river, she found her husband precariously hanging onto the branch of a tree growing next to the water, after his horse had been swept away by the current. She managed to help him to safety. The bond between man and dog was so strong, that when the little dog managed to get onto the riverbank he rushed home to alert the man's wife, thereby saving his life.

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4. Old Wives' Tales on Puppy Training Abound

- What methods can be used at home to ensure that puppy training is done correctly?
- What long term goals must be kept in mind when selecting puppy training methods or schools?
- What methods can be used at home to ensure lasting positive behaviour?
- What behaviour should not be allowed as a puppy to avoid trouble when it is fully grown, and much heavier?
- Is there a critical period of socialization where correct inputs are required for the puppy?
 - If done correctly (timing and methods), these inputs will positively influence the dog's behaviour for life.
 - If NOT done correctly (timing and methods), the dog's behaviour will be negatively impacted for life!

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You don't want to be in the same situation as Lisa, who got the cutest German Shepard Puppy, Cujo, at eight weeks. The puppy was the perfect companion for her. Cujo was everything she wanted from her new puppy: He was fun, loving, loved to play, loved walking on the leash with her, everything she had expected.

When Cujo grew bigger, the outdoor area became too small for him. If Cujo was not taken for his afternoon walk or run, the garden and all the utensils would show the disastrous evidence of his frustration.

Lisa also had a problem in the making as a result of her not giving the correct inputs when

Cujo was still a puppy:

Cujo loved walking on the leash so much that when Lisa touched the leash hanging on the wall, Cujo would jump up against her to get to the leash. As a puppy, this was very cute and she was very proud of herself that Cujo enjoyed the walks. Cujo, however, was now 30kg and jumping up against Lisa meant scars, torn trousers, and nasty falls. The pleasurable walk or run in the afternoon became a nightmare, and Lisa did not know what to do any more.

If Lisa had read an instruction book based on years of experience and research, this problem would not have arisen, as she would have known how to train Cujo correctly during the critical training phase in puppyhood. Allowing/encouraging Cujo as a puppy to jump up against her had led to the same behavior pattern in adulthood.

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5. **Be prepared for the journey that is waiting for you with your new puppy:**

- Are you prepared to do potty training, keeping the dog's behaviour in mind?
- When is your dog actually ready to start with potty training?
- Are you prepared for the dig and chew phase?
- How do I get my puppy to recognize its name?
- What should I feed and not feed my puppy?
- How often and how should I play with my puppy?
- How should I discipline my puppy?
- What are the best techniques to ensure that I have a good long-term relationship with my dog?

6. **Science and reality**

As mentioned already, Braveheart Bio-Dog Academy has developed scientific socialization training specifically for puppies, which disproves the misconceptions pointed out, and leads to exceptional positive results.





Braveheart Bio-Dog Academy

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