

## Honey's Happy Training for the Canine Good Companion Dog

Please scroll right down to read the credit, this is just a suggestion. Where it say squirrels, we in Australia may have Echidnas, Kangaroos, Koalas or Possums, but you get the idea!

**WE HAVE A CHOICE**, of **isolating our pups** until the 12th or 14th week and consequently having a dog that **will never reach its full potential** as a family dog, or **relying on the first needle** and cross immunity where dogs are exposed to and their system copes with, what ever is out there. The Northern Suburbs Training and Obedience Dog Club has accepted 8 week old pups at Carine Open Space for over 25 years, the GSDA of WA accepts 8 week old puppies at their HQ where many breeders socialize their 7 week old pups, before sale, and at Mac Donald Training Ground in Padbury, we also have 8 week old pups enjoying their socialization in Pre-Kindy Class, ever since I had, in my then capacity of Obedience Chairperson of the GSD Council of Australia, asked our veterinarian, whom you may know of, as the ANKC Hereditary Diseases Officer, Dr. Karen Hedberg, BVSc., why we had to keep our puppies isolated until 14 weeks, when at Vets' surgeries, all over the World, there are Puppy Classes, in a room right next to the sick and the dying, the diseased and the decaying! A nasty question, that SHOCKED the Committee, and we have been training 8 week old puppies ever since! **Super dogs are made, not born**, may be thought to be a cliché, but it is worth thinking about. In my little Pre-Kindy book written over 25 years ago, I expressed my sentiments, I would rather have a dead pup than a shy dog,!! The dead pup breaks your heart at the time, but you will have a decade of heart break protecting a shy dog from the real world. Ask your breeder and ask your vet about the vaccinations that give protection from the age of 6 weeks on! Now please read below. Further advice:: Type: "Dog Star Daily" into your browser!

**Honey Gross-Richardson**

**By the time a pup is 12 wks old, it should have: Played by "The Puppy's Rule of 12"**

**Experienced 12 different surfaces:** wood, woodchips, carpet tile, cement, linoleum, grass, wet grass, dirt, mud, puddles grates, uneven surfaces, on a table, on a chair, etc...

**Played with 12 different objects:** fuzzy toys, big & small balls, hard toys, funny sounding toys, wooden items, paper or cardboard items, milk jugs, metal items, etc...

**Experienced 12 different locations:** front yard (daily), other people's homes, school yard, lake, pond, river, boat, basement, elevator, car, moving car, garage, laundry room, kennel, vet hospital (just to say hi and visit, lots of cookies, vaccinations) grooming salon (just to say hi) etc...

**Met and played with 12 new people:** (outside of family) include children, adults (male and female) elderly adults, people in wheelchairs, walkers people with canes, crutches, hats, sunglasses, etc...

**Exposed to 12 different noises:** (ALWAYS keep positive and watch puppy's comfort level-we don't want the puppy scared) garage door opening, doorbell, children playing, babies screaming, big trucks, Harley motorcycles, skateboards, washing machine, shopping carts, power boost, clapping, pan dropping, vacuums, lawnmowers, etc...

**Exposed to 12 fast moving objects:** (Don't allow to chase) skateboards, roller-blades, bikes, motorcycles, cars, people running, cats running, scooters, children running, squirrels, horses running, etc...

**"The Puppy's Rule of Twelve"** is something that I am very proud of, and would like to keep ownership of. Please give me full credit when using this on your website or any other form.

*Positive Paws Dog Training ©2002 - Margaret Hughes*

*Adapted with permission from Pat Schaap's "RULE OF 7's" for 7 week old puppies*

*Thank you,*

[Margaret Hughes](#), owner of *The Puppy's Rule of Twelve*