



🐾 Puppy Observation and Critical Thinking About Social Development (C)

Phase 1: Hands-On Activity Guide for Dog Social Development

Reminder: If you visit a pet store or a breeder, even if you are critical of any of their practices, be very open-minded and friendly to the people you meet during this exercise. It is recommended that you do not let any negativity show during your visit! This is a good first round of practice for using your people skills, which DO come in very handy as a dog trainer.

Questions to Ask a Staff Member

- 1. What breeds are these puppies?**

- 2. Who is the staff's favorite puppy right now? Why?**

- 3. How old are these puppies? (If given a range, find out youngest and oldest)**

- 4. Are they taken out of their pens? If so, where do they go?**

- 5. Are they handled by people? What types of handling do the pups experience?**

6. Do they interact with the public? If so, what kinds of people get to interact with them? For example, men, women, children?
7. Do the pups ever interact with adult dogs or just other puppies?
8. Where do the puppies come from?
9. What age are they when they arrive at this location (if not the original breeder)?
10. Ask if you can interact with the puppies. If so, spend a few minutes with the dogs. Then write down how they responded to you.
 - a. Did they approach when you called them?
 - b. Did they allow you to touch them?
 - c. Did all the pups act the same towards you? Make notes of differences you notice in their behaviors towards you.