



### Early Development (2-3 WEEKS)

*Similar to newborn babies, puppies at this age are still dependent on their mothers.*

- Puppies have just opened their eyes
- They've started responding to light, movement, and sound

### Socialization (3-7 WEEKS)

*Puppies at this stage are comparable to human infants.*

- Fully alert to their environment
- Learn about social interactions with littermates
- Learn to accept discipline from their mother



### Training & Exposure (8-12 WEEKS)

*Comparable to toddlers, puppies are curious and learn quickly during this time.*

- Exposure to various people and environments is important during this time
- Be aware of safeguarding against potential traumatic experiences
- Perfect time to start puppy training

### Age of Independence (4-6 MONTHS)

*Puppies become more independent and start testing boundaries. Welcome to the equivalent of a toddler's "Terrible 2's"!*

- This stage marks their first maturation landmark at about 6 months old
- Puppies will test boundaries, similar to how a young child may push limits (like walking to the bus stop without mom)



### Fear Period (5-8 MONTHS)

*Puppies at this stage are comparable to human children in their early elementary school.*

- Even well-socialized puppies may start to show fear toward people and things during this time
- Carefully continuing socialization efforts will help a puppy navigate this period

### Second Maturation Landmark (12 MONTHS)

*Puppies at this stage are growing up and are similar to teenagers.*

- They will continue to test boundaries similar to children
- They will experience significant physical and behavioral changes during this time
- Stay consistent with training



### Adolescent Maturation Landmark (18-24 MONTHS)

*Young dogs at this stage are comparable to young adults in their late teens and early twenties.*

- Two maturation landmarks at 18 and 24 months old
- The 18-month landmark is often accompanied by another fear period
- Puppies may exhibit previously eliminated unwanted behaviors, and owners should address them promptly

### Full Maturity (36-48 MONTHS)

*Dogs are similar to humans in their mid to late twenties.*

- They have reached their final maturation landmark
- Thanks to consistent and thoughtful training they are ready to be a wonderful companion

