



**Tips for growing up
bravely starring
Curlin' Merlin
(A.K.A. Superman George)
& friends**



**Raising resilient racing
greyhounds**

Puppies, like all baby mammals, have emotional needs that must be met for them to thrive and grow into behaviourally healthy adults.



The points below apply to all aspects of puppy raising. They are the Golden Rules for raising resilient puppies:

- Safety first, always: Puppies need secure attachments to attentive, kind, and confident handlers
- Making novelty fun is the key to developing resiliency: Acceptance is not enough. Puppies must enjoy the process and outcome to learn bravery
- Learning is ongoing: Start young and repeat lessons regularly throughout life
- Match challenges to ability: Brave puppies have learned that challenges can be overcome
- Variety of experiences is more important than what those experiences are. Aim to teach skills, not just habituate puppies to specific sights, sounds, or experiences

Experiences every puppy should have before weaning

AIM FOR AT LEAST 1 NEW EXPERIENCE DAILY FROM 1 WEEK OF AGE



Time to rest and grow



Gentle daily handling by trusted humans



New things to hear

(e.g., music, household noises, vehicles, people, storms)



New things to see

(e.g., colourful toys, TV, open spaces, light and dark rooms)

New things to smell

(e.g., foods, artificial scents, different animals, herbs)



New things to taste

(e.g., safe human foods, different textures and types of puppy food, cat treats)



Short cuddles away from my littermates



New places to explore

(e.g., different floor surfaces, indoors/outdoors, navigating confined spaces and elevated surfaces)



Dr Diana Rayment, BAnSci PhD

Lessons every puppy should learn by 12 weeks

KEEP LESSONS SHORT & REWARDING, AND PRACTISE OFTEN



**Wearing a collar
and lead**



**Eye contact is
safe & nice!**



**Sitting on
cue**



**Coming when
called**



**Taking treats
from hands**



**Exploring new places is
fun!**



Experiences every dog should have while they are still puppies



Wearing clothes
(even just for fun)



Meeting new people

(e.g., men, women, children, people in weird clothes)



Regular new toys
(don't forget to rotate them too)



Trips in the car

(with and without my siblings)



Food games!

Enjoyable health care



Relationships that every puppy needs

SECURE ATTACHMENT = "WITH YOU, I KNOW I AM SAFE"



Dam who provides high level of care

(nursing, licking, grooming)

Dog friends my age to play with



Securely attached human caregivers

Adult dog friends to teach me about life

(Of all different breeds please)



Teach the game of choice, not tolerance

COOPERATIVE CARE TRAINING BUILDS TRUST AND IMPROVES RESILIENCE



Use high value food for treats

(ask me what I like most!)

**Practise where
I am relaxed**

(a comfortable surface is
best)



**Only continue if I am
relaxed and eating**

(Stop if I stop – feeling safe is the
most important thing for me)

**If we practise together, I
can do it anywhere**

(Just like Dakota, who doesn't like vets!)



Don't forget to practise!

LIKE ANY SKILL, RESILIENCE DEVELOPS WITH PRACTISE

