



Calm Companions

Vet and Behaviour Services

Dr Nela Graham, BVSc, MANZCVSc (Veterinary Behaviour Medicine)

Veterinary Behaviour Consultations

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Introduction to our Puppy Classes

Dear K9 Parent!

Congratulations on your new family member! Let the fun begin!!

Puppy's brains develop rapidly. The first 3-4 months of a puppy's life is like the vital period of development in a child's first two years! Supporting your puppy to develop positive skills and behaviours in these early days is the most important task you have as a responsible dog lover. There is no time to lose!

In the past decade there has been a substantial amount of scientific evidence on the importance of appropriate, safe and controlled puppy socialisation. Puppies of different breeds and sizes need to gradually learn how to communicate with each other. The risk of a single negative (fearful) exposure from inappropriate "play time" with unfamiliar dogs has been shown to "stick" in dog's minds for the rest of their lives!

There is also solid evidence that the primary goal of puppy training should be to teach our puppies how to be **calm** around other dogs and people! Setting your puppy up for success is the biggest gift you can give your new furry family member.

During our puppy program, your puppy will be given the opportunity to gradually learn how to interact with other dogs, calmly! We will teach your puppy basic "manners", like sit, drop, come, stay; while also teaching you on how to accurately read your dog's body language so you can be the support they need. You will learn about a range of other topics including the importance and variety of environmental enrichment, toilet training, crate or pen training, basic dog care, diet and nutrition, as well as how to manage dogs around kids safely.

Remember that everything your puppy encounters in this sensitive period until they are 4 months old will remain with them for life. So you see, it is really up to us as K9 Parents, to help shape their brains to experience their world positively and confidently. Ensuring your puppy attends a well-managed puppy program run by a qualified trainer is the first step to reduce future behaviour problems.

At Calm Companions we will be here for you each step of the way through this vital period of behavioural development! We will make learning fun, practical and straight forward.

Please note, **no** choker chains are used and all classes are taken by Dr Nela Graham who is your “all in one” Vet-Vet Behaviourist-Dog Trainer! All our classes are based on positive reinforcement only to reduce stress and help your puppies learn effectively.

Our classes run on Sunday afternoons, time to be advised.

Place: Labrador Scout Club hall, 224 Turpin Rd, Labrador

Cost: \$200 includes: Unique personalised 6-week puppy program run by a qualified professional; Individual support throughout the program; Additional complimentary weekly puppy interaction sessions to help consolidate learning and discounted private lessons.

***Please note that the first lesson is an orientation without your puppy, unless this has been done through a Private Home-Based Puppy Set-Up.
The following 5 lessons will be with your puppy present.**

Please also note that should you choose to make a booking, you will need to bring the following with you **to all your lessons** with your puppy - Collar and lead; Mat to lie on; A **variety** of small bite size treats; A variety of edible chews such as pig’s ear/roo flap/bully stick/fish sticks etc. You will also can purchase a range of these treats and chews during the class.

If you have any questions or would like to make a booking, please do not hesitate to call!

Kind Regards,



Dr Nela Graham
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“Passionate about Helping you Understand your pets”