

12 EASY STEPS TO RAISING A KITTEN OR PUPPY TO BE A CONFIDENT, GOOD CAT OR DOG

There are twelve easy steps to raising a kitten or puppy to be a confident adult animal. ***Each experience your pet has should be safe and positive and introduced with plenty of treats and praise.*** Examples are provided, but do not limit your pet's experiences to them. If you live in the city, include experiences specific to rural life, and vice versa. Do not force your pet to do anything, let it explore for itself. Do not "comfort" your pet if it is unsure about something, give it the time and space to learn while keeping it safe from negative experiences. In any event, by the time a kitten or puppy is 12 weeks old, it should have these experiences:

It should have been in 12 locations (boat, garage, kennel, lake, moving car, park, friend's homes, on walks, pet store, school yard, vet and groomer – to say hi only, and in its back/front yard.)

It should be left alone 12 times a week away from family and other animals for 5 to 45 minutes in a safe place.

It should have drank and eaten from 12 containers (cardboard box, china, coffee cup, frying pan, "Kong" - stuffed, metal container, paper bag, paper plate, pie plate, plastic, treat ball, and wobbly bowl.)

It should have drank and eaten in 12 locations (crate, back/front yard, kitchen, basement, friend's house, car, school yard, bathtub, high like on a work bench, and under an umbrella.)

It should have been on 12 surfaces (carpet, concrete, dirt, grass - wet and dry, grates, linoleum, mud, pea gravel, puddles, sand, standing on a table, tile, uneven surfaces, and wood.)

It should have faced 12 challenging situations (had a bath, gone up/down stairs; climbed in, over and around various obstacles; gone through a tunnel; gone in/out doorway; played hide/seek; seen umbrellas open/close; walked on a plank of wood with a small rock underneath; and walked through electric sliding doors.)

It should have been gently restrained 12 times a week by family members (held under an arm like a football, to your chest like a baby, in your lap, on the floor beside you, between your legs, and, had its head held while you look in its ears and mouth, touch between its toes, and trim its nails.)

It should have heard 12 unfamiliar noises at a distance (babies crying and screaming, big and little trucks, children playing, clapping, doorbell, garage door opening, lawnmower and weed-eater, motorcycles, pan dropping, parties - entertaining, shopping carts, singing, skateboards, vacuums, washing machine and dryer.)

It should have been with 12 new people, not family, who handled and played with it (children and adults, men (lots of men), women and the elderly of all races, all wearing an assortment of clothing (including uniforms), hats and sunglasses, people with walkers or canes and in wheelchairs)

It should have played with 12 other kittens or puppies as often as possible and played with 12 safe adult cats or dogs and other types of friendly animals.

It should have played with 12 different objects (balls - all sizes, car keys , metal, plastic and wood items , milk jugs , paper or cardboard items , and toys of all shapes and sizes, fuzzy and smooth , hard and soft, and ones that make funny noises.)

It should have been prevented from chasing 12 fast moving objects (bicycles, brooms, cars, cats, children running, children playing, motorcycles, other animals, people running, roller-skates, skateboards, and vacuums.)

It should have worn a leash and collar 12 times in 12 different locations.

And, even if your kitten or puppy is over 12 weeks old, it can still benefit from these tips. Start now! As long as the experiences are positive, the more experiences your pet has, the better socialized it will be as an adult. To learn more about socialization, go to **About Socialization** at www.mypetpro.com.