

Diamonds in the Ruff

Veterinary permission slip

We abide by the recommendation and vaccination protocols set forth by your personal licensed veterinarian for you and your particular pet.

Vaccination efficacy, schedules, and risks are under study and change and many veterinarians are adjusting their recommendations accordingly. For this reason we do not dictate exactly what or how many vaccinations your pet must have prior to class attendance. We feel this recommendation is best left to your personal veterinarian. Your dog or puppy must be seen regularly by a licensed veterinarian and deemed to be in good health, free of communicable disease or parasites, and adequately protected against disease for your dog's health and the health of our other students.

We ask that dogs adopted from shelters wait at least 10 days prior to attending class to guard against transmitting diseases that may be incubating following their time in the adoption kennels.

Date _____

Client's name _____

Dog's name _____ age _____ breed _____

After reviewing the above patient's health records and discussing with them recommended vaccination schedules and the risks of common canine viruses and diseases, I give my permission for the above dog to attend group classes at Diamonds in the Ruff.

DVM name _____

Clinic name _____

Signed _____



How early can my puppy begin classes?

As early as your veterinarian gives the okay.

Read the position statement on early puppy socialization from the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior below.



Please talk to your veterinarian and get a timeline of when they will give permission to attend and then reserve your spot. (Please, don't register and then wait until the last minute to get your vet's okay. If you hold a spot and then can't attend, it's not fair to other puppy students who couldn't get in because the class was full!)

Your vet permission slip must be signed by your veterinarian assuring that your puppy is deemed healthy and current on vaccinations. Print it and take it with you to your next vet appointment.

We leave the advice of what and how many vaccinations up to the expertise of your veterinarian. How many will depend on when your puppy started his vaccination series. **He does not have to have "all his shots" to attend. He does need to be adequately protected and seen by a veterinarian to assure he is healthy.** When discussing the start date with your vet, remember that week one orientation is people training, pups stay home, so your puppy won't actually be in the classroom around other pups until week 2.

Can I begin Puppy Confidence sessions before my puppy's class begins?

Yes. If you are taking advantage of our Puppy Confidence Building sessions, you may begin the supplemental sessions prior to the start date of your puppy class as long as your vet permission slip is signed. Please contact your veterinarian prior to registering to get their recommendation for when your puppy will be ready to start classes. Puppy Confidence is rolling admission for pups under 5 months of age. You may start any time. Check the website for dates and times as they are not held every month of the year.

AVSAB Position Statement on Puppy Socialization

American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior - www.AVSABonline.org

"The primary and most important time for puppy socialization is the first three months of life.^{1, 2} During this time puppies should be exposed to as many new people, animals, stimuli and environments as can be achieved safely and without causing over-stimulation manifested as excessive fear, withdrawal or avoidance behavior. For this reason, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior believes that it should be the standard of care for puppies to receive such socialization before they are fully vaccinated.

Because the first three months are the period when sociability outweighs fear, this is the primary window of opportunity for puppies to adapt to new people, animals, and experiences. Incomplete or improper socialization during this important time can increase the risk of behavioral problems later in life including fear, avoidance, and/or aggression. Behavioral problems are the greatest threat to the owner-dog bond. In fact, behavioral problems are the number one cause of relinquishment to shelters.³ Behavioral issues, not infectious diseases, are the number one cause of death for dogs under three years of age.

While puppies' immune systems are still developing during

these early months, the combination of maternal immunity, primary vaccination, and appropriate care makes the risk of infection relatively small compared to the chance of death from a behavior problem. Veterinarians specializing in behavior recommend that owners take advantage of every safe opportunity to expose young puppies to the great variety of stimuli that they will experience in their lives. Enrolling in puppy classes prior to three months of age can be an excellent means of improving training, strengthening the human-animal bond, and socializing puppies in an environment where risk of illness can be minimized.

For this reason, the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior believes that it should be the standard of care for puppies to receive such socialization before they are fully vaccinated.

In general, puppies can start puppy socialization classes as early as 7-8 weeks of age. Puppies should receive a minimum of one set of vaccines at least 7 days prior to the first class and a first de-worming. They should be kept up-to-date on vaccines throughout the class." - AVSAB