

Pup Development



Development of Behavior

- ◆ The behavioral development start at birth and finishes when the wolves mature at 2 years of age.
- ◆ There are 5 critical development periods:
 - Neonatal
 - Transition
 - Socialization
 - Juvenile

Neonatal Period

From birth, to eye opening

- ◆ Physical characteristics:
 - Born deaf, blind and incapable of thermo regulate temperature.
 - Round head, small muzzle and brownish color.



Neonatal Period

- ◆ Behavioral Characteristics:
 - Uncoordinated movements, most of them crawling (investigatory).
 - Sleeping in pile (comfort seeking).
 - Suckling from the mother (ingestive).
 - Vocalizations like:
 - ◆ Whimpering, whining, yelping
 - Eliminative behavior due to maternal licking.

Transition Period

Eye opening to 20 days of age

- ◆ Physical characteristics:
 - Pups eyes open between 12 and 14 days.
 - All of the puppies have blue eyes.
 - Ears open.
 - Increase strength to stand and walk.
 - Start teething.



Transition Period

eye opening to 20 days

- ◆ Behavioral Characteristics:
 - Start coordinating movements, exploring the den.
 - Recognition of familiar members of the pack.
 - Vocalizations:
 - ◆ Howling, growling and barking.
 - Fear response.
 - Play behavior:
 - ◆ Dominant interactions, shaking objects, chasing, grabbing and biting.

Transition Period

- ◆ Rapid learning of skills:
 - Defending
 - Submitting
 - vocalizations





Socialization Period 20 to 77 days of age

◆ Physical Characteristics:

- Continue teething
- Developing wolf features, like long ears, long legs, rate paw leg, long muzzle, etc.



Socialization Period

- ◆ The most important period in the development of the social behavior.
- ◆ Pups start coming out of the den to nurse.
- ◆ They tend to follow the mother if she interrupts the feeding.
- ◆ They start the weaning process and start digesting regurgitated food.

Socialization Period

- ◆ Food begging behavior
- ◆ Pups are active with all members of the pack.
- ◆ Pups are left alone by the mother and sometimes they are taken care of by members of the pack (juvenile siblings).
- ◆ They can seek shelter from inclement weather.

Socialization Period

- ◆ Caching behavior starts.
- ◆ Very important learning process.
- ◆ Play/dominant interactions:
 - Tug of war, submissive postures, dominant postures

Juvenile Period

From 12 weeks of age to Maturity

- ◆ Behavioral Characteristics:
 - Join adults on hunts.
 - Learn their place in the pack's hierarchy.
 - Start testing siblings.
 - Defend food.
 - Master the social skills to function in the pack.
 - Some may disperse.