

MIDKELTON PUPPY SOCIALISATION PROGRAMME

Health and temperament are at the top of my list when breeding. Puppies are either for showing, working or as just a member of the family and the need of a good temperament is of paramount importance. My own dogs are shown in Scotland & England and as such are both my companions and friends – if the temperament is not up to this as they have to be handled by lots of different people then they are generally not bred from. Having said this some animals are just not suited to this way of life but they are sweet natured to live with, these are the exception.

The Gordon Setter puppies are born in the tack room within the Main house very near to the utility & kitchen. All regular domestic chores ie. vaccuming, washing machine & tumble drier are undertaken. The radio and T.V are also playing to get accustomed to different voices and sounds. I encourage the supervised interaction with you children when possible also.

As they get older, normally around 5 weeks, they go to the outside kennel to let them see the sights and sounds in the outside world. We live in the country and have a large volume of agricultural vehicles going directly past our house which introduces traffic noise. Soft toys and cardboard boxes are given to let them play and explore. The mums are normally off the pups by this age, perhaps just popping in a couple of times a day to check all is well. This is of course dependent on the weather as winter puppies can stay inside longer.

It is important that you continue to socialize your puppy in a safe and responsible way. Some vets and most training classes run puppy socializing/ ring-craft classes and will always give help and advice. Please remember that socializing is a part of training, not an opportunity to spoil your puppy, (very difficult). You should always try to maintain strict discipline from day one, contained with praise and reward.

It is a very big wide world out there once the puppy leaves the safe and secure home it has known since birth so be patient and kind – it is after all a new addition to your family.