



# Media Release

From Victorian Canine Association Inc  
trading as DOGS Victoria

---

## Puppies at Play

Many families have brought home a new puppy over the holidays. Now that the kids will be heading back to school and the adults back to work, it is important to continue giving your puppy love and attention as regularly as possible. As most children will be bounding home from school eager to play with puppy, DOGS Victoria has put together several tips on how to play with your new pup to make sure he grows into a well-mannered and happy adult dog.

“Puppies need to be taught what is acceptable, just like human children,” said DOGS Victoria President Doug Ford. “The ideal time to train puppies on acceptable play, and socialise them to cope in an urban human world is between 8-16 weeks of age. This is also the age at which most breeders allow a pup to be taken from its litter.”

Mr Ford offered puppy owners the following tips:

- NEVER leave children unattended with a puppy or a dog
- Always have children play with a puppy with a toy that is large enough to keep their hands away from its mouth, but still the right size for the size of the dog
- If the puppy bites, say “ouch” and immediately end the play session so that it learns that if it bites the fun is over
- Don’t let children play tug-of-war with a puppy or dog
- Know the way that your dog likes to play as it differs among types of dogs
- Give the puppy short play sessions frequently rather than one long session which can tire them out too much
- If in doubt, contact your vet, an animal behaviourist or trainer to find out the amount of time and types of games that are best for your dog

Finally, keep in mind that puppies will get plenty of exercise from playing. It is still a good idea to walk your puppy, however, to get him used to being on a lead and dealing with every day issues like bicycles, skateboards, posties on motorbikes, wheelchairs, walking frames, and parents with pushers. Your puppy will take a cue from you on how to react to new experiences, so if you remain calm it will do the same.

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Elizabeth White, CE DOGS Victoria  
(03) 9788 2500  
[office@dogsvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@dogsvictoria.org.au)

**A DOGS Victoria representative can be made available for interviews on a variety of topics including training tips, choosing the right dog, and general dog information.**