



# LOVE YOUR PUPPY

After nearly nine years with Philly Unleashed, Dana Falsetta joined the staff of the Animal Welfare Society (AWS) as the Behavior and Training Program Coordinator. She's a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA) and a Certified Behavior Consultant Canine-Knowledge Assessed (CBCC-KA).

Puppies were her focus from the beginning at Philly Unleashed, teaching a drop-in puppy socialization program. She taught the class for nearly nine years, from her first week to her last week with Philly Unleashed. "I think there's something so cool about helping people with their young animals," she shared.

Now, she offers online classes via Zoom through AWS. On Tuesdays, there's a free Ask the Trainer session on the AWS Teacher's Pet Facebook page. Previous sessions can be accessed on YouTube.



## Resources:

- <https://www.facebook.com/AWSTeachersPets/>
- <https://animalwelfaresociety.org/>
- <https://phillyunleashed.com/>
- <https://telltai dogtraining.com/dana/>



Dana offered some tips on socializing puppies despite the pandemic:

1. Practice calmly seeing another dog without saying hello.
- >> Treat your puppy for seeing the other dog, which creates a positive experience.
1. Maintain social distancing with structured on-leash greetings.
  2. Introduce puppies through a structured meeting with friends in your pandemic bubble who have stable adult dogs.
  3. Work on appropriate greetings. Humans should help puppies keep their paws on the ground by greeting the puppy by bending over or crouching.
  4. Remember that socialization is not just dogs and people.
- >> Socialization means gaining positive experiences about new things and as many new things as possible.
- Expose your puppy to grass, rain, woods, the sidewalk, different types of objects, toys that squeak, and food puzzles that move.
  - Start training early. Encourage your puppy to make good decisions and reward those good decisions.



When bringing home a new puppy:

1. Puppy proof your home with baby gates and a crate.
2. Stick your puppy in a safe place when you need a break.
3. Give your puppy a lot of love and encouragement and gently expose them to their new life.
4. If you have other dogs, take it slow. Your puppy won't exhibit the same behaviors as your adult dog.
5. Love your puppy.

