



## Puppy & Adolescent Policy

The Dog Nook at Cranbrook recognises that puppies and young dogs (under 1 year old) have different needs from adults - they're still growing, learning, and figuring out the world (and their place in it!). We give our under-1s the extra time, patience, and attention they need to thrive - while making sure they're safe, supported, and never overwhelmed.

### Tailored routines

- Young dogs follow a slightly different pace - with plenty of breaks, shorter bursts of play, and calm time between activities.
- Rest is essential - under-1s are given quiet time throughout the day in a comfy, peaceful space to relax and recharge.

### Supervised socialisation

- Social time is always closely supervised to make sure it's positive, not overwhelming.
- Dogs under 1 are carefully matched with suitable companions based on age, energy, and play style.
- We gently help puppies learn boundaries and body language in a safe, guided way - with kindness, not corrections.

## Safe, age-appropriate exercise

- We avoid over-exercising growing joints. Outdoor play is age-appropriate and controlled, with options for rest and slower-paced sniffing.
- Walks (if included) are short, calm, and focused on confidence-building, not distance.

## House training & cleanliness

- We follow each dog's routine as closely as possible and support ongoing house training by offering regular toilet breaks.
- Accidents are expected - we clean up promptly and without fuss.

## Communication with you

- We'll keep you updated on how your young dog is settling, playing, and developing - especially if we notice changes in behaviour, sleep, or interaction.
- We work with you to support training and routine consistency, and we're always happy to follow any instructions you provide.

## Licensing considerations

In line with the Animal Activity Licence requirements:

- We do not accept any dog under 12 weeks old and they must be fully vaccinated.
- We carefully assess each young dog's suitability for group settings
- We monitor health, behaviour and development closely, and adapt our care as your dog grows.

## Why it matters

The early months shape a dog's confidence, wellbeing, and lifelong habits. We treat every young dog with patience, gentleness, and respect - so they can build positive associations, trust, and a sense of safety while they're here.