

✓ **Do's** & ✗ **Dont's** **During the Fear Stage in Puppy Development**

The Fear Period is a natural stage in Puppy Development. With patience, positive reinforcement, and gentle guidance, your puppy will grow into a confident, well-adjusted adult dog.



✓ **Do's**

Stay calm and patient

Your puppy mirrors your energy.
A calm owner reassures a nervous pup.

Use positive reinforcement

Reward calm behavior with treats, praise, or play to build confidence.

Provide gentle exposure

Introduce new people, places, and sounds gradually, at your puppy's pace.

Maintain routine

Consistency in feeding, walks, and training helps your puppy feel secure.

Offer safe spaces

Give your puppy a crate or quiet area to retreat when overwhelmed.

Encourage confidence

Use puzzle toys, short training sessions, and fun games to build resilience.

✗ **Dont's**

Don't punish fear

Scolding or forcing interactions intensifies anxiety and erodes trust.

Don't overwhelm

Avoid exposing your puppy to too many new experiences at once.

Don't force contact

Let your puppy approach people or objects when they feel ready.

Don't ignore signals

Whining, hiding, or barking are cues that your puppy needs support.

Don't assume it's permanent

Fear stages are temporary and part of normal development.



For More **Puppy Training Resources** See Our Website
www.NewEnglandLabradorRetrievers.com