

Around the Obedience Ring

by Connie Cleveland
207 Greenpond Road
Fountain Inn, SC 29644
864/862-8626
www.dogtrainersworkshop.com
dtwcc@bellsouth.net



A New Puppy: Getting Sarted

Editor's note: This is the first in an excellent series of articles that has been divided into three important stages of puppy development: seven to nine weeks, nine weeks to three months, and three to five months. It is Connie's hope that these articles will not only help GRCA members, but will also be helpful for breeders to copy and give to their puppy buyers. Please feel free to copy and distribute this information wherever it might be helpful. Simply

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A New Puppy: Getting Started

There is probably no more exciting time in a dog owner's life than preparing for the arrival of a new puppy. After

the careful consideration of the seemingly endless decisions...what breed, what sex, which breeder, which veterinarian, which food, a crate or not...you finally come to one of the most important of all: How are you going to train him?

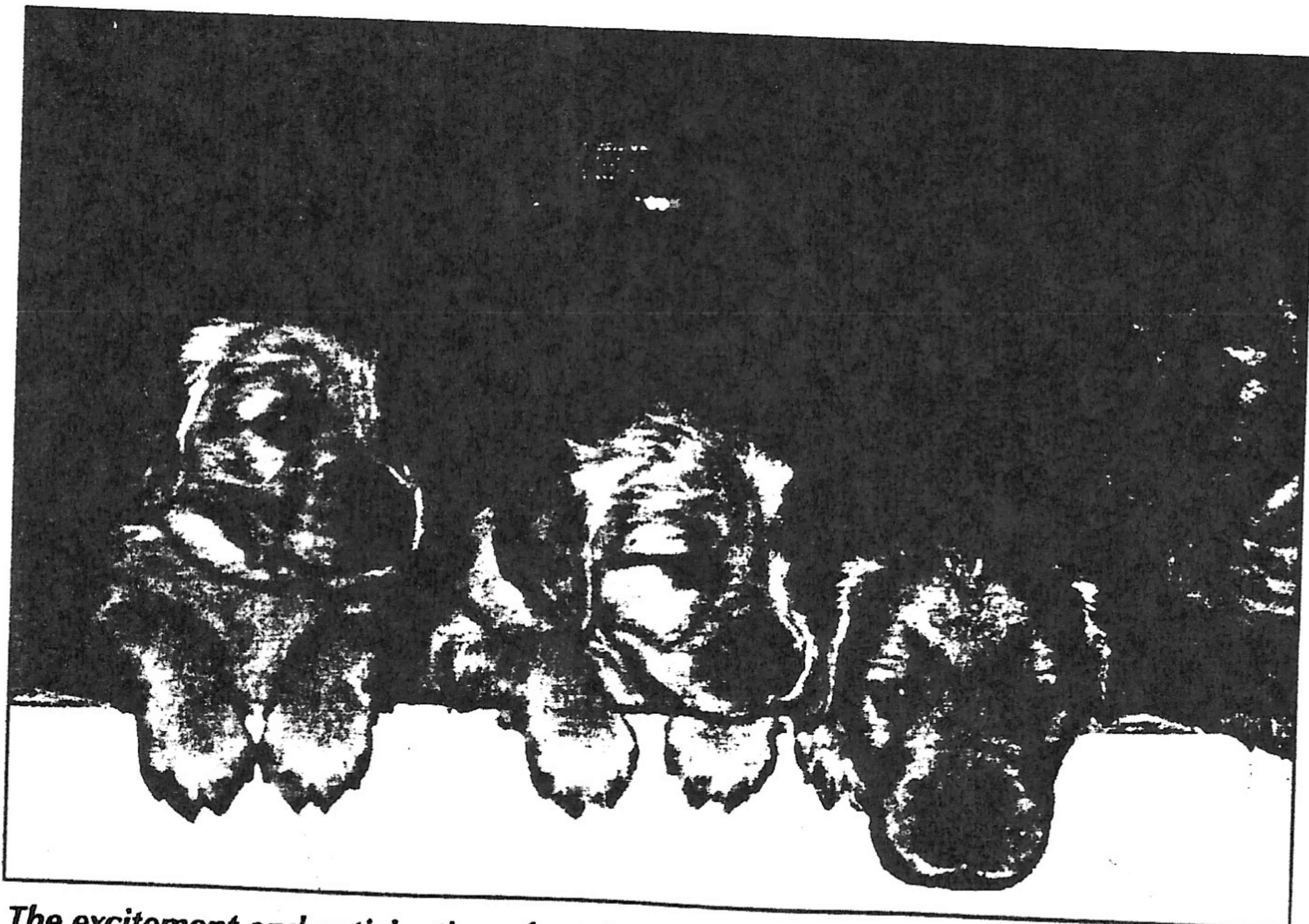
Perhaps a bit of common sense will help you with some of these decisions. Begin by imagining how you want your adult dog to behave. The most enjoyable dog to own,

1. comes when he is called,
2. stays where he is put,
3. walks well on a leash,
4. only jumps up on people or furniture when invited,
5. plays with his toys and leaves your stuff alone, and
6. can be confined away from the family when necessary.

Think about it. If all the above statements described your dog, would you be happy? If you answered "yes" to all or most of those statements, then get started with those goals in mind as soon as you bring your puppy home.

Seven to Nine Weeks – An Infant

It is common to bring a puppy home between seven and nine weeks of age. This age is irresistible, and you need to remember what an infant that little puppy is.



The excitement and anticipation of getting a new puppy is a special time. Use it also to formulate a plan for raising a companion that will be a joy to live with for a lifetime.