



## Irish Pet Advertising Advisory Group

### **Puppy independence - week 13 to16**

Now your Puppy Plan can move up a gear, as your puppy should be fully vaccinated.

#### **Suggested Tasks**

1. In this four-week period, once again make sure your puppy experiences everything on your Puppy Plan chart at least three times (tick them off as you go) – but now he is on the floor and under his own steam! He is now seeing things from a different perspective – on the ground – so familiar things might look a little different to him. Make sure all of these meetings are positive and he is well rewarded either by you or the people he meets.
2. Once your puppy is out and about exploring and experiencing all the new things in his life, make sure you get him used to listening to you (for a treat or a game) no matter how big the distractions are. It is an exciting world out there but he should learn that you are the most interesting thing in it. This will help a lot with your training.
3. Start attending the puppy playgroup you found in week 8 so your puppy learns how to socialise with all kinds of other dogs. These social skills are very important – even if you have other dogs in the house, as it is essential that your puppy knows how to interact with other dogs as well as your own. If you have other dogs, regularly take your puppy out to the park or for walks on his own so he learns to be sociable to other dogs.
4. If you are ever going to use a boarding kennel, a groomer etc this is the time to introduce this into your puppy's life. This could include a two hour stay in the boarding kennel (with a nice stuffed Kong), or a gentle brush over by the groomer.
5. Continue his training, problem solving, the 'leaving him for short periods', and also keep exposing him to unpredictable (but controlled by you) noises throughout this period.

**Well done – your puppy has completed the Puppy Plan! [www.ipaag.ie](http://www.ipaag.ie)**