

SELECTED REFERENCES & FURTHER READING

Modern Puppy Training Gets It Wrong | Kelly Dunbar | IACP 2026

This is a short reference list for the research-grounded ideas discussed in the talk. **My developmental framework** reflects decades of hands-on puppy raising, teaching, shelter work, trainer education, and program development rather than a synthesis of current commercial training systems.

Freedman, D. G., King, J. A., & Elliot, O. (1961). *Critical period in the social development of dogs*. Science, 133(3457), 1016-1017. doi:10.1126/science.133.3457.1016

Classic experimental work underlying the early social-development window.

Scott, J. P., & Fuller, J. L. (1965). *Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog*. University of Chicago Press.

Foundational work on canine development, social attachment, fear, and sensitive periods.

Premack, D. (1959). *Toward empirical behavior laws. I. Positive reinforcement*. Psychological Review, 66(4), 219-233. doi:10.1037/h0040891

The original basis for using access to higher-probability behavior to reinforce lower-probability behavior.

Stolzlechner, L., Bonorand, A., Riemer, S., et al. (2022). *Optimising puppy socialisation: Short- and long-term effects of a training programme during the early socialisation period*. Animals, 12(22), 3067. doi:10.3390/ani12223067

Relevant to the talk's distinction between mere exposure and development through appropriately structured experience.

Kis, A., Szakadat, S., Kovacs, E., et al. (2017). *The interrelated effect of sleep and learning in dogs (Canis familiaris): An EEG and behavioural study*. Scientific Reports, 7, 41873. doi:10.1038/srep41873

Supports the role of sleep in canine learning and memory consolidation.

Nagasawa, M., Mogi, K., Kikusui, T., et al. (2021). *Basal cortisol concentrations related to maternal behavior during puppy development predict post-growth resilience in dogs*. Hormones and Behavior, 135, 105030. doi:10.1016/j.yhbeh.2021.105030

Relevant to the discussion of resilience as a developmental outcome rather than a simple test of stress tolerance.

McEvoy, V., Espinosa, U. B., Crump, A., & Arnott, G. (2022). *Canine socialisation: A narrative systematic review*. Animals, 12(21), 2895. doi:10.3390/ani12212895

A useful modern synthesis of the literature on canine socialisation, sensitive periods, novelty, fear, and later behavior.

Abrantes, R. (1997; revised and updated for the Ethology Institute course). *All About Puppies: The Little Handbook*.

Further reading on puppy development, sensitive periods, socialization, play, stimulation, learning, home-alone skills, house rules, and raising puppies within the human environment.

FOUNDATIONAL LINEAGE / SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Ian Dunbar and Dunbar Academy for the foundational puppy-development work, developmental deadlines, bite inhibition, socialization, prevention, and the training lineage from which much of this work grew.