



The weaning process will take about two to three weeks overall. Ideally, by about 6 weeks they will be completely weaned.

Handle the pups as much as possible. I cannot stress enough how important this is. This critical period from birth to eight weeks cannot be replicated later on. If you fail to handle the pups during this time and get them used to being picked up, stood up, cuddled, brushed, combed, spoken to, patted, having their chests rubbed and ears scratched, plus all the other things you do with pups, then later on it will be too late.

Make sure they hear different sounds, loud noises (a plastic bottle filled with stones is wonderful for noise training), and let them experience different situations. Take them to different rooms and if you have children, let the kids play with the pups. Make sure, however, that you supervise the children, as they can sometimes get a bit rough.

Taking the time now helps the pups to become well socialised and prepares them for coping with new situations. It will ensure you have pups that are happy and well adjusted.

For the pup(s) you are keeping, it is important to take them to a show as early as permitted, because this will introduce them to the noises of a dog show, an environment that will be totally different to anywhere else. Not taking them out early runs the risk that they will not be happy in the surrounds of a dog show and fail to become the outgoing puppy in the ring that you are hoping for.

Early work and early socialization with your puppies will pay off in the long run, believe me.

However, despite the fact that you can do a brilliant job of socialising your pups when they are young, things do not always go to plan.

How often have we seen the outgoing, “love everyone puppy” that shows its head off, all of a sudden turn into the puppy that does not want to be there and demonstrates that it does not want to be handled on the judging table?

If you ever have a puppy that you are showing and it begins to show signs of “going off the rails”—the next chapter, “*The Problem Puppy*” may help get things back to normal.



If you choose to do this from the side of the dog, you will be rounding off the leg from the top to the bottom, but you will need to make sure the leg is perpendicular when viewed from behind. If in doubt that the leg is perpendicular, check often to make sure by looking from behind the dog (Fig 23).



When scissoring this area, there is a different option to try. If your dog needs a bit more leg, consider trimming a slight hollow into the top of the front of the back leg. This gives the impression of the leg going a little higher (Fig 24 & 25).



The Great "JR"—
Ch Special Times Just
Right—after winning
Best In Show at
Westminster in 2001—
with handler Scott
Sommer and the Judge
Mrs Dorothy Macdonald.
Many thanks to Cecelia
Ruggles for allowing
me to reproduce this
photo of JR.