



# Border Collie

## puppy training timeline | weeks 8-16

*Curiosity needs room to rest. Reward calm as much as cleverness.*

Check off each week. Short, positive practice is enough; repeat a week whenever needed.

| WEEK                        | SHARED FOUNDATION                                                                            | TRY WITH YOUR BORDER COLLIE                         |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | <b>Home &amp; routine</b><br>Reward outdoor toileting after sleep, meals and play.           | Offer a sniff break after the toilet trip.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | <b>Name &amp; check-in</b><br>Pair the name with a treat; reward a voluntary glance.         | Pay for stillness before a game.                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <b>Gentle handling</b><br>Touch paws, ears and mouth briefly; reward and stop before stress. | Reward a calm paw touch; avoid repeated drilling.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <b>People at a distance</b><br>Let your puppy watch a new person; reward calm curiosity.     | Watch movement from far away; reward disengaging.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | <b>Sounds &amp; surfaces</b><br>Try one low-volume sound or safe surface, at their pace.     | Use a slow find-it game on a new surface.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <b>Quiet puppy class</b><br>Ask your vet about a clean, force-free class and safe exposure.  | Choose a class with rest breaks, not constant play. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <b>Come &amp; touch</b><br>Practice short recalls and hand targets in a quiet room.          | Move the hand target to one new spot.               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <b>Leash basics</b><br>Pay for a few slack-leash steps; keep sessions playful.               | Alternate slack-leash steps and a short sniff.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | <b>Find-it game</b><br>Scatter a few treats and notice how your puppy searches.              | Hide one treat under a cup; keep it easy.           |

### THIS WEEK I NOTICED



### KEEP IT SAFE

Ask your vet about safe outings. Avoid dog parks and unknown dogs; never force contact.

*Based on Hare & Woods's Puppy Kindergarten research; breed exercises are Dognition suggestions, not tested breed-specific deadlines. Read sources: [dognition.com/breed-specific-puppy-training](https://dognition.com/breed-specific-puppy-training)*



# Border Collie

## puppy training timeline | weeks 17-24

*Curiosity needs room to rest. Reward calm as much as cleverness.*

Check off each week. Short, positive practice is enough; repeat a week whenever needed.

| WEEK                        | SHARED FOUNDATION                                                                             | TRY WITH YOUR BORDER COLLIE                           |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 | <b>Settle &amp; rest</b><br>Reward calm moments; protect naps and quiet alone play.           | Mark relaxed lying down before asking for more.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 | <b>New place, easy cue</b><br>Repeat a familiar cue in one gently different location.         | Practice attention away from a distant moving object. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 | <b>Short wait</b><br>Practice a brief pause before food, doors or play.                       | Wait for one calm breath before release.              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | <b>Trade &amp; release</b><br>Exchange an object for a treat or toy; give it back when safe.  | Trade a toy, then offer a settling break.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 | <b>Distractions at distance</b><br>Reward a check-in while something interesting is far away. | Observe bikes from a comfortable distance.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 | <b>Recall with a long line</b><br>Use a safe space; reward generously, never chase.           | Keep the line on around moving distractions.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 | <b>Build one variable</b><br>Change distance OR duration OR distraction, not all three.       | Increase movement OR proximity, never both.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 | <b>Review &amp; adjust</b><br>Record what works; return to easier setups when needed.         | Note whether puzzles or settling need more help.      |

### THIS WEEK I NOTICED



### KEEP IT SAFE

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# Golden Retriever

## puppy training timeline | weeks 8-16

*Use connection, but practice greeting without rushing in.*

Check off each week. Short, positive practice is enough; repeat a week whenever needed.

| WEEK                        | SHARED FOUNDATION                                                                            | TRY WITH YOUR GOLDEN RETRIEVER               |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | <b>Home &amp; routine</b><br>Reward outdoor toileting after sleep, meals and play.           | Praise the calm return from a toilet trip.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | <b>Name &amp; check-in</b><br>Pair the name with a treat; reward a voluntary glance.         | Reward looking back before an eager hello.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <b>Gentle handling</b><br>Touch paws, ears and mouth briefly; reward and stop before stress. | Make handling a quiet, cooperative game.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <b>People at a distance</b><br>Let your puppy watch a new person; reward calm curiosity.     | Let greetings happen only when relaxed.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | <b>Sounds &amp; surfaces</b><br>Try one low-volume sound or safe surface, at their pace.     | Pair a new sound with food and warm praise.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <b>Quiet puppy class</b><br>Ask your vet about a clean, force-free class and safe exposure.  | Practice calm observation of other puppies.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <b>Come &amp; touch</b><br>Practice short recalls and hand targets in a quiet room.          | Add cheerful praise to a short recall.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <b>Leash basics</b><br>Pay for a few slack-leash steps; keep sessions playful.               | Reward a loose leash before greeting anyone. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | <b>Find-it game</b><br>Scatter a few treats and notice how your puppy searches.              | Find a treat after checking in with you.     |

### THIS WEEK I NOTICED



### KEEP IT SAFE

Ask your vet about safe outings. Avoid dog parks and unknown dogs; never force contact.

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# Golden Retriever

## puppy training timeline | weeks 17-24

*Use connection, but practice greeting without rushing in.*

Check off each week. Short, positive practice is enough; repeat a week whenever needed.

| WEEK                        | SHARED FOUNDATION                                                                             | TRY WITH YOUR GOLDEN RETRIEVER                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 | <b>Settle &amp; rest</b><br>Reward calm moments; protect naps and quiet alone play.           | Practice resting while people are nearby.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 | <b>New place, easy cue</b><br>Repeat a familiar cue in one gently different location.         | Repeat name response beside a quiet visitor.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 | <b>Short wait</b><br>Practice a brief pause before food, doors or play.                       | Pause briefly before a friendly hello.          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | <b>Trade &amp; release</b><br>Exchange an object for a treat or toy; give it back when safe.  | Trade a carried sock for a safe toy.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 | <b>Distractions at distance</b><br>Reward a check-in while something interesting is far away. | Watch dogs at a distance before greeting.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 | <b>Recall with a long line</b><br>Use a safe space; reward generously, never chase.           | Pay well for returning from social play.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 | <b>Build one variable</b><br>Change distance OR duration OR distraction, not all three.       | Add one new place while keeping greetings easy. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 | <b>Review &amp; adjust</b><br>Record what works; return to easier setups when needed.         | Track calm greetings, not just fast cues.       |

### THIS WEEK I NOTICED



### KEEP IT SAFE

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# German Shepherd

## puppy training timeline | weeks 8-16

*Keep cues predictable; give uncertain puppies more distance.*

Check off each week. Short, positive practice is enough; repeat a week whenever needed.

| WEEK                        | SHARED FOUNDATION                                                                            | TRY WITH YOUR GERMAN SHEPHERD                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | <b>Home &amp; routine</b><br>Reward outdoor toileting after sleep, meals and play.           | Keep the toilet and rest routine consistent.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | <b>Name &amp; check-in</b><br>Pair the name with a treat; reward a voluntary glance.         | Use the same name cue across caregivers.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <b>Gentle handling</b><br>Touch paws, ears and mouth briefly; reward and stop before stress. | Pair handling with a clear start and stop.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <b>People at a distance</b><br>Let your puppy watch a new person; reward calm curiosity.     | Watch people from far enough away to relax.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | <b>Sounds &amp; surfaces</b><br>Try one low-volume sound or safe surface, at their pace.     | Reward noticing a sound and looking back.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <b>Quiet puppy class</b><br>Ask your vet about a clean, force-free class and safe exposure.  | Choose a structured class with quiet space.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <b>Come &amp; touch</b><br>Practice short recalls and hand targets in a quiet room.          | Use one brief recall cue, then reward.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <b>Leash basics</b><br>Pay for a few slack-leash steps; keep sessions playful.               | Start leash practice indoors before outdoors. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | <b>Find-it game</b><br>Scatter a few treats and notice how your puppy searches.              | Hide treats in the familiar room first.       |

### THIS WEEK I NOTICED



### KEEP IT SAFE

Ask your vet about safe outings. Avoid dog parks and unknown dogs; never force contact.

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# German Shepherd

## puppy training timeline | weeks 17-24

*Keep cues predictable; give uncertain puppies more distance.*

Check off each week. Short, positive practice is enough; repeat a week whenever needed.

| WEEK                        | SHARED FOUNDATION                                                                             | TRY WITH YOUR GERMAN SHEPHERD                     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 | <b>Settle &amp; rest</b><br>Reward calm moments; protect naps and quiet alone play.           | Keep a predictable rest place after play.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 | <b>New place, easy cue</b><br>Repeat a familiar cue in one gently different location.         | Repeat a cue in one calm new environment.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 | <b>Short wait</b><br>Practice a brief pause before food, doors or play.                       | Wait briefly, then give a clear release word.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | <b>Trade &amp; release</b><br>Exchange an object for a treat or toy; give it back when safe.  | Trade a chew without grabbing or scolding.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 | <b>Distractions at distance</b><br>Reward a check-in while something interesting is far away. | Create distance if barking or freezing begins.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 | <b>Recall with a long line</b><br>Use a safe space; reward generously, never chase.           | Protect recall; avoid crowded off-leash areas.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 | <b>Build one variable</b><br>Change distance OR duration OR distraction, not all three.       | Add one new sight while the cue stays familiar.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 | <b>Review &amp; adjust</b><br>Record what works; return to easier setups when needed.         | Note signs of stress and seek help if persistent. |

### THIS WEEK I NOTICED



### KEEP IT SAFE

Ask your vet about safe outings. Avoid dog parks and unknown dogs; never force contact.

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# Labrador Retriever

## puppy training timeline | weeks 8-16

*Make food and sniffing work for focus, without overexciting.*

Check off each week. Short, positive practice is enough; repeat a week whenever needed.

| WEEK                        | SHARED FOUNDATION                                                                            | TRY WITH YOUR LABRADOR RETRIEVER              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8  | <b>Home &amp; routine</b><br>Reward outdoor toileting after sleep, meals and play.           | Reward toileting outside; then allow a sniff. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9  | <b>Name &amp; check-in</b><br>Pair the name with a treat; reward a voluntary glance.         | Offer a small food reward for a check-in.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <b>Gentle handling</b><br>Touch paws, ears and mouth briefly; reward and stop before stress. | Practice handling when the puppy is calm.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <b>People at a distance</b><br>Let your puppy watch a new person; reward calm curiosity.     | Reward four paws down near new people.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | <b>Sounds &amp; surfaces</b><br>Try one low-volume sound or safe surface, at their pace.     | Use a tiny treat after a novel sound.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <b>Quiet puppy class</b><br>Ask your vet about a clean, force-free class and safe exposure.  | Keep play in class supervised and short.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <b>Come &amp; touch</b><br>Practice short recalls and hand targets in a quiet room.          | Call once, pay, then release to explore.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | <b>Leash basics</b><br>Pay for a few slack-leash steps; keep sessions playful.               | Reward slack leash, then release to sniff.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | <b>Find-it game</b><br>Scatter a few treats and notice how your puppy searches.              | Use a puzzle feeder or simple find-it.        |

### THIS WEEK I NOTICED



### KEEP IT SAFE

Ask your vet about safe outings. Avoid dog parks and unknown dogs; never force contact.

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# Labrador Retriever

## puppy training timeline | weeks 17–24

Make food and sniffing work for focus, without overexciting.

Check off each week. Short, positive practice is enough; repeat a week whenever needed.

| WEEK                        | SHARED FOUNDATION                                                                             | TRY WITH YOUR LABRADOR RETRIEVER            |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17 | <b>Settle &amp; rest</b><br>Reward calm moments; protect naps and quiet alone play.           | Pair chew time with quiet rest.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 | <b>New place, easy cue</b><br>Repeat a familiar cue in one gently different location.         | Practice one cue near a mild scent.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 19 | <b>Short wait</b><br>Practice a brief pause before food, doors or play.                       | Pause at the door, then release to sniff.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | <b>Trade &amp; release</b><br>Exchange an object for a treat or toy; give it back when safe.  | Trade a stolen object for a safe chew.      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 | <b>Distractions at distance</b><br>Reward a check-in while something interesting is far away. | Work far enough from other dogs to focus.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 | <b>Recall with a long line</b><br>Use a safe space; reward generously, never chase.           | Pay generously for recall around scents.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23 | <b>Build one variable</b><br>Change distance OR duration OR distraction, not all three.       | Change only one sniff-related distraction.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 | <b>Review &amp; adjust</b><br>Record what works; return to easier setups when needed.         | Notice if food rewards increase excitement. |

### THIS WEEK I NOTICED

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### KEEP IT SAFE

Ask your vet about safe outings. Avoid dog parks and unknown dogs; never force contact.

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