

What is Human Pup Play?



**A mini-guide into the world
of Human Pet Play**





What is *Human Pup Play?*

***Human Pup Play* is when a person takes on the role of a puppy or dog. Others may also take the role of a handler, trainer, Sir/Ma'am, and many other assorted roles.**

It's not necessarily a sexual play, for some it might be, for others it a release of the animal part of them.

It's not is bestiality: real animals are not involved.

For many, *human pup play* is not humiliation but rather enjoyable, relaxing, and often empowering. A pup is the center of attention, care and love. A very intimate and special bond can be found between pup and their handler, trainer, other pups, Sir/Ma'am, etc.

What are the roles in puppy play?

This is not an exhaustive list of the roles in puppy play, nor does everyone fall into just one category; but the most common terminology you might hear is:

Pups

...are more about the canine *headspace* to tap into their inner pup. Physical aspects can come into it as well.

Handlers

...are anyone the takes care of a pup. The one holding the leash, playing and taking care of their pup.

Trainers

...train the pups to behave and do tricks. Trainers and Handlers may overlap.



What is pup headspace?



Headspace is a mental state you put on when you are doing puppy play. Dogs live in the moment, they do not think about the past or future. They act on instinct rather than rationality. Dogs are pack animals and seek attention from the other members of the pack. They may look to other dogs for leadership and guidance, and will assert their own if they do not find it. Maintaining headspace is about putting aside human thoughts and desires and thinking instead about a pup's thoughts and desires.

What is needed for puppy play?

For most, puppy play is primarily a headspace. It is about a pup mentality, where your world consists mainly of what's within four feet of the ground. Puppy play is affordable and can be done without gear. That said, there is some gear that helps maintain headspace.

Toys

Every pup needs some good chew toys to chase. The best toys are soft ones. Human teeth are not dog teeth. Hard toys like bones and rawhide shouldn't be used.



Tails

Tails are a great way to get into the pup spirit. There are furry, leather, and rubber tails that are either worn as a butt plug or as a part of clothing. **NEVER pull on a pup's tail!**



Kneepads

A more practical consideration than anything, a cheap pair of kneepads from a hardware store will help keep your pup's knees from being injured and allow for longer play time.



Hoods/Muzzles

A muzzle helps prevent a pup from using his human voice, and serves to make him look more dog like. Hoods look even more dog like (some are very realistic) and are usually less restrictive. Each hood can be tailored to each unique pup.



Collars

A collar may be the most important part of gear for a pup. Besides providing a place to put a leash and a tag, wearing a collar helps immensely in putting a pup into the proper headspace. It's also used as symbol of a relationship between a Handler and Pup.



Treats

Trainers and handlers sometimes use treats to reward their dogs for good behavior. Treats can include soft candies, chocolate and peanut butter. **Make sure to ask a dogs handler first before feeding.** Some pups don't know their own allergies!



Bowls

Pups hard at play need water! A large dog bowl is best. A human pup's snout isn't as long as a real pup's.



Paws/Mitts

Paws help keep a pup's hands restrained, preventing them from being used like a human's and also serving to protect hands during extended play. Many pups find that their mitts help pull them into pup headspace.



All are welcome to play

Puppies are not limited by gender or orientation. Most groups are welcoming of pups and handlers from all walks of life. There is no 'one-size-fits all'. Don't let your body-type hold you back either. You'll discover pups of all shapes, sizes, and genders to play with.

How do I get started as a pup?



Get on all fours and start barking!

It is not always easy for a pup to get started with their puppy headspace. All pups are different, so what works for one may not work for others. The most useful thing may be to try and think like a dog thinks.

When you see a ball, you want to chase it. When someone gives you a treat, you wag your tail (wagging your butt is acceptable, and not to mention cute!).

Human speech doesn't mean much to you, except maybe "good boy/girl." There are very little worries when you are a pup.

You do not necessarily have to be on all fours to be in pup headspace. Many pups can achieve headspace even when they are at work, in the car, or at the store. It is about keeping a carefree, joyful mentality. And growling at the occasional squirrel.

How do I get started as a Handler?



For the most part, when you are handling your pup, treat them how you would a biological puppy. Pet them, play with them, tell them they're a good pup. There is no thing greater than having the joy and love you give your pup reflected back to you from a wagging tail and a lick on the cheek.

Some of the best guides for training are regular-old puppy training guides you get from the pet shop. Make sure your pup tries to use their puppy mentality and not human (humans learn tricks too fast). Do keep in mind however that your human puppy is not the same as a biological one and cannot do all of the same things their 'bio' counterparts can.

About the K9 Unit

The San Francisco K9 Unit is a social organization for people who enjoy puppy play. We provide an outlet for pups to explore their animal side—romping, sniffing, licking and even sometimes getting into mischief—while in their human canine headspace. Whether they are pups, dogs, hounds, wolves or other creatures, we encourage our members to explore the world of puppy play.

We also provide Masters, Handlers, Trainers, Owners and Puppy Sitters an opportunity to meet others who are interested in finding, training or potentially collaring a human pup of their own.

For more information about the SF K9 Unit visit:

www.sfk9.org 🐾

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