

Littermate Syndrome



UNDERSTANDING LITTERMATE SYNDROME.

What is Littermate Syndrome?

Littermate Syndrome is a condition that can occur when two puppies from the same litter are adopted together. While it may seem wonderful to adopt siblings, raising them together can lead to a range of behavioural and training challenges as they mature.

Characteristics of Littermate Syndrome

Puppies raised together often form a very strong bond that can interfere with their development as individual dogs. Some common signs of Littermate Syndrome include:

- **Over-Reliance on Each Other:** Sibling puppies may become overly dependent on one another for socialisation, leading to difficulties when separated.
- **Difficulty Training:** They may struggle with training, as they often prioritise playing with each other over listening to commands.
- **Socialisation Issues:** Sibling puppies might lack the confidence to interact with other dogs or people outside of their sibling bond, as they tend to rely on each other for comfort.
- **Increased Behaviour Problems:** This reliance and lack of individual training can lead to behavioural issues, such as increased anxiety, aggression, or fearfulness.

The Risks of Adopting Sibling Puppies Together

At Enchanted Rescue, we do not adopt out puppy siblings together. Here are the key reasons behind this decision:

- 1. Encouraging Independence:** When puppies are adopted separately, they have the chance to grow into confident, well-adjusted dogs. Allowing them to develop their own identities is crucial for their overall development.
- 2. Focused Training:** Training is significantly easier when puppies are raised separately. Each puppy can receive individual attention and training without the distraction of their sibling, leading to better outcomes in obedience and behaviour.
- 3. Preventing Behavioural Problems:** By avoiding Littermate Syndrome, we reduce the risk of behavioural issues that can arise from the over-dependence on each other. This can lead to a more harmonious relationship with their human families.
- 4. Improved Socialisation:** Puppies raised independently are more likely to engage with other dogs and humans, ensuring they develop a well-rounded social personality. This is essential for their integration into various environments.

Adopting a puppy is a significant commitment that requires careful consideration of their social and developmental needs. At Enchanted Rescue, our policy prohibiting the adoption of puppy siblings together is designed to promote healthy, independent, and well-adjusted dogs who thrive in their new homes.

If you're thinking about adopting a puppy, we encourage you to consider the importance of socialisation and independent growth. Thank you for supporting our mission to rescue and find loving homes for vulnerable animals!