

Pup Presentation by Kirk “Brue” Pierce 02-25-15

The scene which we will be describing as the human pup space (or human animal space) has been around for centuries, just hiding “underground” and “behind closed doors” in private until within the past twenty one years or so has it started to come out into the public and is continually gaining momentum as the next “big scene”. It has a playful and innocence appeal as well as an age and international appeal that crosses over with other scenes such as the furies, diaper and rubber fetish crowds. No one person created or started the pup movement (despite some claims) but rather from multiple people over time. This presentation is not about bestiality, but allowing the human mind to explore or enter a primal mindset or headspace where the person can feel, interact and become as close to being a real canine as possible.

It often helps when exploring pup headspace to have either raised or been around canines as you will learn much from observation and interaction. I highly recommend reading books on dog’s psychological behavior and or dog training for more pup headspace development and understanding.

Before you begin to experience the pup headspace:

Always ask what physical problems or allergies a person has before you put them into pup headspace or gear. Do they have any food allergies, latex allergies, asthma, knee problems, heart conditions, etc. Do they have medicines they need to take or do they need to eat at certain times? Work out some codes or vocal sounds ahead of time for when a human pup may need assistance with gear adjustments or needs to come out of the pup headspace. This is to be safe, sane and consensual and ultimately fun for everyone involved.

inner stuff

What is pup play?

What I will be expressing today is just my opinion and my experiences as there is lots of different ways to enjoy the pursuit of pupdom. **Everyone experiences the pup space differently, there is no right or wrong way despite what some may say. This is not a “cookie cutter” lifestyle.** For some it is a mental escape, a spiritual discovery, it is who they are or maybe an extension of their sexual or fetish selves (not bestiality). **This is an individualistic journey and so the outcome and growth will be different for each pup (or Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter).**

Most people who are into the puppy scene like to be treated as if they were a real canine pup. Interactions between human pups or a Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter or observers and another pup is loosely based on interactions that occur with real canines.

Pups like to express themselves in different ways: some are very playful, friendly. Others are aggressive, dominating or “Alpha” (the Top Dog of the pack). Some are quiet and shy. Some want lots of affection, others want to just guard or be next to their Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter. As with real pups, each will have a different way of expressing themselves or being themselves. **Again, there is no right or wrong way to this, just follow your instincts and use common sense.**

Is there a ritual or something needed to go into pup space?

For most people, they need a few minutes to turn off their “human mind”, those everyday thoughts, worries, stress, fears and to submerge or tuck them away to allow their canine persona to surface and run free. Some people can do this quickly, others take more time. Some need voice commands or phrases to be said or someone to talk them “down”. Some need physical connection (pets, scratches, etc.) or body cues from the Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter. For others, just by putting them into their pup gear activates their pupdom. This is a very individualistic procedure. Explore and find the way that works best for you. Coming out of pup space is the same. Some can quickly come back out of their pup space while others need that calm, rest time or even voice commands to reactivate their “human mind”.

Is there way to approach or respond to human pups?

Depends on the situation and the Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter. If a pup comes running up and jams his muzzle into your crotch or ass for a sniff or rubs up against you it is probably okay to respond with a friendly pet/scrutch, gentle shove or “down/behave/sit” command. If you see a pup sticking close to it’s Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter, or seems to be protecting an object/person or an area/perimeter, it may be a working or guard dog and you should seek out the owner and inquire if it is alright to pet the pup. If you are not sure, err on the side of caution and use common sense.

One thing I would like to stress is do not react violently to human pups. Do not kick them, step on them or swat/hit them because you think it is fun, that they might like it, that they are submissive, etc. Most do not as you may find out when you get bitten, knocked down or growled at. **Do not abuse the human pup!** Even though they are human and still have reasoning powers going on in the back of their minds no matter how much they want to shut it off, they are still in a mindset which is reacting to the present or the “now”. They get easily distracted, can become hyper/excited and just as easily they get bored or tired. Just be patient and understanding of their pup headspace.

Is there a hierarchy when human pups interact with each other?

When human pups encounter each other, normally they are friendly and bark, wag, lick or nuzzle each other. Some try to immediately assert their Alphaness as where others could care less and just want to have fun. For human pups: watch body language, growl tones or even bites on the back of the neck (which means submit) and react accordingly as to whether you want to challenge for Alphaness. For submission, just lower your eyes/front body or roll over onto your back looking helpless and submissive. As with real canines, the Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter is THE ALPHA to a human pup. Within the pack there is normally only one Alpha followed by the submissives. However, at events or large gatherings there may be more than one Alpha and *most* try to respect each other. Do not let someone’s “size” determine their Alphaness, it hinges on the **attitude**, not if they can squish you or use wrestling moves to pin you down (you ever seen a canine wrestler?).

How can you make human pups feel safe?

Offer reassuring pets and scratches. Speak calmly to them. Be present, observant and in control of your human pup. Having an article of clothing with their Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter’s scent on it can be comforting if they are not around due to distance, activities, etc. Always be aware of what type of clothing you are giving with your scent as human pups have a tendency to go search for replacements when they feel the current one is no longer any good.

Do voice/hand commands and hand/paw signs help Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitters and pups?

From a Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter's viewpoint voice and hand commands help control, guide and give the pup input as to what is expected or what you are trying to get them to do without taking them out of their pup headspace. Basic voice and hand commands “sit, stay, heel, come, no, good, bad, walkies, down, off, speak, beg, fetch” are good examples of what to teach a pup. To make it more difficult and or to give the pup a better canine learning experience, use a language not known to them; say for example German, Latin or Spanish. By not knowing what the words mean, they will have to rely on observing your body language/hand gesture and voice tone to figure out what you are trying to get them to do. Hopefully they are also learning some useful language when they are back in their human mindset.

Please remember that for pups, acoustics for sound while on all fours compared to hearing sound when standing is **very different**. Background noise/distractions/physical objects all distort or absorb sound, so if you want to communicate/command a pup, talk directly at or down to them, try and get eye contact if possible to make sure they can see your body language/hands. Keep the communication/command basic, even though they can hear what you say, the “Snoopy syndrome” usually takes place and all they tend to hear is “blah-blah-blah-sit-blah-blah”.

Hand/Paw signs determined ahead of time between a pup and Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter can help the pup communicate with the Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter without having to use their voice or take them too far out of pup headspace. Some examples are: pawing at the knee can help alert the Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter that there is something wrong and needs attention (adjust kneepads, injury, etc). Pawing at the throat can indicate that they need to speak as a human to get their message across to the Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter if all else fails. Paw pointing at something usually means they are trying to bring something to the Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter's attention (possible trouble, danger, concern, Timmy fell down the dam well again, etc). Pawing at a door can indicate they want/need to go in/out, especially if it is a bathroom door.

Are they sexual?

We are not referring to bestiality but the interaction between a human pup and another human pup (or pups) or between the pup and a Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter. For some pups, pupdom is non-sexual. Their mind set is "I want to be treated as a real canine and normally you would not have sex with a real canine, so I do not want it either." It ruins the pup headspace enjoyment for them.

For others it is part of who they are or a way to bond with others. This is something that needs to be discussed with the human pup before you try to engage in that form of activity. And even though they may say "no" in the beginning of their pupdom journey, over time they "may" change their mind.

Bathroom functions

This is individualistic. Some will do it the human way and hold it until they are out of pup headspace. Some have a code such when they scratch at a bathroom door this informs the Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter they need to temporarily get out of the pup headspace to go use the bathroom (sometimes with the Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter assistance) and when finished are let back out. Please realize that anything that occurs behind a closed bathroom door normally does not detract from the scene. For others, if they have access, use the outdoors like a real canine or are trained using newspaper on the floor.

physical stuff

Is gear needed to be a pup?

Truthfully, no. It is your attitude/mindset/headspace that makes a pup who they are, not necessarily the gear worn. But for some people it does help. Some pups prefer to be naked, others with some form of clothing. The only two objects that I feel are necessary are

- **Knee pads:** since human pups do not share the same body structure as real canines, they most often are using their knees/shins as "legs". Knees are very fragile parts of the human body and constant wear and tear on these joints can lead to permanent damage, which is something we want to discourage and avoid. Shin/foot protection is also good for avoiding flesh "rubbings/burns". Check out local mixed martial arts, sports, wrestling or skate board/ roller blade stores. If possible try before you buy. Velcro straps behind the knees can cause pinching or cut into the circulation part of the calf/thigh leading to numbness. Gel padding is recommended for shock absorption with a hard shell exterior being the best. Try and match the knee pad to the surface it will be used on. Kneepads used for stationary kneeling (like for groundwork or floor installation) were designed for stationary use and are **NO GOOD** for pup play, as they slide off the kneecap, due to movement.
- **Hand limitation/restriction:** for most people taking away or limiting the use of the hands by using some form of hand restraint helps the mind take away the "human" part of themselves. Padded puppy or bondage mitts, boxing gloves, padded socks wrapped in duct tape, etc. works well for this. Remember to massage the human pup's hands when removing them from the hand restraint as hand cramping does occur.

Some other items that can be useful/helpful are

- **Collar:** some need one for their transformation. This is up to the individual. I feel that a collar is a special item and should not be taken lightly to be used for pup headspace unless given to you by someone as this generally marks you as owned or being under someone's guidance/protection. Once you have earned a collar from someone, the rattling of the tags can offer some a form of reassurance and comfort. **Make note of the tightness of a collar** as the head is in a different angle when on all fours compared to standing upright. If too tight it can cause problems with breathing or irritation to the Adam's apple.
- **Head gear:** Up to the individual, some need it to help transform, others do not. I think they look great, but they do have limitations for eating, drinking, playing, sight restrictions, etc. Take this into account along with any allergies or physical conditions they may have as you may need to access their mouths. Try before you buy if possible.
- **Puppy tails, insertable and non-insertables:** some pups like to use butt plugs that have a puppy tail attached to it, some do not. Of the puppy tail manufactures out there I highly recommend the Squarepeg Toys butt plug puppy tails for their use of medical grade silicone which comes in a variety of sizes, colors and design/function. For those that do not want a butt plug puppy tail, try one of SquarePeg Toys non-insertable puppy show tails that are designed to be strapped onto a belt.
- **Dog dishes:** good to have to use for feeding and watering the pup but not mandatory. It can help keep a pup in their pup headspace. Make sure the item is useable by the pup as a bowl's depth can vary as much as human faces do (humans do not have the long muzzles like real canines).
- **Toys:** always good to have to help keep pups entertained or distracted as letting a pups mind wander is not a good thing as that usually leads to trouble. The best toys are soft and easy to clean, for example, toys made of durable memory foam, tooth-rugged nylon, rubber or vinyl squeaky toys (unless they have an allergy to rubber or latex). Be wary of toys made with fur (stuffed animals) or felt (like a tennis ball), as they get matted and dirty quickly, usually don't feel/taste good in the mouth, and are more likely to transmit blood unknowingly. Hard toys like bones, rawhide, or hard rubber shouldn't be used since human teeth are not as strong or secure as dog teeth and remember rawhide is made from beef hides that have been chemically treated. Same with leather toys, the dyes and chemicals used were not meant for human consumption so the chewing they do with them may cause problems. Also beware of sharp edges, pointed surfaces, small parts (choking hazard) or flaking paint on toys. Keep an eye on toys that are wearing down as a rubber pull toy that snaps/breaks can cause pain/injury. Rope toys are okay but should not be tugged on hard. Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitters should inspect toys form time-to-time, especially in a multi-pup situation, for any signs of blood. Also note that real canine teeth are 10 times stronger then human pup teeth, so when playing tug-o-war, do not get so carried away you accidentally remove some human pup teeth.

What kinds of foods can they eat or be fed?

I highly discourage the use of eating real canine food as it is not constituted for human consumption and may cause digestive problems. The FDA is not as strict on the dog food contents as they are with human food plus you never know for certain what may actually be in the food. There are many alternatives you can use to feed a human pup that still look like dog food: canned stews or canned hash for example. If you want to trick the human pup switch the labels on the can with real canine dog food labels. Better yet, just feed them portions of the food your eating, either mixed/slopped into the bowl or chopped up depending on what it is. Beef jerky, cookies (like Scooby-Doo! Bone shaped graham crackers), some forms of candy ("Smarties" in dog bone shapes or fruit flavored gummi candy) make good treats and rewards. Real canine dog biscuits may be consumed, just look at the ingredients first. The store brands are VERY DRY so make sure water is nearby to help digest them. The best are naturally made in dog gourmet shops.

Assorted thoughts:

Pups usually like to play, go for “walkies” or be in a pup headspace for a period of time. People don’t realize how very tiring it can be for a person to be in full pup mode for awhile. Sometimes, depending on how deep their pup headspace is, they forget to look after themselves, which is where a Handler/Trainer/Puppy Sitter is needed.

Some basic things to remember: **Keep your pups hydrated!** Active pups use an abundant amount of aerobic/cardio energy when running around on all fours (romping, chasing, fetching) and need water to replenish the loss due to the sweaty exertion. Be aware especially that the more gear/clothes that a pup wears (in particular rubber or leather) heat is being retained and makes it harder for the body to get rid of the excess heat. Having a towel on hand to wipe them down after exertion or even eating is always good, unless you enjoy when they come to wipe their mouths on your pants or lick you.

Like real canines, human pups need down time to recoup their energy. Let them relax and recoup. Blankets for them to snuggle in and rest on is always good. If at home or in a hotel room, creating a den or safe place for the human pup is also nice. Make sure the bedding is thick enough to protect the human joints from possible injury.

Are there symbols, hanky codes or something that can signal someone is into the human pup scene?

There are a variety of dog symbols available on the market. Dog bone shaped carabineers; rawhide bones; bandanas with bones, paws or other dog items printed on them; key chains; dog themed t-shirts; armbands; flags, etc. Just keep an eye out or use the internet to find what appeals to you.

Currently there is still no "one universal" symbol/flag to represent the dog community; however there are several designs/interpretations available. Again, pick the one that appeals to you.

Does it matter which side of the body they are being displayed on?

It can, depends on the person and country they are from. Some people will signal their submissive human side by wearing it on the right side of their body (wrist, armband or back pocket) but when in pup headspace they may be an “Alpha”/Dominate pup. Remember, if you are not sure, just ask!