

Puppies and Early Life Influences

History is full of examples that demonstrate the importance of early life. Here is some research that focused on three experiences that affect later development.

What was learned:

1. Pups allowed to observe their own trained mothers work performed much better when tested as adults than other pups.
2. Pups weaned and separated at six weeks, had significantly lower performance ratings when tested as adults.
3. Pups weaned early showed that early separation had a negative effect on physical conditioning, weight gain and the susceptibility to disease.