Early Neural Stimulation is a technique that was developed by the U.S. Military for their canine program in an effort to improve the performance of dogs used for military purposes. This program became to be known to the public as the"Super Dog" program. The military learned that performing early neurological stimulation exercises with puppies could have important and lasting effects. The research showed that dogs exposed to specific early neurological stimulation exercises were able to handle stress better and were actually more resistant to certain forms of cancer and infectious diseases. Breeders also find that these pups are less prone to an over-reaction to stimuli, tend to be much more social, and adapt to change more easily.

In addition to the normal daily handling and care we give our puppies, we also follow the guidelines set forth for this technique of Early Neural Stimulation. This is another great way to give your puppy the best start we can. Beginning on the third day of life and continuing until the sixteenth:

1. Tactile Stimulation: Holding the puppy in one hand, the handler gently tickles the puppy between its toes on any one foot using a Q-tip. It is not necessary to see that the puppy is feeling the tickle. Time of stimulation 3-5 seconds.

2. Head Held Erect: Using both hands, the pup is held perpendicular to the ground, (straight up), so that its head is directly above its tail. Time of Stimulation 3-5 seconds.

3. Head Pointed Down: Holding the puppy firmly with both hands, the head is reversed and is pointed downward so that it is pointing towards the ground. Time of stimulation 3-5 seconds.

4. Supine Position: Hold the puppy so that its back is resting in the palm of both hands with its muzzle facing the ceiling. The puppy while on its back is allowed to sleep or struggle. Time of stimulation 3-5 seconds.

5. Thermal Stimulation: Use a damp towel that has been cooled in a refrigerator for at least 5 minutes. Place the pup on the towel, feet down. The pup is not restrained from moving. Time of stimulation 3-5 seconds.