



5 WAYS **FEAR** IS ACQUIRED IN DOGS

Fear is the easiest thing to condition in dogs and the hardest to resolve, so it's important to understand where fear comes from so we can work to prevent it.



GENETICS

Fear is passed from generation to generation through natural selection or poor selective breeding.



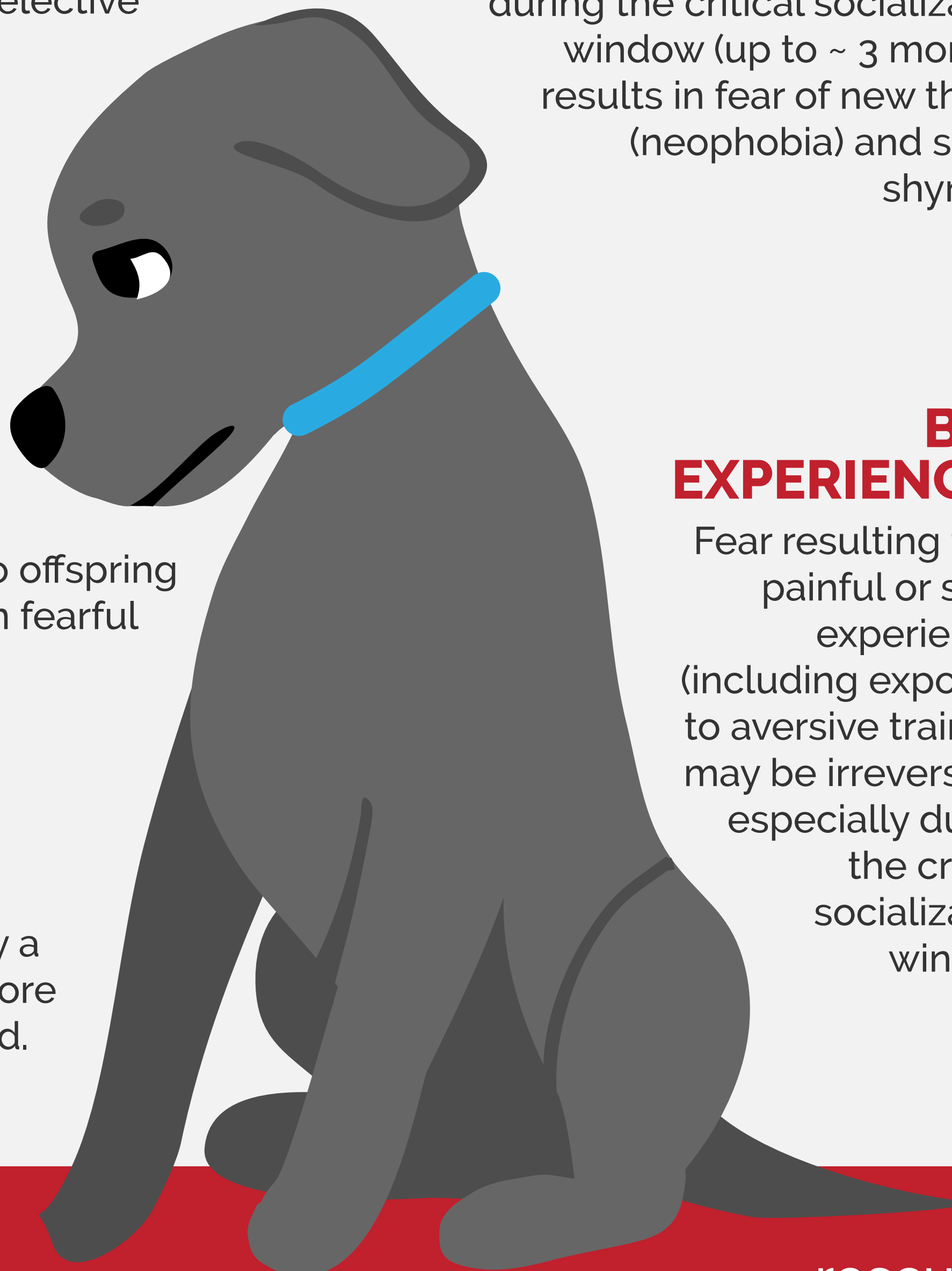
STRESS DURING PREGNANCY

A mother stressed during pregnancy passes stress hormones to offspring in utero resulting in fearful adults.



MATERNAL BEHAVIOR

Offspring reared by a fearful mom are more fearful at adulthood.



LACK OF SOCIALIZATION

Failure to properly socialize during the critical socialization window (up to ~ 3 months) results in fear of new things (neophobia) and social shyness.



BAD EXPERIENCES

Fear resulting from painful or scary experiences (including exposure to aversive training) may be irreversible, especially during the critical socialization window.

