



Go Home Puppy Packet

When you first bring your Puppy Home

It's important to prepare your home before bringing in a new puppy. Make sure you have all the necessary supplies, food, water bowls, a crate, toys, and puppy pads! Starting training with your puppy as soon as possible to establish a routine for feeding, potty breaks, and playtime is essential! Here are some steps to help you get started:

1. Limit your puppy's access in your home. Giving them whole access to your home will overwhelm them as they are used to a small space. Too many new smells, people, new places at once can be very stressful to a young pup. After they get settled and used to being away from their siblings and mom you can start to introduce them to other parts of the house supervised.
2. Choose where you want your puppy to go potty. Start by taking him to the outside area where you want him to go. When he does go, use a command that you'll stick to, like "go potty" and reward him with a special treat and praise.
3. Meet the whole family! Try and take it slow as this can be a lot for them. If each family member can meet them one-on-one that is best. Be sure to supervise young children and teach them to be GENTLE and KIND to your new puppy. Try not to let them pick them up as that can cause accidental drops. Let them come in their laps.
4. Keep the stress and excitement LOW. Let them get comfortable in their new home before inviting friends over to meet them. We recommend keeping the house completely calm and stress-free for three days to a week (no new visitors, limited commotion, minimal handling, etc.).
5. Introduce other family pets. Puppies are still developing their communication skills and don't understand the rules set in place by adult dogs. As long as an adult dog's behavior is appropriate when correcting a puppy, it's okay if she growls a little. If the elder dog becomes agitated, separate or redirect the puppy.
6. Don't introduce new dogs yet. Wait until your new puppy has had all its vaccines before introducing them to new dogs.
7. Training your pup starts NOW! Your puppy needs to know the rules of the house right off the bat. If you don't want them on furniture, don't ever let them on it! Praise good behavior. Set your

rules ahead of time and stick to them, for example: Where do you want puppy to sleep? Is puppy allowed on the furniture? Can puppy have food scraps from the table?




Start Your Routine

Day 1

1. Meal Times! Regular feeding schedules for breakfast, lunch and dinner will help keep your puppy at a healthy weight and help potty train your puppy!
2. Potty breaks! Every time your puppy eats, drinks, wakes up, plays, sniffs around the room – most young puppies have to eliminate at least every 45 minutes when awake and around 2 hours at night. It's a good idea to take them out every 30 minutes for the first few weeks. Pick the puppy up and carry him to the designated potty area. Never punish him for going in the house. When he eliminates outside, reward him immediately.
3. Play. Your puppy needs playtime and interaction with its owner/family. Keep it not super strenuous when they are young. Play with a few toys, mental stimulation with puzzles, and running in the yard is great!



Surviving the First Night

1. The nighttime burst of energy! Puppies will often have a burst of energy at night. Before bed make sure they have some playtime with you to get them nice and tired before sleep time. Make sure they go out right before you go to bed.
 2. Put the crate in your bedroom. They will be comforted by being near you. Make sure you leave their toy and blanket that smells like mom and siblings to comfort them.
 3. Set a bedtime for your puppy. Having a set routine will help the most with house training. Take him to his crate and help him settle down for the night – giving him a small treat when he goes in willingly.
 4. Nighttime potty breaks! At this young age, they will not be able to hold it all night. Some may whine to let you know they need to go but either way, you don't want them going in their crate. Set an alarm every 2 hours for the first few weeks. Take them out, pee, and then back in the crate.
- 

New Puppy Care

Your puppy now depends on you for everything – food, water, exercise, training, good health, and hygiene. Please remember that all puppies are different, and you should consult your veterinarian and trainer for the specific needs of your pup.

It's exciting to bring your new puppy home and into your life and heart! I know you will be excited to show him / her off and play with them right away but remember to give your puppy some time to adjust! We recommend three days at home. No visitors and no outings. Your puppy is undergoing a lot of change and they need lots of rest while they adjust! Adding more stress during this transition can be detrimental to both their mental and physical health.

Puppies do not know English. The best way to train a dog is when they do a behavior you want, praise the pup with a pat, a treat or verbal praise (keep it short and simple though). For example, don't say "Sit...sit...sit...sit...SIT" and expect a response. Get your puppy to do the behavior (sit) and then reward. You add the word and maybe even a hand signal later.

Puppy Chewing

Puppies have needle-sharp teeth and this can be tough! Some tricks to help you avoid becoming a pincushion are to have chew bones and toys always close by! Do not ever let them chew on you. All it takes is one family member that allows this behavior and it will be possible for the toddler to become a chew toy too.

Keep your rules and boundaries consistent. If your puppy chews on you, offer an acceptable item for them to chew on. If they persist, then take yourself away from them (get up and leave or turn your back to them). They will not want to lose you! Another tip that works for most puppies is to make a quick, sharp puppy "cry" noise. This is how they let other littermates know it hurts! I recommend the benebone puppy bones.

Jumping

Jumping is another problem that young puppies may struggle with. Their excitement and overwhelming love for people can make this extremely difficult; however, do not even start allowing this behavior. Do not reward, pet, or praise a puppy that jumps on you. Ignore them, turn your back, or walk away! A calm puppy that is sitting is a puppy that is ready for praise and love! Teach calm, self-controlled behaviors now; it will pay off as they get larger and stronger!

Feeding

We have cut the feeding schedule down to a three-a-day schedule by the time your puppy comes home. As they age, you can put your dog onto a twice-a-day feeding schedule if you prefer. So how much should you feed your new puppy? Please follow the guidelines on the particular kibble you feed that correlates to your pup's weight and age!

Obedience/Training

Please start training your puppy immediately. They are smart, eager to learn, and want to please! Dogs are pack animals and are looking to you for leadership and guidance when they join your pack. You will be amazed at how much they can learn starting at 8-10 weeks old.

It is very exciting and rewarding when your pup learns something new! Start with sit, down, stay, kennel, and go potty. I also highly recommend enrolling your puppy in a puppy kindergarten class. They get to socialize, start learning self-control and begin on basic obedience tasks. Follow through with any “puppy homework” you are given to continue building your relationship with your pup and helping he or she learn through repetition. Please do not stop at puppy kindergarten. Upon graduation enroll your pup in a basic obedience class as well.

Veterinarian Care

Vaccination records are enclosed in the puppy packet. However, your vet will advise you on what is best for the proper care of your pet. Please spay or neuter your pup at approximately 7-10 months old. The health benefits are overwhelming, not to mention the implications of an unplanned pregnancy can be devastating.

Parasites

Unfortunately, parasites in pups are extremely common and it is estimated that 95% of pups have parasites. We do our very best to keep our puppies parasite-free. They were dewormed at 4 and 6 weeks. However, not all parasites respond to particular deworming, and excess stress with “go-home” can “awaken” parasites that previously lay dormant. Upon bringing your puppy home, it is worthwhile for your pup to have another fecal test done at the veterinarian when you bring them in for their vaccinations.

Love and Patience

You have made the important decision to let a puppy into your heart and home. We sincerely thank you for trusting us to give your puppy the best start possible. Enjoy the complete innocence of a puppy, their ability to stop and smell the flowers, and maybe even taste them, their curiosity is contagious, and playfulness is humorous. Please don't hesitate to call, text, or email me if you have any questions and of course please send lots of updates and pictures!



Why Crate Training is Vital for your Puppy

Crate training is great for everyday life for dogs who might need a break from a bustling household or a familiar place to rest. Crates help dogs learn to self soothe, or deal with their anxiety, during situations where they become distressed, like during fireworks, a thunderstorm, or construction. Their crate becomes their safe space for any and all situations.

Crating prevents puppies from tearing up your home while you are away and keeps them safe from getting into anything harmful or hurting themselves!

If your dog ever needs to stay overnight at the vet's or fly on an airplane, he will be far less stressed when he is confined in a cage if he has already been crate trained.

Crates are great for house training. Dogs and puppies don't like to use the bathroom where they sleep, so a properly sized crate is very useful to assist you in teaching him bladder and bowel control.



Crate Training 101

While crates can be used to manage behavior, they should never be used for punishment. For example, try not to put them straight in their kennel after getting into the trash or counter surfing. Then they will associate their kennel as a place they go when they are in trouble.

Don't leave your dog in the crate too long. A dog who's crated all day and night doesn't get enough exercise or human interaction and can become depressed or anxious.

Puppies under 6 months of age shouldn't stay in a crate for more than three or four hours at a time. They can't control their bladders or bowels for that long.

The crate should always have a comfortable bed and the door left open when you're home so your dog can enter it when they need a safe space. This is also an indication that your dog needs some quiet time. Teach children and guests to leave your pup alone if he or she goes into their crate.

Create positive associations with the crate through the use of treats and games.

Be patient — crate training can take six months of consistent training.



Training Your Puppy to Love Their Crate

Since your puppy has already been introduced to a kennel at such a young age it should be relatively easy to train them to love their safe space.

Place the crate in an area of your house where the family spends a lot of time, such as the family room. Put a soft blanket or bed in the crate.

Encourage your dog to enter the crate by dropping some small food treats nearby, then just inside the door, and finally, all the way inside the crate. If they refuse to go all the way in at first, that's OK; don't force them to enter.

Continue tossing treats into the crate until your dog will walk calmly all the way into the crate to get the food. If they aren't interested in treats, try tossing a favorite toy in the crate. This step may take a few minutes or as long as several days.

After introducing your dog to the crate in your home, begin feeding them their regular meals in the crate. This will create a pleasant association with the crate. Once your dog is standing comfortably in the crate to eat their meal, you can close the door while they're eating. The first time you do this, open the door as soon as they finish their meal. With each successive feeding, leave the door closed a few minutes longer until they're staying in the crate for 10 minutes or so after eating.

After your dog is eating their regular meals in the crate with no sign of fear or anxiety, you can confine them there for short periods of time while you're home.

- Call them over to the crate and give them a treat.
- Give them a voice cue to enter, such as "crate." Encourage them by pointing to the inside of the crate with a treat in your hand.
- After your dog enters the crate, praise them, give them the treat and close the door.
- Sit quietly near the crate for five to 10 minutes and then go into another room for a few minutes. Return, sit quietly again for a short time, and then let them out.
- Repeat this process several times a day, gradually increasing the length of time you leave them in the crate and the length of time you're out of sight.
- Once your dog will stay quietly in the crate for about 30 minutes with you mostly out of sight, you can begin leaving them crated when you're gone for short time periods and/or letting them sleep there at night. This may take several days or weeks.
- Put them in the crate using your regular command and a treat. You might also want to leave them with a few safe toys in the crate.

After your dog can spend about 30 minutes in the crate without becoming anxious or afraid, you can begin leaving them crated for short periods when you leave the house.



How to Prevent Parasites

1. Keep the house completely calm and stress-free for three days to a week (no new visitors, limited commotion, minimal handling, etc.). Treat them like a newborn baby coming home. Stress is an

easy way to bring on parasites. When you come home or have visitors stop by, please keep all your shoes at the door. Parvo can be brought inside on shoes.

2. Do not wake the “sleeping baby”. Puppies sleep an incredible amount of time. Do not worry. As long as your pup wakes up with puppy energy, silliness, eats well, drinks well then all is good!
3. Mushy poop is common with stress, please feed only boiled beef and white rice. You can also add in a little canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling, which has other ingredients), for the first three days if your pup develops loose stools. A nice bland diet is imperative during a tough transition. If after three days, stools are firm, then SLOWLY add in dog food to the bland diet, increasing the dog food ratio over the next 5 days. You can make large batches of the boiled hamburger and rice at a time, and put the mixture in the refrigerator, or even freeze prior to the puppy coming home.
4. Do not feed ANY treats (including bones, etc.). Just the bland diet. You don't want to cause an upset tummy due to food or treats. Upset tummies create a nice environment for parasites.

When to worry:

1. Poop contains mucus or blood. If this happens, feed a bland diet for 24 hours and if the condition remains after this time period, a fecal test might be in order.
2. Puppy is lethargic, does not play with some vigor, and or refuses to eat.
3. Puppy cannot poop and vomits. This can indicate he or she ate something and has a blockage. This is an emergency. Seek immediate veterinary care.
4. Liquid poop. Be careful. A puppy can dehydrate quickly, so if poop does not improve quickly, then a visit to the veterinarian will be needed.

I hope this makes the transition for your puppy easier and healthier. Thank you for ensuring their safety and well-being!



Potty Training 101

Depending on your bedtime schedule, remove food and water 2-3 hours before your bedtime to allow the puppy a greater chance of holding it all night. Puppies develop their bladder fully around 5 months old so eventually, they will be able to hold longer.

When you have to take your puppy out at night, please do not make this a play session. Be matter of fact (as little talking as possible) and get down to business. Praise the potty behavior and right back into the kennel.

We strongly suggest kennel training, and potty training is one of the biggest reasons why. Puppies will rarely potty where they sleep. This is one of the main reasons I begin “potty training” puppies at three weeks old by dividing their whelping box into 2 sections - one for a nurse and sleep area and one for a potty area.

When you bring your puppy home and put him or her into an appropriate sized kennel (not too large, just enough room to turn around and lay down) they will fuss when they have to go potty! If you cannot watch your puppy or it is naptime, tuck them into their kennel. When they do fuss, scoop them up in your arms and get outside as quickly as possible. You can also try carrying their kennel straight to the door.

When your puppy has an accident, please just clean it up thoroughly and move on. Only clap hands and scold vocally IF you catch the pup going potty. Rubbing their nose in it, etc. is not acceptable and is a complete waste of time.

In general, your pup will need to potty every 30 minutes as well as after a nap, vigorous play, exiting the kennel, and following meals. When in doubt, take out! Again, if you can't watch your puppy, in the kennel they go!



Please note, we're here for you for you and your puppy. We encourage you to reach out at anytime with any concerns or advise we can help you with!

