

Puppy 101

An owner's Manual

Basic Care

Your new puppy will quickly become a cherished member of your family. Here are some tips for providing your puppy with everything he needs.

NEW PUPPY SHOPPING LIST

A new puppy requires a few must-have supplies and some that are just for fun. Be sure to stock up.

Collar & Leash

Pick a collar that is appropriate for your puppy's size and make sure to adjust the fit. A collar that is too tight can be uncomfortable for your puppy but one that is too loose could slip off.



Tags/Microchipping

Identification tags are an essential accessory for any puppy's collar. If your puppy runs away, the information on those tags can be the one thing that brings him home. Microchipping is another valuable and inexpensive tool to increase your pet's chance of making it home should he get lost.

Food & Water Bowls

Food and water bowls come in all shapes, sizes, colors and materials. Puppies are tough on everything and bowls are no exception, so you'll want something that is durable.

Crate

Dogs are den animals and often feel most safe in a small dark space they can call their own. A crate provides your puppy that feeling of security and you with an excellent training tool. When you can't supervise your puppy, the crate is a place where you know he will be safe.

Toys

Puppies love things they can play with. If it rolls, squeaks, or bounces, a puppy will want it! Dog toys are not only fun, they help your dog's development. Puppies need durable toys that can stand up to rough play and chewing.

PUPPY PROOFING YOUR HOME

Before picking up your new puppy, survey your home. You might even consider getting down on your hands and knees and looking at things from a puppy's perspective. What dangers do you see?

Indoors

To a new puppy, everything is a potential toy or snack! Put away anything that you don't want your puppy to chew, especially electrical cords. Consider purchasing a baby gate for off-limit areas. Make sure any poisonous household products or plants are stored away or out of reach.

Outdoors

If you have a fence, be sure to inspect for holes, gaps, or loose sections. Some puppies love to dig and will attempt to dig under the fence, so if there's a gap between the fence and the ground, consider filling it with chicken wire. Remove any chemicals, fertilizers, herbicides, or poisonous plants.

FEEDING YOUR PUPPY

Surely you've heard the phrase "you are what you eat." Well, that applies to your puppy too. To help him grow into a healthy dog, you'll need to feed him right. Select a dog food that is specifically formulated for puppies.

How to Feed Your Puppy

Once you've selected your puppy's food, follow serving guidelines on the bag based on your puppy's weight and activity level. Different foods have different calorie counts, so if you are transitioning between foods, don't assume that the same serving size will work.

Depending on your puppy's age and size, you will likely start out feeding him 3 meals at set times a day. As your puppy ages, you may want to transition him to 2 meals a day. Always feed your puppy in the same bowl in the same place to teach him consistency. However, while you want to feed your puppy at set times, you want to make sure water is always available to him.

SOCIALIZATION

Socialization is a key part of your puppy's development into a stable well-adjusted dog. A poorly socialized dog will likely have issues with fear and aggression and is more likely to fight with other dogs and lash out at humans.

Here are a few tips for socializing your puppy:

- Start early! Even the youngest puppy can benefit from socialization
- Invite friends to meet your puppy
- Take your puppy places
- Introduce your puppy to new sights and sounds

Introducing your puppy to...



Dogs

Already have a dog at home? Consider introducing your current dog and the new puppy in a neutral area like a park. Keep both dogs on leashes so that you can control their interactions. Let them sniff each other, interact, and if all goes well, play. Within reasonable limits, let your dogs establish their own territories and power structure.

Cats

Always allow your cat to become acquainted with your new puppy on his own terms. Be sure to give your cat a safe place where he can escape the energetic puppy, preferably some place up high where he can't be reached.



Kids

Children often don't understand that puppies need to be handled with care and for that reason, all interactions that children have with a new puppy should be supervised. When bringing your new puppy home, have children sit on the floor and let the puppy come to them.

GROOMING

While some grooming should be left to the professionals, there are a lot of things you can do to keep your puppy looking his best.

Brushing & Shedding

Most dogs shed; it can't be avoided. As old hair dies out and new hair grows in its place, dogs shed the dead hair (and skin) much like humans. To keep your puppy's coat healthy and avoid excess fur in your home, brush your puppy regularly. The sooner you start brushing your puppy, the easier it will be.

Bathing

Your puppy's breed (or his proclivity to get dirty!) will determine how often you need to bathe him. If your puppy is small enough, start out in the kitchen sink.

Do-The-Job-Right Tips:

- Use warm water
- Use gentle canine shampoo. Human products are too harsh
- Speak to your puppy in a soothing tone
- Massage the shampoo into your puppy's coat
- Rinse thoroughly
- When you're done, have a towel handy because your puppy's first instinct will be to shake!

Nail Clipping

Nail trimming is important, especially in puppies as their nails are often very small and sharp. Long nails are also more likely to catch on things, rip, or, in the long term, lead to paw problems. You can use dog nail trimmers at home or take your puppy to a groomer or veterinarian to do the job.

Health & veterinary care

Aside from the basic care that you can provide, your new puppy will also require regular visits to your veterinarian.

IMMUNIZATIONS/VACCINATIONS

Core Vs. Noncore

According to AAHA, the American Animal Hospital Association, core vaccines are generally recommended for all dogs and protect against diseases that are more serious or potentially fatal. These diseases are found in all areas of North America and are more easily transmitted than noncore diseases. The AAHA guidelines define the following as core vaccines: distemper, adenovirus, parvovirus, and rabies.

Noncore vaccines are those reserved for patients at specific risk for infection due to exposure or lifestyle. The AAHA guidelines classify kennel cough, Lyme disease, and leptospirosis vaccines within the noncore group.

DHLPP

D= Distemper, H= Infectious Canine Hepatitis, L= Leptospirosis, P= Parainfluenza, P= Parvovirus

This vaccination should be given to your puppy between 6-8 weeks of age and then every 3-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age. A booster vaccine is given at 1 year of age and then every 1-3 years thereafter.

Rabies

The Rabies vaccine is given after your puppy is 12 weeks old and then at 1 year and typically every 3 years after that. Rabies is a severe disease that affects your pet's neurologic system and can make him more aggressive, stumble, seizure, and act like he is in a stupor. The vaccine is required in many municipalities.

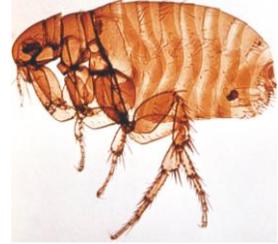
Bordetella

This is a bacterial disease that causes kennel cough. The vaccine is recommended for dogs that are going to attend doggie daycare, be boarded in a kennel or will be around other dogs in a confined space, like dog shows or obedience classes. The vaccine is given every 6 months – 1 year.

FLEAS, TICKS, & WORMS – OH MY!

Fleas

Fleas are tiny insects that grow by feeding on the blood of other animals. Fleas reproduce very quickly and can infest your home. It can be a frustrating cycle which, if left unaddressed, can cause medical problems for animals and humans.



When selecting a flea treatment, look for a monthly preventative that kills both adult fleas and larvae while preventing reproduction of fleas.

Ticks



Similar to fleas, ticks latch onto your pet and feed off his blood. The worry with a tick lies in the diseases it can carry. These can be dangerous to pets and humans alike. Many flea preventatives include tick management. Talk to your veterinarian to find out more.

You also want to inspect your dog for ticks regularly. If you spot one, grasp it close to the dog's skin, twist and pull – unlocking the mouth and removing the tick. Once removed, flush, burn, or otherwise destroy the tick. Questions? Contact your veterinarian.

Heartworm

Heartworm is spread by the bite of a mosquito infected with the heartworm larvae. It has been reported in all 50 states and while it is easy to prevent, heartworm is difficult to cure.

Heartworm can be prevented and the cost is minimal. Puppies should start on a heartworm preventative at 8 weeks of age and be tested for heartworm at 7 months, then yearly thereafter. Discuss the best preventative options for your puppy with your veterinarian.

Intestinal Parasites

Heartworm isn't the only "worm" you have to worry about. Intestinal parasites, including hookworms, whipworms, and roundworms, can lead to poor health. These parasites are passed through stool and can be dangerous to humans and other pets. Regular stool tests are recommended.

SPAYING OR NEUTERING YOUR PUPPY

Unless you are planning to breed or show your puppy, spaying or neutering can provide valuable health and behavioral benefits and guarantee that your puppy won't be contributing to pet overpopulation.

Spaying a female before her first heat cycle significantly reduces the risk of breast cancer, uterine infections, and other types of cancer.

Neutering a male helps prevent mounting, marking, and aggression and completely eliminates the chance of testicular cancer.

DENTAL CARE

Dental care should start as soon as you get your puppy. Consider investing in treats and toys that promote good dental health. Chewing is a natural instinct for your puppy and helps scrape away tartar, plaque, and built-up food in teeth, so take advantage of bones and chew toys.

Start brushing your puppy's teeth early. Brush regularly, at least once a week, so it becomes part of your pet's routine. Even dogs who have their teeth brushed regularly will likely need the occasional dental cleaning.

Make sure your puppy gets regular check-ups so a veterinarian can monitor his teeth.

FIRST AID & CPR

Knowing what to do in an emergency can save your puppy's life. Be careful to avoid being hurt, bitten, or scratched by your puppy; even the most docile and loving pet can get stressed when sick or injured.

Finding your puppy isn't breathing or has no heart beat can be a terrifying experience. However, there are things you can do, like stay calm and perform pet CPR. Check out the detailed steps for pet CPR from AAHA, the American Animal Hospital Association.

POISONOUS SUBSTANCES

There are many substances that are poisonous to dogs. They should be locked or stored out of your puppy's reach. Symptoms of ingestion of a poisonous substance include vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, abnormal urine, salivation, and weakness. If you think your pet might have ingested something toxic, call your veterinary or poison control immediately.

HOUSE TRAINING

House training your new puppy requires patience, dedication, and accepting that there are going to be accidents.

To start, take your puppy outside frequently – every 1 to 2 hours – especially when he wakes up, during playtime, and immediately after he eats or drinks. Using short

commands like “go potty” can help to remind your puppy what to do. To teach the command, say it as your puppy is eliminating so he associates the action with the command. If your puppy does go to the bathroom outside, reward him immediately with praise or a small treat.

On average, a puppy can hold his bladder one hour for every month of age. So a 4 month old puppy should be able to hold it for 4 hours. Forcing your puppy to hold himself longer than that will likely lead to accidents.

If you cannot supervise your puppy, place him in a crate or small contained area. Dogs don't like to eliminate in a confined space.

CRATE TRAINING

Dogs are den animals and feel secure in a small, dark place they can call their own. Dogs retreat to their den to sleep, hide, seek refuge, and sometimes, to misbehave. In the home, the crate serves as your puppy's den.

Crate training will take time and patience. Put the crate in a common area of the house where you spend a lot of time. Place a blanket or soft towel inside so your puppy can sit or lay down comfortably. Leave the door open and let the puppy explore it at will. Praise the puppy when he goes inside. If your puppy is not inclined to go in on his own, try enticing him in with treats or his favorite toy.

Once your puppy is comfortable being closed in the crate for a significant time (about 30 minutes), you can try leaving the house for a short period of time. Slowly build up the time away but do not keep your puppy crated longer than he can hold his bladder.

