

Puppy do's & don'ts

THE HEYDOODS FAMILY GUIDE / BUILDING GOOD HABITS

Welcome to the HeyDoods community! Your puppy is learning a whole new world. These simple do's and don'ts will help your family build trust, confidence, and healthy routines from day one.

DO / Set your puppy up for success

- Keep a predictable routine. Offer regular meals, potty breaks, gentle play, and lots of rest.
- Reward the behavior you want. Praise and treat immediately for potty success, calm behavior, and simple cues.
- Supervise or safely contain. Use a puppy-proofed room, exercise pen, or appropriately sized crate when you cannot actively watch.
- Introduce new experiences gradually. Pair safe sounds, people, surfaces, handling, and car rides with treats and positive experiences.
- Protect sleep. Young puppies need frequent naps and a quiet place to recharge.
- Keep your veterinarian in the loop. Schedule a new-puppy exam and follow an individualized vaccine and parasite-prevention plan.

DON'T / Common mistakes to avoid

- Don't punish accidents. Clean with an enzymatic cleaner and increase supervision and potty opportunities.
- Don't force crate time. Build positive associations with treats, meals, and short sessions; never use the crate as punishment.
- Don't overwhelm your puppy. Avoid nonstop visitors, rough handling, or long outings during the adjustment period.
- Don't expect adult-level bladder control. Young puppies need frequent daytime and sometimes overnight potty breaks.
- Don't leave unsafe chews or small objects unattended. Choose size-appropriate toys and inspect them regularly.

HeyDoods tip: Consistency beats perfection. If something isn't working, simplify the routine and try again tomorrow.

Healthy habits, happy puppy

SAFETY / FEEDING / TRAINING / CONNECTION

Food & everyday care

- DO feed a complete, age-appropriate puppy diet, measure portions, and keep fresh water available.
- DO transition foods gradually with veterinary guidance if you decide to switch.
- DON'T share unsafe foods such as chocolate, grapes, raisins, onions, xylitol-containing products, or cooked bones.
- DO begin gentle brushing, ear and paw handling, and short positive grooming sessions.
- DON'T delay veterinary care for repeated vomiting, persistent diarrhea, lethargy, trouble breathing, or refusal to eat.

Socialization & outdoor safety

- DO introduce your puppy to safe, positive experiences during their early socialization window.
- DO ask your veterinarian about low-risk puppy classes and safe outings before the vaccine series is complete.
- DON'T take an incompletely vaccinated puppy to dog parks or other high-traffic dog areas with unknown vaccination status.
- DON'T force interactions with people or dogs. Let your puppy choose to approach and take breaks when needed.

Crate time & family boundaries

- DO make the crate comfortable, ventilated, and just large enough to stand, turn around, and lie down.
- DO practice brief, happy separations and increase time gradually as your puppy settles.
- DON'T leave a young puppy crated for long stretches without age-appropriate potty, exercise, and social breaks.
- DO teach everyone in the household the same cues and rules; reward calm greetings instead of jumping.

HeyDoods tip: Your puppy is not being “stubborn.” They are learning. Celebrate small wins and build skills one day at a time.

We're here for you. Every HeyDoods puppy is part of our community for life. Reach out whenever you need guidance during the transition.

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