

Getting ready for your puppy

THE HEYDOODS FAMILY GUIDE / BEFORE GOTCHA DAY

Welcome to the HeyDoods community! Bringing home a puppy is exciting, and a little preparation can make those first days calmer for everyone. Your puppy is leaving a familiar environment, so focus on safety, patience, and predictable routines.

Before your puppy comes home

- Choose a quiet sleeping area and decide where the crate will go. Plan for your puppy to sleep near you at first so you can hear when they need a potty break.
- Puppy-proof rooms: secure cords, medications, cleaning products, trash, small objects, toxic plants, and anything chewable. Check gates, fences, and gaps.
- Agree on household rules now: where your puppy may go, who handles meals and potty trips, and which words you will use for cues.
- Book a veterinary visit soon after pickup and ask about vaccines, deworming, parasite prevention, and safe socialization in your area.
- Arrange your schedule for frequent potty breaks, short play sessions, and plenty of sleep during the first week.

Your puppy essentials checklist

- Appropriately sized crate with divider, exercise pen or baby gates, and washable bedding
- Puppy food, measuring scoop, food and water bowls, and small training treats
- Flat collar or well-fitted harness, lightweight leash, and identification tag
- Enzymatic accident cleaner, poop bags, paper towels, and a designated outdoor potty spot
- Safe puppy chew toys, grooming brush/comb, and puppy-safe shampoo
- Car travel restraint or secured carrier for the ride home

HeyDoods tip: Keep the food your puppy is currently eating at first. If you choose to change foods, ask your veterinarian about a gradual transition to help avoid stomach upset.

The first 48 hours

A GENTLE TRANSITION / LESS PRESSURE, MORE CONNECTION

Your puppy may be curious, sleepy, vocal, or a little overwhelmed. These reactions are normal during a big transition. Keep introductions calm and let confidence build gradually.

Gotcha Day game plan

- Go directly to your chosen potty spot when you arrive home. Praise and reward any success.
- Show your puppy one or two safe areas instead of giving access to the entire house.
- Offer water and meals on a consistent schedule. Keep activity calm and allow frequent naps.
- Introduce the crate positively with treats and an open door; build up closed-door time in small steps.
- Keep visitors limited at first. Let your puppy approach people at their own pace.

Build a simple daily rhythm

WHEN	WHAT TO DO
Wake-up	Potty immediately, then breakfast and another potty trip
After meals / play	Take a potty break; supervise closely
Rest time	Quiet nap in a safe space or gradually introduced crate
After every nap	Outside right away, then a little play or training
Before bedtime	Final potty trip; calm wind-down and sleep

Nighttime expectations

Young puppies often need overnight potty breaks. Keep trips brief and quiet, then return to sleep. Never punish accidents or crying; first check whether your puppy needs to potty or is distressed.

Remember: Your puppy does not need to master everything in one weekend. Consistency and positive reinforcement matter more than perfection.

Set up for long-term success

HEALTH, SOCIALIZATION + YOUR HEYDOODS SUPPORT

Small, positive experiences build a foundation for a confident companion. Introduce new things gradually, pair them with rewards, and respect your puppy's comfort level.

Healthy socialization starts at home

- Practice gentle handling of paws, ears, and mouth, with treats and breaks.
- Introduce everyday sounds and surfaces at a comfortable volume and pace.
- Meet calm, healthy, vaccinated dogs you know in controlled environments when appropriate.
- Avoid high-risk public dog areas until your veterinarian advises it is safe based on your puppy's vaccine status and local disease risk.
- Use short, reward-based training sessions for their name, recall, settling, and leash comfort.

Keep these records together

- Vaccination and deworming history
- Veterinary contact and first appointment date
- Microchip and registration details, if applicable
- Food, feeding instructions, and any transition notes
- Your HeyDoods paperwork, health guarantee, and insurance information

Questions to ask before pickup

- What food and portion is my puppy currently eating?
- What routine has my puppy been following for meals, sleep, and potty breaks?
- What is the next recommended veterinary or vaccine milestone?
- What comfort item or familiar scent can come home with my puppy?

You are not doing this alone. HeyDoods families receive ongoing support as their puppies grow. Use your included puppy training resources, reach out with questions, and celebrate each new milestone.

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This guide provides general puppy-care education and does not replace individualized veterinary advice.