



Introducing a Puppy into Your Home

Expectations

Bringing home your first puppy can be both exciting and overwhelming. Puppies are full of energy and curiosity, often chewing on things they shouldn't. While raising one takes time and effort, consistent training will help them grow into a wonderful family companion.

Make sure your home is safely puppy-proofed, and all supplies are ready before arrival. Introduce your new pup slowly to both the home and any existing pets.

Preparing your Home

Before bringing your new puppy home, the first important step is to puppy-proof your house. This involves securing electrical cords, storing shoes out of reach, ensuring trash cans have secure lids, using baby gates to limit access to certain areas, and making sure your backyard is

safe and secure to prevent your pup from escaping.

Next, it's time to gather the essentials. You'll need a crate, collar, leash, puppy food, food and water bowls, a brush, and chew toys. It's a good idea to have two crates—one for common areas like the kitchen or family room, and another in your bedroom—so your puppy has a comfortable place to sleep and relax.

Day One

When your puppy arrives home, closely supervise their exploration. Limit their access to the entire house during the first few weeks to prevent developing bad habits. Using baby gates to create a smaller, safe space for your puppy to get familiar with is very helpful.

If you have other pets, introduce them in a controlled setting. Keep both animals on leashes with relaxed tension, ideally in a neutral area where neither pet's scent dominates. Keep the initial meetings short to reduce the chance of aggression, and focus on positive, calm interactions until both pets show signs of comfort and acceptance through their body language.



Puppies typically need to be fed three times a day until they reach around six months of age. Scheduled meals are better than free-feeding, as they make potty training easier. After about 15 to 20 minutes, any uneaten food should be taken away and offered again at the next mealtime. You can also use dry kibble as training treats. It's important to feed your puppy a diet formulated specifically for puppies until they are about nine months old.

When changing your puppy's food brand or formula, transition gradually

over 7 to 10 days to prevent digestive issues.

As a guideline, puppies usually need about 1 cup of dry food for every 10 pounds of body weight. Once they reach adulthood—usually between 12 and 18 months—the amount typically adjusts to 1 cup per 20 pounds. Remember to factor this in when offering dry food as treats.

Crate Training

Your puppy's crate should always be a comfortable and secure place. The goal of crate training is to create a positive association, so your puppy willingly goes inside and sees it as their safe retreat. Feeding your puppy meals in the crate helps reinforce this positive connection. Avoid using the crate as punishment for accidents or misbehavior.

It's important to practice crate time even when you're at home; if the crate is only used when you leave, your puppy might develop negative feelings toward it. Offering a treat or chew toy upon entry and rewarding calm behavior with food treats encourages good habits. Be careful not to give attention when your puppy is barking or whining in the

crate, as this can unintentionally reinforce those behaviors.

Potty Training

House training is a key part of raising a puppy. Since young puppies can't hold their bladder for long, it's helpful to stick to a consistent schedule—much like their feeding routine. Take your puppy outside after meals, playtime, naps, and regularly throughout the day, especially in the first few months.



Keep the experience positive by giving praise or treats immediately after they go potty outside. If an accident happens indoors, clean it up right away without punishment—scolding after the fact only creates confusion. If you catch them in the act, gently guide them outside and reward them when they finish there. Teaching your puppy to use a bell at the door is a great way

for them to signal when they need to go out. Potty training can be challenging, so don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Veterinary Care

It's a good idea to schedule your puppy's first vet appointment within a week of bringing them home. Be sure to bring any documents from the shelter, breeder, or rescue, as they'll include important details about vaccination history and upcoming due dates. Don't forget to bring a fresh stool sample so the vet can check for parasites and prescribe any necessary deworming treatment.

Puppies usually need to return for vaccines every 2 to 4 weeks during their early months. Making these visits fun and stress-free helps build a positive association with the vet.