

FIRST NIGHT HOME

Take up any food or water after six or seven o'clock to make sure your Maltese puppy is running on empty when it's time to sleep. Otherwise, you'll be making trips to the bathroom all night, or worse, your puppy will eliminate in the house.

Shortly before you go to bed, spend some time playing with your Maltese puppy. You want him to be tired enough to sleep soundly. Definitely don't let him nap within an hour or two of bedtime or else your puppy will be ready to play when you're ready to sleep.

Just before bed, take your puppy outside to his soiling area and wait for him to go. When he does praise him and bring him back inside. This reinforces good behavior and begins the house training process.

Where a Maltese puppy should sleep If possible, you should let your Maltese puppy sleep in your bedroom to reduce the chances of whining or crying at night. Also, the constant contact throughout the night will help your Maltese puppy adjust to you and establish you as pack leader. One note of caution: Don't let the puppy sleep in the bed with you. He'll eventually expect to be allowed in the bed, and it can lead to numerous behavioral problems as your Maltese puppy grows.

If you or the breeder have started crate training, you should put the crate in your room and use that to confine him while he sleeps. If your Maltese puppy isn't used to a crate, then tether him to your bed or close by and put down an old blanket or sheet. Keep the tether short. Maltese puppies usually won't soil the area where they sleep, but if he has the opportunity to wander he may get up and go during the night.

As a last resort, you can keep your new Maltese puppy somewhere other than your bedroom. Make sure you puppy proof your house first and put a sweatshirt or other article of your clothing with him for your scent. A ticking clock or a radio set to a low volume can also help soothe a puppy the first night home. You should check on him throughout the night for bathroom breaks. Households with multiple pets should only let their animals sleep together after properly introducing a new puppy to your dog, cat, or other pets.

Stop Maltese puppy crying at night If and when your Maltese puppy starts crying at night, you need to decide if he has to go to the bathroom or if he's looking for attention. If he's been quiet for a few hours and suddenly starts to cry or whine, he may need to go out. Puppies have small bladders, so you'll likely have to take him out at least once during the night. A good rule of thumb is to add one to your Maltese puppy's age in months and that's generally how long he can go without a trip outside. So a two-month-old puppy can wait three hours. That means your puppy will probably need to go out at least twice during the night.

If your Maltese puppy is crying and you're sure it's not for need of relieving himself, reach down and soothe him a little. Don't be too doting or coddle your Maltese puppy. This will only reinforce the behavior and he'll cry even more. If he continues to whine, a gruff "Quiet" and a quick, but gentle, shake by the scruff should settle the matter. If all else fails, ignore him. Tough love may be difficult, but eventually your puppy will learn that crying at night gets him nowhere. The more persistent you are in your approach, the quicker the situation will be resolved. If you're stern one minute and sympathetic the next, your puppy will only be confused and his behavior will continue.

In the morning Get up right away and take your puppy to his Maltese Puppy Den soiling area. Carry him. Don't let him walk there or he may be tempted to go before he gets outside. Let him empty everything out, and praise him when he's finished.

As with any new baby, you may not get much sleep the first night with puppy. If you're patient and understanding, your puppy will learn what you expect of him when it's time to sleep. You both should wake up rested and ready for the day after a few nights together.