

New Puppy Tips

With lots of affection with the family, consistent rules and routine, and rewards for good behavior, your puppy will quickly learn their place in this new “pack.” Most importantly, you will establish a bond that will endure throughout their life.

Here are some tips to make sure the first day is the best it can be for your puppy, for you, and for your family.

Introducing Puppy to a New Home

1. **Limit your puppy’s access.** Too many new places, smells, and people at once may confuse them. Instead, let them explore a designated area where you are, too. Then introduce them to the rest of the house, one room at a time.
2. **Choose a potty spot.** Start by taking them to the outside area where you want them to eliminate. When they relieve themselves, use a command that you’ll stick to, like “go potty,” and reward them with a special treat and praise.
3. **Introduce the puppy to their new family.** If possible, do this one person at a time. Give your dog a chance to meet each of you quietly. Supervise young children. Discourage them from picking up the puppy. Let them hold them in their laps with your help.
4. **Minimize stress and excitement.** Don’t invite friends and neighbors over to meet the dog yet. That will be important very soon but should not start on the first day.
5. **Introducing other family pets.** Puppies are still developing their communication skills and don’t understand the rules set in place by adult dogs. As long as an adult dog’s behavior is appropriate when correcting a puppy, it’s okay if they growl a little. If the elder dog becomes agitated, separate or redirect the puppy.
6. **Don’t interact with dogs outside your home.** Because your puppy probably hasn’t gotten all of their shots, they shouldn’t interact with strange dogs or even walk where other dogs do.
7. **Start enforcing rules.** The puppy needs to learn the house rules from the very beginning. Praise good behavior. Set your rules ahead of time and stick to them. For example, where do you want the puppy to sleep? Is the puppy allowed on the furniture? Can the puppy have food scraps from the table?
8. **Make a veterinary appointment.** Your vet should give your puppy a checkup in the next few days.

9. Start a Routine and Stick to It.

Structure will help your new canine family member feel secure and understand what's expected of them. Routine makes it easier for everyone, humans included. Create a schedule and stick to it. Keep in mind:

- **Mealtime:** Young puppies eat three times a day. Put your puppy on a regular feeding schedule. What goes in on a regular schedule will come out on a regular schedule.
- **Potty breaks:** Every time your puppy eats, drinks, wakes up, plays, sniffs around the room, provide them with a potty break. Most young puppies have to eliminate at least every 45 minutes when awake. Pick the puppy up and carry them to the designated potty area. Never punish them for housetraining “mistakes.” When they eliminate outside, reward them immediately.
- **Playtime:** Your puppy needs exercise and interaction with you. A word of caution—sustained, strenuous exercise (like long runs or jumping) is not good for puppies. But playing with toys and with you, mental stimulation with puzzles, and running in the yard are great activities. A tired puppy is a good puppy.
- **Dreamland:** Young puppies sleep a lot. In fact, some will sleep 16 to 18 hours a day. Plan on several nap times during the day. You may need to put a crate in a quiet part of the house so they won't be disturbed. At night, set a puppy bedtime and help them get used to the routine.

10. Surviving the First Night

Some puppies sleep through the night right from the start. Others may cry for a few nights.

- **For many puppies, evening is the “witching hour.”** If you anticipate it by initiating play, your dog may use up some energy and settle down. An evening stroll gives them exercise and a chance to take a potty break. Be sure they go to the bathroom right before bed.
- Do not give your puppy food or water one hour before bed. They can make it through the night with no food or water. This ensures they will not have an accident in their crate.
- The puppy will most likely cry or whine. Cover the crate completely with a blanket. At the initial bedtime do not respond to puppies' cries. It may take 30 or more minutes, but the puppy should eventually stop crying. If the puppy whines several hours later, they may need to use the restroom. Take them potty and put them right back in their crate. Reward with a small treat for getting back in bed and begin the cry it out routine again. This is my personal routine and the one I have found the most effective in crate training and

sleeping through the night.

- During the day leave the crate open with toys and encourage the puppy to go in and out and play. Always reward the puppy when they go into the crate willingly.
- **A set bedtime makes adjustment and house training easier for everyone.**
It doesn't matter if it's 8 p.m. or midnight, as long as it becomes a routine. Take your pet to their crate and help them settle down for the night – giving them a small treat when they go in willingly.

Please contact me for any further advice. Any puppy from Dutton's Doodles comes with lifetime support and I am happy to help and answer any questions you may have!

MOST IMPORTANTLY ENJOY YOUR NEW PUPPY!

