



10 Must Do - New Pup

Quick Guide to welcoming a new pup

Zoom & Abhi

About the Author

Hi,
My name is Zoom. I am the one on the left-hand side with the white markings on my chest. I am a Singapore Special Dog, an elegant name for a locally born dog like me with no “breed” certifications. My humans have lived with dogs for the last 17 years. Despite their extensive experience, I managed to make their lives difficult for the first month. I cannot imagine how difficult it would be for first-timers. Hopefully, this guide will help make their lives more comfortable and give my canine brethren an excellent opportunity to be model members of the household. My human companion can be contacted at abhicellpa@gmail.com.



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The Companion Profile

| | Characteristics | Pet Owner | Dog Parent | Dog Person |
|----|--|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Will you allow me on the furniture and your bed? | Not allowed inside the house. | Limited access inside the house. | Full access to house and furniture. |
| 2. | Will you spend money on me? | Basic needs. Food, water, vet. | Spend on a budget on food, vet and training. | No limits spending. Best of everything. |
| 3. | Will you take me out to cafes and fun places? | Walks only | Walks and social outings. Limited travel. | Travel with dog and go for social outings. |
| 4. | Will you treat me like another human? | Never | Never | Always |
| 5. | Will you make sacrifices for me? | Never | Sometimes | Anytime |

My humans are clearly dog people. It doesn't mean that the others are bad or not good. It is good to set set expectations in the relationship and the profile helps to do that. .



Prepare for pup's arrival

Before I entered my new home, the humans raided Amazon for the following items:

1. *Collar* - I would recommend a Martingale collar. Usually it will hang loose. If I pull, it tightens. Don't worry. It doesn't hurt me. I have a strong neck.
2. *Leash*. They bought a fixed length leash and not a flexi one. It's easier to walk me on a fixed length leash. For the newbies, a flexi leash is uncontrollable.
3. *Water and Food Bowl*.
4. *Toys* - Especially the chewing and the squeaky kind. Puppies are indiscriminate chewers and once they start teething, they need to bite into something. Chew toys are better than human body parts, shoes or furniture. I like fingers. They are soft and bony!
5. *Pen or Crate* - If you are planning to crate train your dog, then it is good to buy one. If not, then a pen is a better idea.(you can usually borrow one on FB or from doggy friends)
6. *Food* - Stick with the food and treats that the breeder or shop recommends. We don't do well with sudden changes in the diet.



Prepare for pup's arrival

...List Continued

7. *Pee Pads* - buy the bigger size. Puppies are not very accurate.
8. *Pee and Poo Odor remover spray*.
9. *Dog bed* - Buy the size for a fully grown dog.
10. *Air-tight jars* for kibble.



Prepare stuff for pup's arrival

1. Make your home puppy proof:
 - a. Roll up all the expensive carpets and rugs. Accidents are going to happen. We love doing it on the expensive ones!
 - b. Keep all the glass and metal showpieces out of reach of the pup's mouth and tail. Look for things like cables and wires which can be dangerous for the pup or can affect your internet connection.
2. If I am going to stay indoors with you, plan a place to keep a pee pad. It should be a spot which I can reach quickly if required. The choice is that I am never allowed to go in the house. More on that on the next page.
3. Get the following info from the breeder or the pet shop:
 - a. Brand and type of food. Ideally take a small bag with you to take a couple of days worth of food -
 - b. Frequency and timing for meals..
 - c. Quantity per meal. In cups
 - d. Vitamins that need to be given.
 - e. Known food allergies.
 - f. Pee and Poo routine.



Pee and Poo habits

Ideally your pup should not do pee or poo (in future referred to as doing their “job”) inside the house. Accidents will happen if you don’t plan for it.

Take your pup down every 60 to 90 minutes till you establish a pattern for his “job.” The rough equation is **Age in months + 1**. If the pup is 2 months old, the bladder capacity is for approx 3 hours. As they grow older, the frequency drops drastically.

Some pups need to do their job within a few minutes of consuming a meal. Lookout for that. My buddy has to go within 5 minutes of his meal.



Pee and Poo habits

What to do in case of an accident inside the house?

If you catch the pup doing it, Yell out loudly NO! BAD BOY. Then take him out to the green area to complete the job.

OR

Take him to the pee pad to complete the job.

If you haven't seen him go and step on a wet patch that is not water, don't shout at him, since he doesn't know why you are yelling at him.

1. Clean up the patch.
2. Use the odor removing spray to prevent another job in the same spot. Be thorough.

Good News - Most of the accidents will happen in the first few days. Once you understand the timing and frequency, you can put the carpets back.



Pee and Poo habits

For the night:

Puppy should be in a pen.

Keep the bed and the pee pad on opposite sides in the pen. Dogs generally never soil their sleeping area.

During the day - You can either train the pup to sleep in the pen or allow it to sleep wherever it fancies. The choice is yours.



Food and Drink



The BIG question that comes into your mind is “What should I give the puppy?”

1. In the first month, please give the pup only what the breeder/store/shelter recommends. The new environment is a HUGE stressor for the pup. Familiar food helps with adapting to your home faster.
2. Treats can be given as per the recommendation of the breeder/store/shelter.
3. Adhere to the feeding times and quantity suggested by the breeder/store/shelter.

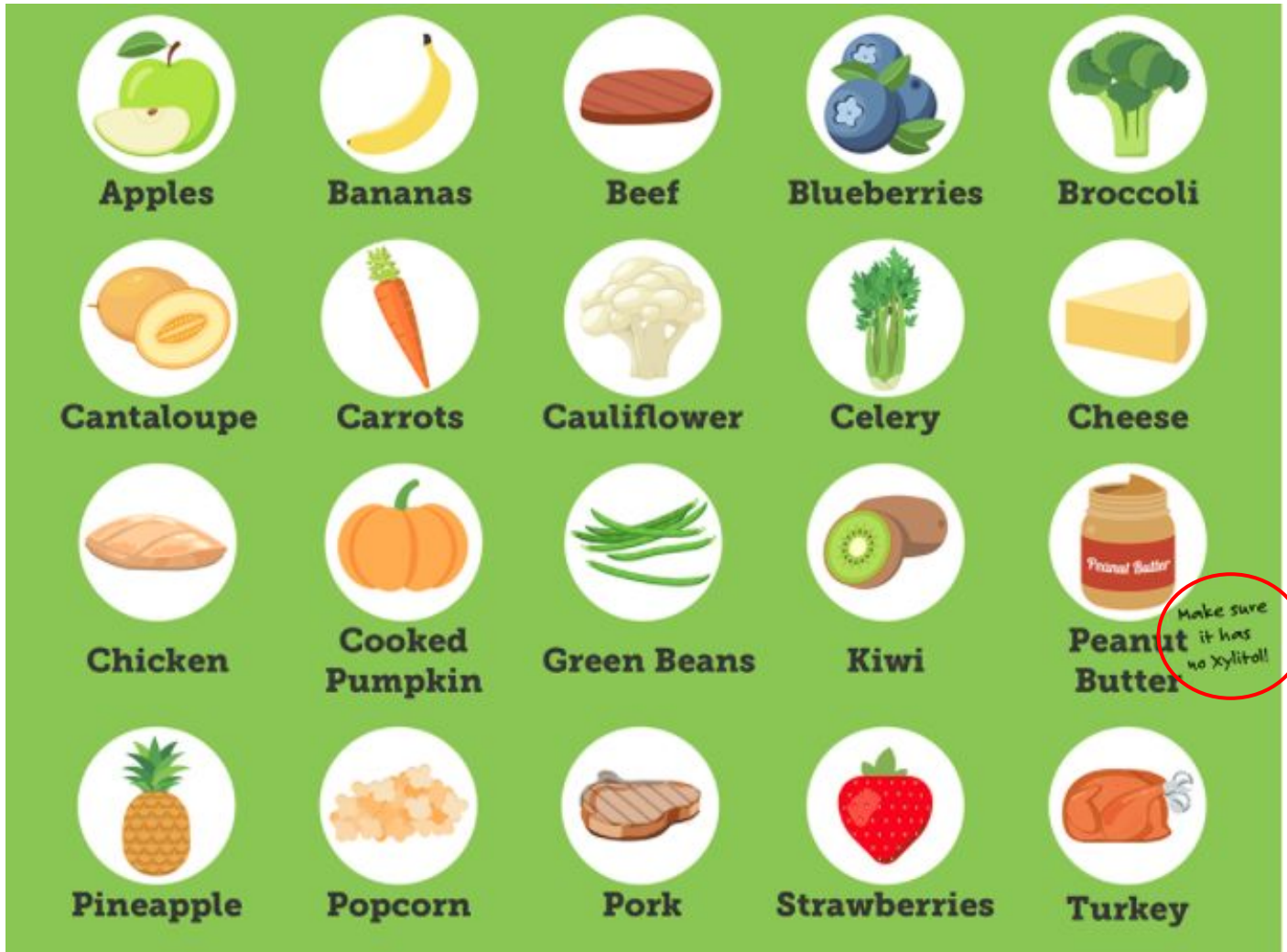
Always have fresh water accessible to the pup.



Foods to avoid - Dangerous



Foods that you can share



Start by feeding a small amount. If no adverse reaction for 24 hours, your pup's digestive system has accepted it.

Sleeping and “Allowed” Rules

Sleeping Area -

Where should the puppy sleep? In the pen? On my bed? With the kids? In the living room? This is the toughest decision for most first time dog owners. A lonely crying pup results in a sleepless night. A pen to contain the pup’s movements is a good idea. Start with training for the pen as soon as the pup comes home. The pen area should be a happy place for the puppy. The ideal layout is shown below.

Training tips for pen.

1. Do not start just before bedtime. Plan this activity during the day and get the pup to sleep inside.
2. Do this when you know she is ready to sleep after a bout of play or a walk.
3. Keep the gate to the pen open. Throw a few treats inside. Let the pup make its way in. Don’t close the door. Let her come out.
4. Throw treats in again. She needs to go in voluntarily. Don’t close the gate.
5. Throw treats in again. Close the gate.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 till she sits comfortably inside the pen eating her treat,
7. Throw a chew toys in. Let her settle in and start chewing. If she does that, it’s good. Close the gate.
8. Give her meals inside the pen. She will associate it with a happy place.



Sleeping and “Allowed” Rules



Decide on “No Entry” areas before you get your pup. Then make sure your pup never enters those areas.

E.g if the kitchen is a forbidden zone, the pup has to be kept out of the kitchen. A baby gate at the door should help.

All the rules have to be enforced consistently by everyone in the family.
The same applies to furniture, beds etc.



Socialization with dogs

You can start introducing your pup to other dogs after his vaccinations are completed. He is ready to be unleashed into the dog world in your neighborhood. The safest option is to meet friend's with dogs. They will know how their dog behaves with puppies and will allow only the friendly ones to meet your pup.

Another good option is during the morning or evening walk. It is good etiquette to ask first if it is OK for your pup to say hello, when you meet another dog. If the reply is Yes, then let your pup meet the other dog. Keep the leash loose.

You can also visit the dog park. I would suggest that you wait for the pup to be settled in and comfortable with other dogs before you take him to a dog park. The energy in a dog park can be overwhelming for a pup.



[List of dog runs in Singapore](#)



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Socialization with humans



It is important that your pup meets your friends and relatives to get her used to people and strangers.

Invite dog friendly humans over to your home or visit friends and relatives. Your pup should meet at least 10 humans other than your family, in the first month.

If you are a dog person, visit cafes and restaurants with your pup. These spots are also great to give your pup the opportunity of meeting strangers. A puppy is a great people magnet.

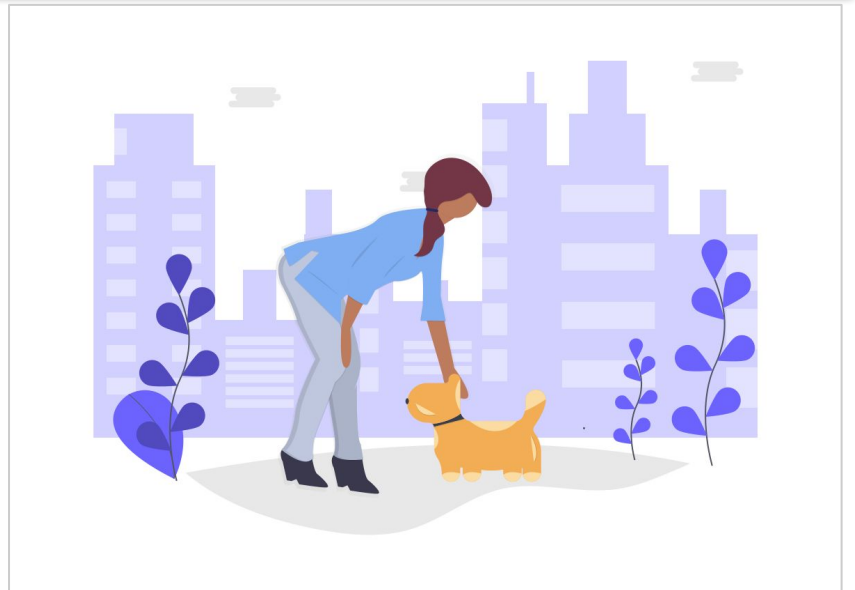


[Cafes that allow dogs](#)



Good Canine Citizen Training

COME
STAY
SIT
HEEL



You puppy should know the following commands:

1. **COME** - Your pup should come to you when called.
2. **STAY** - Your pup should stop and stand wherever she is.
3. **SIT** - This one is obvious.
4. **HEEL** - Your pup will learn to walk quietly by your side. This prevents pulling on the leash and saves you from potential shoulder and back injuries.

COME and **STAY** are **critical commands** that can save your dog's life. Imagine your dog playing chase in an open area and you see her running towards a road. The only words that can stop her from running onto the road and getting hit by a car are COME or STAY. Check out the puppy obedience classes online and decide which one works for you.



Going Out with your pup



Cafes, restaurants
Dog Runs
Open air parks like East Coast Park.
Other sites as per the link below.

Malls
Tourist sites
Nature Reserves
Beaches
Other sites as per the link below.



[NParks list - Dogs Allowed/Not Allowed](#)

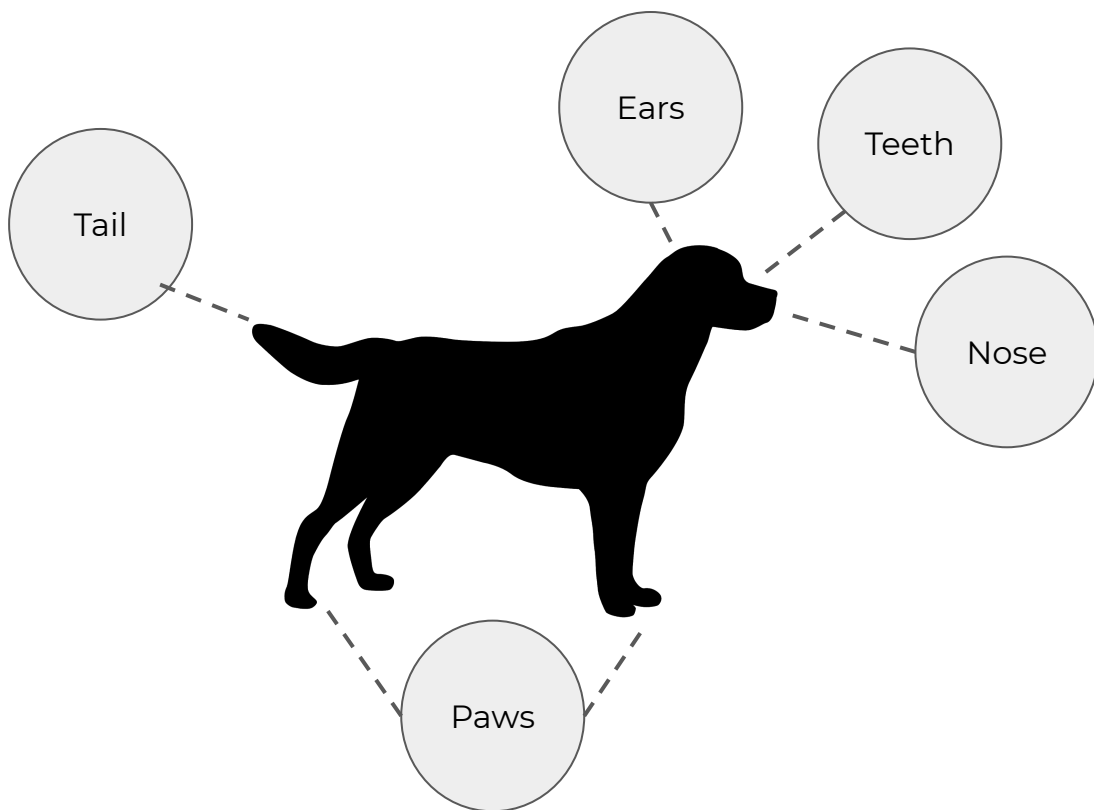


Getting “Mishandled”

Experienced humans know this drill. Your dog should allow you to touch his feet, mouth, teeth, inside the paws, tail, in short any part of his body without discomfort.

Grooming and giving medicines becomes easy when your dog accepts this touch. Cleaning or brushing teeth doesn't result in a bite.

The best time is when you are playing with him.



Vet Visit

You should schedule a vet check up within a few days of your pup's arrival. A thorough check-up can throw up potential health issues.

On the day of the visit, go early and walk your pup in that area for a few minutes. Let her sniff and get used to the sounds and smells. This will help reduce the stress..

Keep some treats with you. Reward her as you enter the waiting area. She should see it as a "happy place."

Walk her into the vet's examination room. Reward her as she enters and relaxes. The reward serves as a distraction.



Store the contact of a 24 hour vet in your phone. Very helpful in an emergency, when you are too stressed to Google it

Resources



[List of dog runs in Singapore](#)



[Cafes that allow dogs](#)



[NParks list - Dogs allowed/Not Allowed](#)



[24 Hour Vets](#)



[Reviews and Ratings of dog food](#)



[Dog Food Reviews](#)



[Whole Dog Journal](#)