



## Puppy Raising

# Preparing for your puppy

Version 2.1

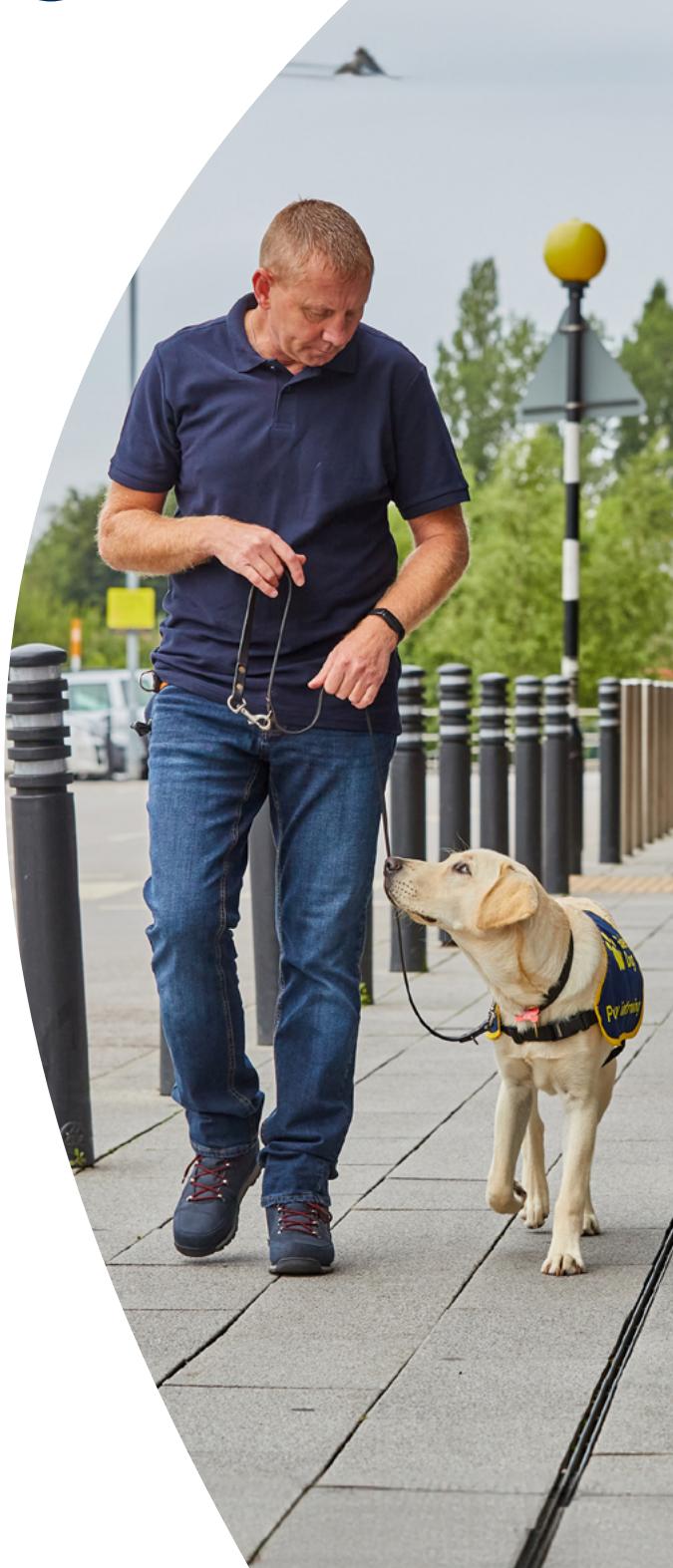
Updated November 2024

## Sections

There are 9 topics within this document.  
By following each link below you will be  
directed straight to that area of guidance.

- [1. Creating a safe environment for your puppy](#)**
- [2. Your puppy's sleeping area](#)**
- [3. Your garden](#)**
- [4. Toileting your puppy](#)**
- [5. Your car](#)**
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- [7. Children and your puppy](#)**
- [8. Holidays](#)**
- [9. Taking your guide dog puppy out and about](#)**

<sup>1</sup> [puppyoutandabout](#)



# Overview

It may help to read the ‘Our four principles’ guidance before reading this. Here we explain how our principles can be applied to prepare your home, family and friends for your puppy’s arrival.

As a reminder, the principles are:



**Knowing your puppy**



**Teaching foundations**



**Managing for success**



**Being a partnership**

You should also refer to the ‘Essential information’ guidance alongside this guidance for further details on our policies and approaches to Puppy Raising.

## Summary of updates

Date: 20.09.24

Version: 2.1

Creating a safe environment for your puppy (preventing access to highways) and children and your puppy sections updated.

Date: 01.04.24

Version: 2.0

New sections added: Holidays and Taking your puppy out and about.

Sections updated: Equipment, Children and your puppy

Date: 01.07.21

Version: 1.0

Guidance created

# 1. Creating a safe environment for your puppy



## Knowing your puppy

Guide dog puppies are first and foremost, a dog. They display the full range of behaviours you would expect to see with any puppy. They will bark, dig, mouth and chew. They need to learn how to behave in the home, with people and other animals, and to toilet outside. Dogs don't understand that human food, children's toys, valuables, or poisonous and dangerous items are not theirs to play with, pick up or chew.

Physically, your puppy will grow rapidly. When your puppy first arrives, they won't be fully vaccinated, so can't walk on any floors where unknown dogs have been for at least a few weeks. You'll also need to limit activities that put pressure on their joints (including using stairs until your puppy is 3 months old) to prevent injury. This means you'll need to lift and carry your puppy in the early weeks. Refer to manual handling in the 'Essential information' guidance for the safest ways to do this.



A puppy raiser comforting her puppy.



## Managing for success

If you haven't already, try to identify possible hazards or items that you wouldn't want a puppy to get hold of. You'll need to either remove them or take steps to prevent your puppy having access to them before they arrive.

Usual risks and items include:

- Electrical wires
- Chewable objects (glasses, children's toys, shoes, handbags)
- 'Escape' exits.
- Medicines, cleaning products, chemicals and all food (especially grapes, raisins and chocolate) that are within reach.

Consider the room or rooms you plan to let your puppy have access to. Rooms with hard flooring will be easier to clean when there are toilet accidents. If your puppy will have access to carpeted room, you may want to consider carpet protector.

There should be at least two barriers preventing your puppy from accessing roads and highways such as a front and porch door; front door and garden gate or a playpen and front door. Baby gates and pens are also useful in restricting your puppy's movement within the house, particularly if you have a relatively open space. They help to keep your puppy in one area, pen off your valuable items and prevent your puppy from accessing other areas e.g., external doors and make it easier for you to keep an eye on them. As a rule, you always want to have sight of your puppy. If you can't see them, you don't know what they're up to.

As well as the house, gardens need to be safe and secure. There must be a solid fence or wall in place, no escape routes, and any potential hazards cornered off including ponds and access to any poisonous plants (refer to '[Your garden](#)' for further information).



A puppy raiser stroking her puppy.



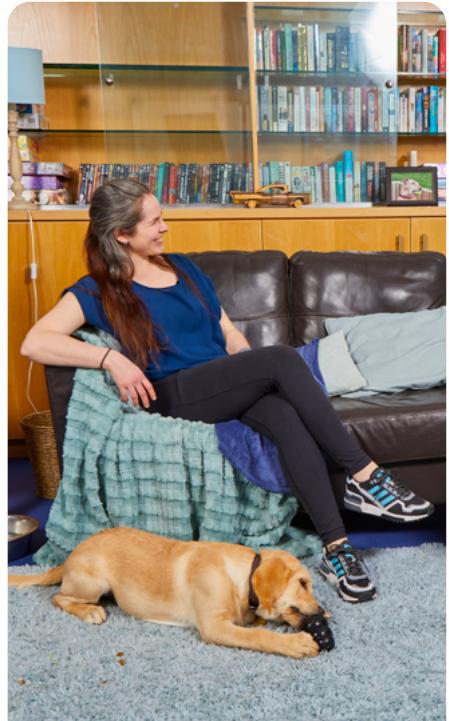
## Teaching foundations

Providing toys and chews will help teach a puppy from an early age what is OK to chew on and play with (see the 'Equipment' section for further information and ideas).



## Being a partnership

Setting household rules that everyone agrees with is key to consistency for your puppy. It will help everyone to bond with your puppy, help with ongoing training and prevent unwanted behaviours.



A puppy enjoying chewing on a toy.

## 2. Your puppy's sleeping area



### Knowing your puppy

When in a new environment, some puppies really struggle with the combination of being separated from their mum and siblings and then being separated from people at night. Other puppies may settle more quickly. To meet a puppy's emotional needs when they first arrive, we ask that our puppies are not left to whine and bark for periods of time if they're uncomfortable with being separated. This may mean that for a short time they need to be near you. When this is the case, guide dog puppies should still have their own bed and not sleep on beds or sofas.



A puppy getting ready for bed.



### Managing for success

There's no one size fits all with where a puppy sleeps. Your plans may also change once your puppy arrives and you get to know their preferences (e.g. being enclosed or having more space).

Your puppy's sleeping area should be somewhere they can relax, be safe, be free from draughts, away from direct heat and ideally noises such as household appliances. In the early days, being close to a door can make it easier for your puppy to get outside to toilet.

Puppies generally settle better in a den like environment. We may have recommended that you use a crate or pen to begin with (if you don't have one, we can provide one for your puppy). If you're not using one of these, we recommend you restrict your puppy by putting a baby gate on the doorway and consider the following;

- What is around – could it be chewed when your puppy is unattended?
- Where would toileting accidents occur – are they easy to clean up?
- What is in the room that could present a hazard –
- and can your puppy reach them if not enclosed?

## Crates and pens

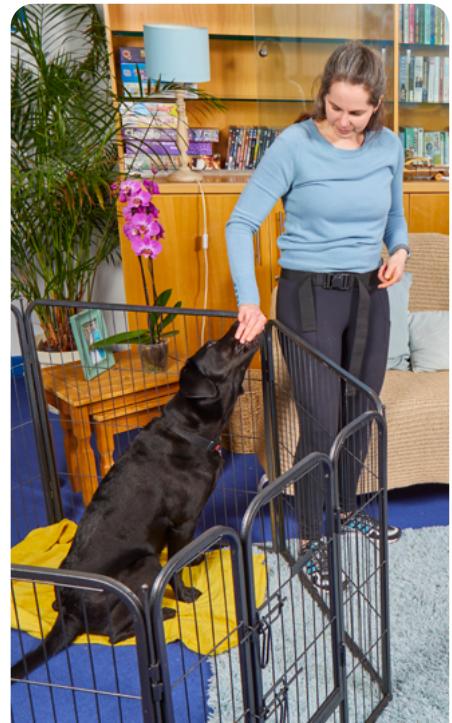
Crates can provide a positive space and are an effective tool for managing your puppy when introduced in the right way.

Some of the benefits are:

- Providing your puppy with a safe haven
- Allowing separate sleeping arrangements in households with more than one dog
- Preventing any inappropriate chewing or destructiveness
- Assisting toilet training routines
- Providing a safe way for your young puppy to be transported
- Helping your dog feel comfortable when left alone

If using a crate, consider the following:

- A crate needs to be large enough for your puppy to stand up, lie down stretched out and turn around comfortably, but small enough to discourage them from toileting in it.
- You'll need to ensure that any crate is in good condition before using it. You can cover the outside of the crate with a blanket to make the crate feel cosy and den-like (you should speak to your Puppy Development Advisor as to whether this is suitable for your puppy). Inside, you only need your puppy's blanket and water bowl.
- A crate is your puppy's space and sanctuary. Children should be reminded of this and not be allowed to play in or near the crate. One of the golden rules for children is that when your puppy is in the crate, they should not enter the crate or touch them. This should also apply to adults and any guests. It's important to avoid using crates as a shelf or storage facility.



A puppy in a pen in the lounge.



## Teaching foundations

If you're planning to use a crate or pen, refer to '[Your first week](#)'.



## Being a partnership

A crate must only be used as a positive space and sanctuary for our puppies. Crates should never be used as a punishment or a place your puppy is forced to go to.



A puppy raiser getting a puppy ready for bed.

### 3. Your garden



#### Knowing your puppy

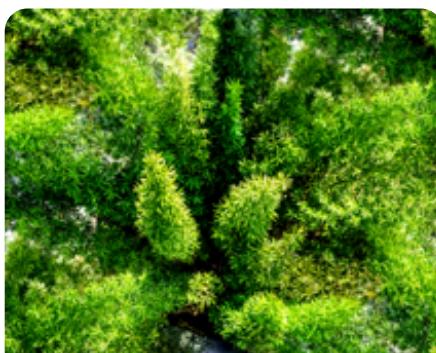
Gardens are wonderful exploring areas and provide great enrichment when they are safe and secure. They can, however, hold potential dangers.

Puppies investigate with their mouths and will often pick up leaves, twigs, stones, flowers and, other items they come across. Generally, they then lose interest and drop them. However, some things can be potentially dangerous, and a puppy should be prevented from accessing them. For example, some plants and soil treatments are naturally toxic to dogs. Cocoa shell mulch and bark chippings can also be dangerous if eaten due to the pre-treatment they receive. Product labels generally state if they are pet safe.

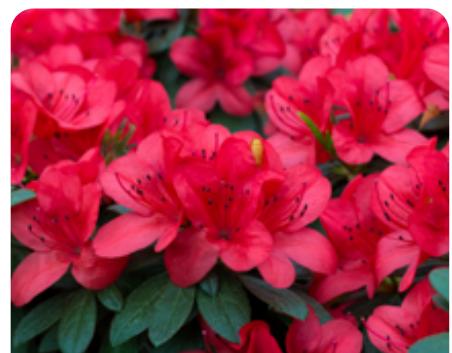
Here are some plants which can also be harmful to a puppy if eaten:



Amaryllis bulbs



Asparagus fern



Azalea



Cyclamen



Daffodil bulbs



Day lilies



Delphiniums



Foxgloves



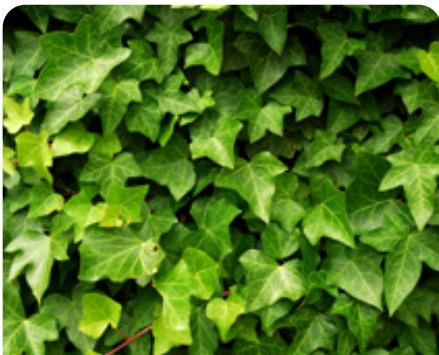
Hemlock



Hyacinth



Hydrangea



Ivy



Laburnum



Lilies



Lily of the valley



Lupins



Mistletoe



Morning glory



Nightshade



Oleander



Poinsettia



Rhododendron



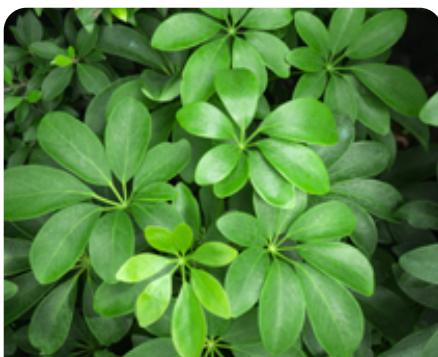
Rhubarb leaves



Sweet pea



Tulip bulbs



Umbrella plant



Various fungi



Wisteria



Yew

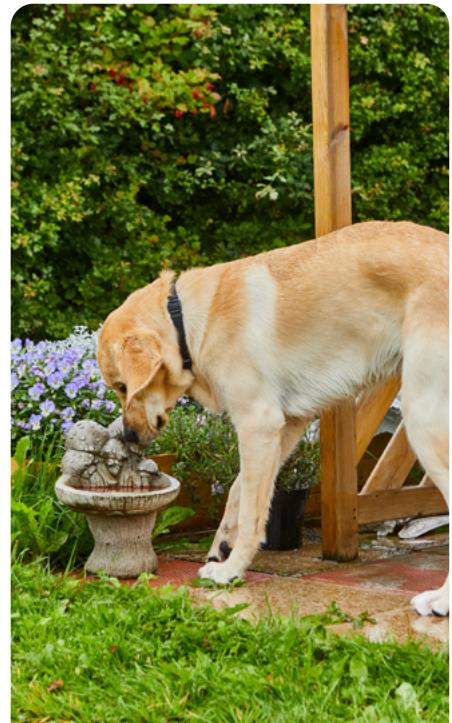
If there are plants in your garden that you're unsure about, please speak to your Puppy Development Advisor.



## Managing for success

Before you let your puppy into the garden, some things must be in place to make sure it's safe.

- The garden must be enclosed with a secure 4ft+ fence or wall that has no holes, or routes that a puppy could escape through.
- Any gates should securely close and be high enough to prevent your puppy jumping over them, and low enough to prevent them from squeezing underneath.
- Any gaps between slats of a fence must be small enough so a puppy can't squeeze through or get their head stuck.
- Put up physical gates or barriers to streams, ponds, or other areas that you don't want your puppy to access. Identify and remove any hazardous objects such as rat poison, slug pellets, weed killers, fertilizers and insecticides which could be harmful to your puppy. You'll need to keep them away from any areas which you know have been recently treated.



A puppy sniffs at an ornament in a garden.



## Teaching foundations

Refer to '[Learning to play](#)' and '[mouthing](#)' guidance for support on how to teach your puppy to swap items and to come back when called.



## Being a partnership

Once your puppy arrives, they may show a particular interest in certain parts of the garden, and the areas they have access to may need to be adjusted.

## 4. Toileting your puppy



### Knowing your puppy

Your puppy is no different to any other puppy when it comes to toilet training. They need to learn to toilet outside and be offered the opportunity frequently (in the first few weeks this can be as often as every 20-30 minutes).

We try to get our puppies to toilet on concrete as this makes it easier for our guide dog owners. However, our puppies can use other surfaces where needed.



### Managing for success

Your puppy may get distracted from toileting if there are lots of things around or it's a large space. If you don't have one already it may be worth having an area sectioned off for them to toilet in.



### Teaching foundations

Refer to '[Your first week](#)' guidance for information on how to toilet train your puppy.



### Being a partnership

Set up the area you want your puppy to toilet in before they arrive as discussed with your PDA. However, once they arrive you may find that they prefer certain surfaces, and you may need to adjust your plans. Your overall aim is that your puppy is comfortable and relaxed toileting outdoors. Discuss any changes with your Puppy Development Advisor.

Always supervise your puppy in the garden. This way, you'll know what they are doing, and they won't be learning to enjoy inappropriate games such as digging or chewing plants.

## 5. Your car

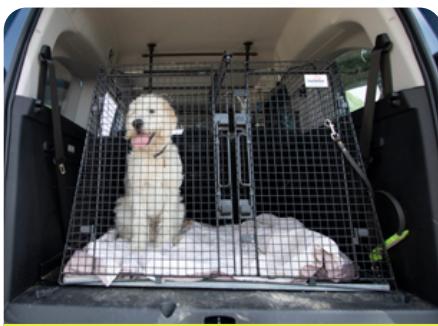


### Knowing your puppy

Your puppy must be secure when travelling in the car for everyone's wellbeing and for insurance purposes. Your Puppy Development Advisor will tell you the best place to travel your puppy in your car. The possibilities are:



A crate or pet carrier secured on the backseat up-to a max of 14 weeks old.



In the boot in an anchored and unlocked crate or behind a dog guard (with the shelf removed).



Secured by a car harness and seatbelt on the back seat.

Whichever location used, your puppy always needs to have space to be able to turn around, sit with their ears erect and lie down naturally. As every car is different, if a dog guard is used then we ask our puppy raisers to provide this. We can provide a car harness if/when required.

Puppies cannot be transported in a convertible when the roof is down and you'll need permission from your Puppy Development Advisor for your puppy to travel in the footwell. This is a last resort and is rarely authorised. This is because the airbags must remain switched on and, if activated would cause serious harm to your puppy.

The driver of the car must have a valid driver's licence and insurance and is responsible for ensuring the vehicle is suitable and road worthy.



## Managing for success

It's important that you provide your puppy with comfortable bedding to cushion their journey. Dogs cannot anticipate corners as we can and so cannot brace for turns. A padded crate, the sides of the boot or a bed with high sides (doughnut beds) can help your puppy relax and feel safe.



## Teaching foundations

Refer to '[Travel and transport](#)' for information on how to introduce and make the car a positive place for your puppy.



## Being a partnership

Once you start travelling with your puppy, if you see any signs of them being over aroused or uncomfortable in this location or in the car let us know. We'll support and guide you with this and discuss if the location they travel needs to change.



A puppy in a car mounted dog crate.

## 6. Equipment

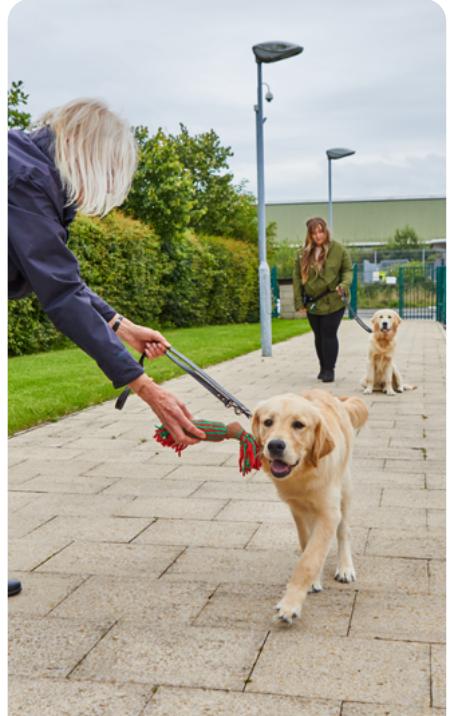


### Knowing your puppy

We will provide anything that your puppy needs to wear (collar, leads and a car harness if applicable). We also will give you a KONG®, brush and comb and if needed a pen or crate (your PDA will advise). Please note for insurance purposes, your puppy must only wear Guide Dogs approved equipment.

As every puppy's likes and dislikes are different and there are lots of toys, chews and food rewards/treats on the market, we ask our puppy raisers to provide these for our puppies. We have a 'flat rate expense reimbursement' that can be used towards these costs. Please refer to the puppy raising information pack (sent by email or post) for more information.

Your puppy will need access to a variety of toys as they grow and develop. Some puppies prefer certain textures and sounds, some prefer chase games, and some really want to chew (a strong and persistent chewer will likely need more durable toys). Different toys also help you to shape your puppy's natural behaviour. For example, you can channel chewing away from wood furniture and onto wood chews.



A puppy raiser uses a toy to distract a puppy.

There are some things that cannot be given to a guide dog puppy:

- Items small enough to swallow
- Sticks
- Human belongings or household items not intended for dogs
- Laser pens (chasing light)
- Tennis balls (due to their size and the risk of causing blockages)
- Antlers or buffalo horns (can chip puppy teeth)
- Raw food, freeze dried meat products or air-dried animal anatomy as they are not cooked during the manufacturing process. Examples include cow/pig's ears, trotters, Sprats.
- Raw hide (this is low in digestibility and therefore poses a risk of blockages)
- Peanut butter or peanut butter flavoured chews due to potentially triggering human allergies and the risk of containing Xylitol which is poisonous to dogs.
- Lick it style dispensers (have a ball that a dog licks). Please note Licki mats are OK.



A selection of puppy toys in a garden.



## Managing for success

When considering what enrichment and games to give your puppy, provide variety. Always think about the behaviours they'll be practicing and whether it's appropriate for their welfare or future role. We suggest only getting a few items to begin with until you know your puppy's preferences.

Given the opportunity, most puppies will tear or try to tear toys apart. This can increase the risk of them swallowing or ingesting items which may cause gastrointestinal obstructions. This means softer toys should only be given when someone is there to supervise a puppy.

We recommend that toys are regularly rotated (some are put away and then swapped over) to prevent your puppy becoming bored of any one item. For hygiene purposes we also recommend that toys and bones are not left outdoors, and where possible that they're washed regularly.

When buying chews, it's important to consider the size of your puppy and their chewing style. Dogs should only be left unattended with an item they've been previously observed having. All items must be disposed of once they're small enough to pose a choke or ingestion risk.



A puppy playing with its favourite toy.



## Teaching foundations

Refer to 'Learning to play and mouthing' and 'Learning manners' for support and guidance on how to teach manners around toys and food.



## Being a partnership

Even if they've been used before, toys need to be checked to make sure they're still in good condition and are appropriate for your puppy's development and behaviour. If a toy is frayed or split, they need to be removed to avoid any risk of your puppy choking on small pieces.

We've put together a small selection of toys, chews and food rewards that you can get. There are many others available.



Food toys

There are a variety of food toys available to buy, some of these are shown in the '[Interactive food toys](#)' section. You can also make your own, there are lots of ideas online.



Soft toys

Soft long toys are particularly good for young puppies and families with children. The longer they are the less likely your puppy will catch your hand. You can create your own from plaiting fleece (search online for how to create a fleece tug toy or you can buy them).



Chew toys

Chewing is a normal dog behaviour. By providing chew toys you're teaching your puppy what they can chew. Your puppy will have preferences for certain types depending on what they like to chew. You should check toys regularly for sharp bits that could hurt a puppy's gums.



Rope toys

Rope toys can be a good alternative toy for puppies who rip soft toys easily or for puppies that like to chew on fabric.



Noisy Toys

Squeaky toys are good for gaining a puppy's attention, particularly for recall. While often a favourite of puppies, the squeak can be frustrating to people. However, it can also be removed. If the squeak is left, then your puppy needs to be watched to see how likely they are to pull out and swallow the squeak.



Stuffed toys

Puppies love stuffed toys. Some puppies however want to chew and rip at stuffed toys. Toys with small parts (like eyes) that a puppy could easily pull off and swallow should be avoided. Stuffed toys also need to be checked regularly for loose threads or holes.

## Interactive food toys



Slow feeders

Slow feeders are good for all dogs as they encourage problem solving and are particularly good if your puppy tries to gulp their food down. There are many different types of slow feeder available.



Puzzles

Puzzle toys also require problem solving and teach frustration tolerance. They often include small parts, so puppies need to be supervised when using them. Please note, puppies often need to be taught how to use these toys.



Snuffle mats

Snuffle mats encourage natural behaviours and provide mental stimulation for puppies. A puppy's normal food is put on the mat, and they then must sniff the food out. Snuffle mats are generally made from fleece and can be bought or homemade. Search 'How to make a snuffle mat' online for how to do this.

## Bones, chews and food rewards



Sterilised bones

These are often smoked. Care needs to be taken on carpets as they can stain. Puppies can also have sterilised bones which are white in colour, and can be filled with your puppy's own soaked food. Commercially filled bones should not be given.



Wood chews

These are made of natural wood that does not splinter. Care needs to be taken on tiled or delicate floors as they can be heavy items, particularly if dropped from a height.



Hide free chews

Smartbones (rawhide alternative), MeatyWay (hide free) are just some of the rawhide alternative varieties available. Yakers dog chew, Fish4dogs Whoppers and twists and, Whimzees are other options. Be aware that when any chew is nearly finished or becomes smaller, they can present a choke hazard.



Nylabones



KONG®



Food rewards

Nylabones, Benebones or bamboo chews provide a fantastic opportunity for a puppy to chew without making any mess. They can also be offered if your puppy is on a restricted diet. There are other similar brands available.

A KONG® is often filled with food taken from a puppy's food allowance but can also be filled with tinned meat or Kong paste when high value is needed. Peanut butter must not be used as a food reward in a KONG® or part of a chew toy

Most food rewards/treats are taken from your puppy's daily allowance of their normal food. When using commercial dog treats, we encourage you to use low-calorie treats. However, it's important that food rewards motivate your puppy in the situation it's needed. Meat or dairy products must only be used when advised by your PDA. This will be for high value and for a specific behaviour.

## 7. Children and your puppy



### Knowing your puppy

The arrival of your puppy will be exciting for children. They often want to run up to their new puppy friend for cuddles and play. However, your puppy has just entered a new environment and may be feeling overwhelmed or unsettled. Give your puppy the opportunity to slowly explore and take in their surroundings before meeting the wider family.

Remember that any dog or puppy has the potential to act aggressively, especially if they feel threatened or frightened, or are in pain. Children and your puppy must always be supervised around each other. Children must also be told to leave your puppy alone when they are in their bed, when eating, or going to the toilet.

Read our '[Puppy guidance for children](#)' and discuss this with children who live with you or who will be visiting the home. You can also find further information and resources on the Dogs Trust website.



A young boy stroking a puppy.



## Managing for success

Before your puppy arrives, explain to any children in the family or who visit your home that your puppy will be a working dog, not a pet. Discuss that there are special expectations of your puppy and rules to be followed, your puppy can't have their food and vice versa. It's an ideal opportunity to remind children that the crate, pen or sleeping area is for your puppy to relax and eat in and that the table is for them to eat at.

When children first meet your puppy, ask them to try and stay calm, quiet and seated (if possible). Another option is to give them a focused activity. You could ask them to line up a toy, fill an interactive food toy or challenge them to stay as still as a statue. Wherever possible, advise that they let your puppy go to them and sniff their hands and clothing first before they attempt to touch them.

Consider how you'll manage ongoing interactions between your puppy and children. This will help avoid situations where your puppy inadvertently chases, jumps up, steals from, or mouths them. Some ideas include having long toys (e.g. tug toys) in the house, garden and on walks. Baby gates, crates and pens are other useful management tools, particularly in areas where children are eating or playing.

Under no circumstances can anyone under the age of 18 be responsible for a guide dog puppy. If you need to leave your puppy at home and teenagers are present, then measures must be put in place so they cannot access each other. This can be done by having your puppy behind a baby gate, in a crate or behind a dog guard. If you look after children, think about how you will manage both the children and your puppy when outside of the home together, especially if you are solely responsible. Can anyone help you? Can you arrange to take your puppy out on your own? For insurance reasons you cannot push a buggy and handle a puppy.



A mother talking to her child.



## Teaching foundations

Once your puppy has settled in, children can get involved and have great fun with teaching your puppy about the world. Dressing up (people only), role play games or potentially with teaching cued behaviours like 'Sit' or 'Down'. Refer to '[Greeting people](#)' '[Learning to play](#)' and '[Learning manners](#)' for further support and guidance on skills that could help your puppy when around children.

If you have any queries, concerns or feel you need extra support with your puppy's behaviour around people, then please let us know straight away.



## Being a partnership

To get the most from the puppy raising experience, it's key to manage both yourself and any children's expectations. Think about what having a puppy is like, what normal puppy behaviour is and what games and interactions are appropriate for everyone, including your puppy's future career.

You are your puppy's advocate. You'll need to tell other adults how their children should behave around your puppy and ensure that the golden rules (leaving a puppy alone when they are in their bed, eating, or going to the toilet) are followed. By continually watching your puppy's body language when they're around children, you'll decide if it's the right time for your puppy to be interacting with children, and if any management is needed.

# Puppy guidance for children

You, your puppy, and your family are now part of our Guide Dogs family – as with all families it's important to understand and respect what others need. Please explain and discuss the below points with your children so they understand what your puppy and any dog they meet needs from them and why.

By actively allowing and encouraging your children to be part of these early conversations they will be more likely to want to follow the rules and help your puppy develop. You could even print these points off, making them visible for children to refer to. When visitors come to the house, you could ask your children to explain the rules to them – making them feel part of your puppy's training and embedding best practice within the whole family.

**1. Not all dogs like to be stroked. Always ask a dog's owner if you can stroke their dog.**

**4. When touching or stroking a puppy always be gentle and move your hands slowly away from the puppy's head.**

**7. Never make any sudden moves or loud noises when you are near a puppy. Puppies can be easily frightened and you may get hurt.**

**2. Let a dog come to you rather than approaching them. Chasing them can make them worried, frightened or even aggressive.**

**5. Keep your face away from a dog's face. Dogs can give you germs.**

**8. If a puppy growls or snarls at you, quietly move away from the puppy and tell a grown up what has happened.**

**3. You can smile at a dog but don't stare. This can scare them.**

**6. If a dog licks you, tell a grown up so that you can wash the place they licked; this will remove any harmful bacteria the puppy may have passed on to you.**

**9. If a dog is chasing or following you. Stop, stand as still as a tree, fold your arms and turn away from the puppy slowly.**

10. Never get into a puppy's bed, especially when the puppy is in it! A crate, dog bed or pen is a dog's place to relax and have time out. Disturbing a puppy when they want peace and quiet can be annoying.

13. Always wash your hands after stroking a puppy.

11. If a puppy or dog is asleep, leave them alone. You might scare them and make them shout.

14. When a dog is eating, leave them alone. You can play with them when they have finished and come to see you.

12. Keep your food well away from a puppy and don't give a puppy treats or titbits without a grown up's permission.

15. Keep your toys and treats for you and leave your puppy to have their toys and treats. If you want to touch their things, ask a grown up if this is ok. If you just take a dog's thing, they may get cross and bite.

## 8. Holidays



### Knowing your puppy

Whilst raising your puppy, you may want or need to visit friends and family, go on holiday and attend appointments. If it's suitable for your puppy to go along and your puppy is old enough and ready for the adventure, then they can often go along too.

If the holiday is abroad, the puppy is too young or isn't ready, or you just need a break away, then we have a dedicated team of registered and trained fosterers (or other puppy raisers) who our puppies can stay with.



A puppy fosterer takes a puppy on a bus.



### Managing for success

We ask that wherever possible you try to take any big/main holidays or do any big house renovations before getting your guide dog puppy.

We included a 'Dog information form' in the Puppy Raising Information pack that you can fill in to capture all the basics that will help a fosterer care for your puppy when boarded.



### Teaching foundations

Refer to 'Social behaviour and settling on a lead' for information on how to teach your puppy to settle in your and other people's home.



### Being a partnership

To help our teams plan and find the most suitable fosterer for your puppy, please share any holiday dates or, dates you're unavailable as soon as possible. If you know any dates that you may be unavailable, then please share them with us the next time we are in touch.

## 9. Taking your guide dog puppy out and about



### Knowing your puppy

We ask that your puppy has chance to settle in and therefore their first week is primarily spent at home. When they start going out and about, guide dog puppies need to be carried and/or can only go on the floor in certain environments due to their vaccination status. Exactly where and when will be advised by your Puppy Development Advisor based on your puppy and your circumstances. This can vary slightly between puppy raisers (even those down the same road). We ask that puppies are only carried in arms and not slings, back packs, bags, baskets or trolleys.

Being left alone is a skill that guide dogs need to learn over time. We therefore ask that you only leave your puppy for short periods (minutes) to begin with, and that this is increased slowly and at your puppy's pace. As puppies grow, they will be able to be left for up to 3 hours at a time. From time to time when this isn't possible for puppy raisers, a Puppy Development Advisor will advise and work with you on how best to manage this.

For insurance purposes, only registered and trained Guide Dogs volunteers who are aged 18 and over can walk and take responsibility for a guide dog puppy outside of the home. They should also have been instructed on how to walk, interact, control and pick up after the puppy in accordance with our policies and procedures. Please refer to the '[Essential Information](#)' for further guidance.



A puppy raiser and their puppy on a walk.



## Managing for success

Our approach to taking puppies out and about is quality over quantity. There's no rush, it's much better that they have positive experiences rather than lots.



## Teaching foundations

Refer to 'Social behaviour and settling on a lead' for guidance on teaching your puppy to be left alone and 'Being out and about' for information on introducing them to the world.



## Being a partnership

We're here to help and if you're unsure about anything covered in this guidance then please get in touch and don't be afraid to ask questions when we're next in touch.



A puppy waiting at the side of a road junction.