

Introduction to Puppy Care

Raising a puppy is a rewarding experience, though it requires patience and structure. Early training and bonding build the foundation for a well-adjusted, happy pet.

Setting Up for Success

Supplies

- Ensure you have all essential items, including a bed, food and water bowls, a collar, a leash, and toys.

Safe Space

- Designate a quiet, comfortable area where your puppy can rest and feel secure, away from household activity.
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Puppy Nutrition

Feeding Schedule

- Establish a routine for feeding, typically 2–3 meals per day depending on your puppy's age and size.

Food Selection

- Choose high-quality puppy food suitable for your dog's breed and size, consulting your vet if needed.

Treats

- Use treats sparingly and prioritize low-fat options, especially during training sessions.
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House Training Essentials

Potty Training

- **Goal:** Help your puppy develop reliable bathroom habits.
 - **Step 1:** Take your puppy outside frequently, especially after meals or naps.
 - **Step 2:** Reward them each time they go outside to reinforce this habit.

Crate Training

- **Goal:** Use the crate as a safe space and aid in potty training.
 - **Step 1:** Introduce your puppy to the crate with treats and praise, creating a positive association.
 - **Step 2:** Encourage short stays, gradually increasing the duration to promote independence.

Avoiding Accidents

- **Goal:** Supervise your puppy closely.
 - **Tip:** Reward outdoor bathroom use to reinforce this behavior, and don't punish accidents—focus on consistency.
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Basic Commands and Training

Essential Commands

- Teach foundational commands like “sit,” “stay,” “come,” and “no,” using treats or praise as rewards.

Positive Reinforcement

- Reward good behavior immediately, using treats, toys, or praise to encourage learning.

Consistency

- Keep training sessions short (5–10 minutes daily), as puppies learn best in small increments with repetition.
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Socialization and Playtime

Introduce Gradually

- Allow your puppy to meet new people and other animals slowly to prevent overwhelming them.

Play & Exercise

- Schedule regular play sessions for physical and mental stimulation, using soft toys and safe environments.
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Health and Vet Care Basics

Vaccinations

- Follow your veterinarian's advice on vaccinations to protect your puppy from common diseases.

Grooming

- Regularly brush your puppy's coat and trim their nails to keep them comfortable and healthy.

Preventive Care

- Schedule routine vet visits and monitor for any unusual symptoms to catch issues early.
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Common Challenges

Nipping/Chewing

- Provide chew toys to redirect your puppy's nipping and say "no" firmly if they bite or chew on inappropriate items.

Barking

- Identify and address barking triggers, and reinforce calm behavior with treats and praise.

Separation Anxiety

- Practice leaving your puppy alone for short periods and gradually increase the time to help them adjust comfortably.