



Puppy Adoption Guide

Welcome to the family! Here is your guide to caring for your new puppy.

Preparing Your Home

Before your puppy arrives, take some time to puppy-proof your home. This means securing any potential hazards, such as:

- **Electrical cords:** Tuck them away or cover them to prevent chewing.
- **Toxic substances:** Store cleaning supplies, medications, and chemicals out of reach.
- **Small objects:** Remove anything that could be swallowed, like small toys, coins, or socks.
- **Houseplants:** Identify and remove any plants that are toxic to dogs.
- **Unstable furniture:** Secure bookshelves or lamps that could be knocked over.

The First Few Days

- **Confine them to a small area:** This will help them feel more secure and make establishing routines easier.
- **Offer food and water:** Place bowls nearby and encourage small regular meals.
- **Show them the toilet spot:** Gently guide them to the designated area after naps and meals.
- **Provide gentle interaction:** Let them come to you. Keep greetings calm and low-key.
- **Be patient:** Puppies can feel overwhelmed. Consistency helps them settle quicker.

Essentials Checklist:

Item
Food and water bowls
High-quality puppy food (wet and dry)
Collar, harness and lead
Crate or comfy bed
Puppy-safe toys and chews
Puppy pads or designated toilet area
Brush, nail clippers, and puppy shampoo
Poop bags
Puppy carrier (optional)
First-aid kit for pets



Create a safe and comfortable space for your puppy where they can retreat and feel secure. This could be a spare room, a puppy pen, or a cosy bed in a quiet corner. Make sure they have easy access to their food, water, toys, and toilet area.

Feeding Your Puppy

Puppies have different nutritional needs than adult dogs. They require food higher in calories and specific nutrients to support growth and brain development.

Feeding Guidelines:

- Always provide fresh, clean water.
- Feed a high-quality puppy formula.
- Follow the feeding guidelines on the packaging and adjust by activity and growth.
- Divide their daily food into multiple small meals.
- Avoid overfeeding to prevent rapid growth issues.



Foods to Avoid:

- Chocolate
- Onions and garlic
- Grapes and raisins
- Alcohol
- Cooked bones
- Raw meat or fish unless vet-advised
- Artificial sweeteners like xylitol

Consult your veterinarian for breed and size-specific feeding recommendations.

Grooming

Getting puppies used to grooming early makes life easier long term. Keep sessions short and positive.

- **Brushing:** Regular brushing reduces shedding and prevents mats.
- **Nail trimming:** Start young so they accept it later.
- **Bathing:** Use puppy-safe shampoo and keep baths infrequent.
- **Ear cleaning:** Check and clean gently as advised by your vet.
- **Dental care:** Introduce brushing or dental chews early.



Health Care

Early veterinary care is essential to keep your puppy healthy and protect them from common illnesses.

- **Vaccinations:** Follow the schedule recommended by your vet.
- **Deworming:** Puppies commonly need regular worming.
- **Flea and tick prevention:** Start with vet-approved products.
- **Microchipping:** Recommended for permanent ID.
- **Desexing:** Discuss timing with your vet.

When to Call the Vet:

- Loss of appetite
- Persistent vomiting or diarrhoea
- Difficulty breathing
- Lethargy or weakness
- Sudden behavioural changes



Socialisation and Play

Socialisation is the foundation of a well-adjusted adult dog. Introduce new people, animals, surfaces, and sounds in a positive way.

Safe Play Tips:

- Supervise all play and choose age-appropriate toys.
- Avoid rough play with hands and feet.
- Rotate toys to keep interest high.
- Use puzzle feeders for mental stimulation.

Recommended Toys:

- Chew toys
- Tug toys
- Balls
- Plush toys



Toilet Training

Toilet training takes consistency and patience. Use positive reinforcement and a clear routine to help your puppy learn.

- Take them to the toilet spot frequently: after waking, eating, and playing.
- Reward them immediately after they eliminate in the right place.
- Supervise indoors and confine safely when you cannot watch them.
- Clean accidents thoroughly to remove scent cues.
- Consider puppy pads temporarily for small breeds or apartment living.



Conclusion

Bringing a puppy home is a big commitment but an incredibly rewarding one. With patience, routine, and lots of love, your puppy will grow into a well-mannered, joyful companion.

Thank you for choosing to adopt from Paws a moment! We are here to support you every step of the way.

