



Day 1: You and Your New Puppy

The day you bring your new puppy home is the day you've been waiting for. It's your first day as long-term companions, and you want to begin bonding with your pup immediately. Start off right by staying home, so you can make your puppy feel secure and enjoy every minute of this experience.

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 him. Instead, let him explore a designated area where you are, too. Then introduce him to the rest of the house, one room at a time.
- 2. Choose a potty spot.** Start by taking him to the outside area where you want him to eliminate. When he does relieve himself, use a command that you'll stick to, like "go potty" and reward him with a special treat and praise.
- 3. Introduce him to his new family.** If possible, do this one person at a time. Give him a chance to meet each of you quietly. Supervise young children. Discourage them from picking up the puppy. Let them hold him in their laps with your help.
- 4. Minimize stress and excitement.** Don't invite friends and neighbors over to meet him yet. That will be important very soon, but should not start on the first day.

5. Introduce 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 she growls 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 his shots, he 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 puppy to sleep? Is puppy allowed on furniture? Can 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.

Start a Routine and Stick to It

Structure will help your new canine family member feel secure and understand what's expected of him. Routine makes it easier for everyone, humans included.

- **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 -- most young puppies have to eliminate at least every 45 minutes when awake. Pick the puppy up and carry him to the designated potty area.
- **Playtime:** Your puppy needs exercise and interaction with you. A word of caution: sustained, strenuous exercise (long runs, jumping) is not good for puppies, but playing with toys and with you, mental stimulation with puzzles, and running in the yard are great. 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. At night, set a bedtime.



Surviving the First Night

Some puppies sleep through the night right from the start. Others may cry for a few nights. And some may not be able to hold their pee and will need a middle of the night trip outside – but this usually ends by age 4-5 months.

- **For many puppies, evening is the “witching hour,”** and if you anticipate it by initiating play, he may use up some energy and settle down. An evening stroll gives him exercise and a chance to take a potty break.
- **Put the crate in your bedroom.** Your pup will feel more secure if he has you nearby. Bring home a blanket or stuffed toy that smells like your pup's mother, and keep that in his crate.
- **A set bedtime makes his 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 him to his crate and help him settle down for the night.
- **If your puppy is not yet able to make it through the night,** when he whines, quietly carry him out for a quick, boring potty break. Then put him back in the crate.
- **If the pup cries, do not put him in your bed unless that is where you want him to sleep.** You can put the crate right next to your bed and put your hand inside to reassure him that you're there. A crate is like a den, where a puppy won't eliminate

Don't miss crucial information when it comes to raising your puppy – get personalized training, nutritional, veterinary and everyday advice sent straight to your inbox. Subscribe to Pupdate, a weekly email newsletter with customized content based on your puppy's breed and age.

Sign up at: akc.org/subscribe/pupdate



Puppy Vaccination Schedule

The first thing to know is that there is not just one puppy vaccination schedule for all dogs. Factors such as which part of the country you live in, and your dog's individual risk factors will come into play. Some dogs do not need every vaccine. This decision is between you and your veterinarian. Always discuss puppy vaccinations at your regularly scheduled appointments.

That said, here is a generally accepted guideline of the puppy vaccination schedule for the first year.



Puppy's Age	Mandatory CORE Vaccinations	Optional Vaccinations (per lifestyle and recommendations of veterinarian)
6 – 8 weeks	Initial Distemper, PARVO Vaccine	Bordetella
10 – 12 weeks	DHPP (vaccines for distemper, adenovirus [hepatitis], parainfluenza, and parvovirus)	Consider starting INFLUENZA per lifestyle (First of 2) Consider starting Leptospirosis, Bordetella, Lyme disease per lifestyle as recommended by veterinarian (First of 2)
16 – 18 weeks	DHPP (#2 booster if given 3-4 weeks previously) FIRST RABIES VACCINE (REQUIRED BY LAW) NOTE: Now recommend last puppy booster be administered between 16-20 weeks of age: discuss with veterinarian	OPTIONAL PER LIFESTYLE AS DISCUSSION WITH VET: Lyme disease, Leptospirosis, Bordetella per lifestyle as recommended by veterinarian (2nd booster of 2) INFLUENZA BOOSTER (2nd of 2)
12 – 16 months	DHPP	
Every 1 – 3 years	DHPP	(DHPP TITER) as recommended by veterinarian Coronavirus, Leptospirosis, Bordetella, Lyme disease, INFLUENZA YEARLY BOOSTERS
Every 1 – 3 years	Rabies (as required by law)	none



Dangerous Foods & Household Products

Many foods and household products can be dangerous to dogs!

It's only natural for dogs to be curious. But their curiosity can get them into trouble when they get into areas where you store household items such as food, medicine and detergents. Many common household items that you use everyday can be harmful, and sometimes even lethal to your dog. Always keep garbage and medications out of reach of your pets, children and animals

FOODS THAT ARE HARMFUL TO YOUR DOG:

May cause vomiting, abdominal pain and/or diarrhea:

- Wild cherry
- Almond
- Apricot
- Balsam Pear
- Japanese Plum
- Yeast dough
- Coffee grounds
- Macadamia nuts
- Tomato and potato leaves and stems
- Avocados
- Onions and onion powder



- Grapes
- Raisins
- Chocolate
- Pear and peach kernels
- Mushrooms (if also toxic to humans)
- Rhubarb
- Spinach
- Alcohol
- Garlic
- Seeds and pits of fruit
- Corn cobs



COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS THAT ARE HARMFUL TO YOUR DOG:

- Acetaminophen
- Antifreeze and other car fluids
- Bleach and cleaning fluids
- Boric acid
- Deodorants
- Deodorizers
- Detergents
- De-icing salts
- Disinfectants
- Drain cleaners
- Furniture polish
- Gasoline
- Hair colorings
- Weed killers



- Insecticides
- Kerosene
- Matches
- Mothballs
- Nail polish and remover
- Paint Prescription and non-prescription medicine
- Rat poison
- Rubbing alcohol
- Shoe polish
- Sleeping pills
- Snail or slug bait
- Turpentine
- Windshield-wiper fluid



ALWAYS READ STORE-BOUGHT INGREDIENTS:

- Xylitol
- Artificial sweetener found in many store bought baked items
- Sugarless gum

Symptoms of possible poisoning are: vomiting, diarrhea, difficult breathing, abnormal urine (color, aroma or odor, frequency, etc.), salivation, weakness. If your dog should ingest harmful chemicals, contact a veterinarian or poison control center (www.poison.org) immediately.