



How to Care for New Puppy

Congratulations on your new puppy! Adding a puppy in your life is a commitment and a wonderful experience for you and your family. **Who can be sad around a puppy?** Puppies make everyone smile! Properly training your new puppy so his or her habits fit with your expectations will enhance your relationship and add to the pleasure of this new friend.

Prior to your puppy's arrival you will need to "Puppy-proof your house. Puppies are inquisitive and will want to explore their new habitat and surroundings. First step is to be preemptive and anticipate any potential dangers and to protect your valued items. Puppies love to chew! The rule is - dogs will eat anything! It is not uncommon for them to chew on furniture, hardware and even carpet. It is common for them to eat underwear, soft toys, and rocks. Remove any breakable items from the immediate area. Remove all electrical cords that might be a temptation- electrical shocks can cause burns to the mouth, edema in the lungs, or death. Make sure your trash can is high enough and heavy enough to avoid tipping. A folding gate or baby gate is always a great idea to confine your puppy to a designated area of your home.

Potty training is always first on new puppy owner's minds. There are two basic ways to train your puppy: to go on designated puppy pads, or to teach them to go outside. Decide what you want them to do as an adult, and teach them that method from the beginning. It is hard for a dog to learn one method and then expect them to later learn another method. If you live in a house with a yard that is easily accessible, you probably want to teach them right away to go outside. If you live high up in an apartment building, you may want them to learn to go on puppy pads.

Allocate a space for your puppy, preferably one with a tile or hard floor, this will make clean-up easier on you. You can put papers down to help protect the floor, but don't let them know it is ok to go on the papers. At night, or whenever they can't be watched closely, we recommend that you keep your puppy in his crate. Dogs don't want to mess in their own bed, so this will help teach them to hold it. This will allow you to let your puppy out to relieve himself, and then you can reward him with praise when he eliminates outside. You should also reward them for making the signal that they need to go outside. At night, we recommend keeping the crate next to your bed, and this will provide your puppy with a sense of security knowing that you are near to him in his new environment.



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Provide two stainless steel bowls for food and water for your puppy...if you have other pets, make sure the new puppy has his own bowl in his own space. There are many, many puppy food choices, nutritionists recommend a food that is formulated according to AAFCO standards, has had feeding trials, nutritionists on staff of the company, and good quality control. We recommend Science Diet, Royal Canin, Iams, or Eukanuba.

A soft, comfortable and dry bed is recommended, watch it closely because some dogs chew up their beds.

Toys will help to keep your puppy occupied. Remember this is a new world to him and he is curious and probably was born with several other puppies. Puppies play bite from an early age and chewing is natural....better to keep him occupied chewing



toys rather than the legs of your furniture, or your hands. There is no perfect chew toy, you don't want any too hard or they often break teeth. If it is too soft, they can chew off a piece and swallow it, then we're possibly needing a surgery. We like Kong like toys as they don't break teeth, and most dogs don't chew them up.

Puppy treats should be small and chewable. Treats are a good way to reinforce good behavior. We can help suggest which treats may best fit your puppy.

Purchase a flat collar and metal tag for your puppy. Be sure to get the correct sized collar for your puppy, you will probably need to buy larger ones as they grow. Not replacing collars can lead to collars growing into the skin of the puppies' necks and injure their throats. Puppies are

naturally curious, and even with the most attentive care they sometimes escape the yard and get lost. Make sure your puppy wears a tag that lists your contact information. The tag should include your puppy's name, along with your most up to date address and phone number. We recommend a microchip implant as a permanent form of identification to help track your dog in the event that he gets lost and is taken to a shelter or a local veterinarian. An implant is the size of a grain of rice and is implanted as an injection.



One very important part of owning a dog is providing your pet with love and care, remember this is a totally new world to your puppy. By comforting your puppy and showing lots of love your puppy will be more secure and more responsive to you and your needs.

You will need to bring your puppy in every 3 weeks for an exam and vaccines until he completes his vaccination series (in highly endemic areas like the San Joaquin Valley we recommend 20 weeks of age, most of the rest of the country says 16 weeks of age for the last puppy vaccines). When the breeder says he has had all his vaccinations, they mean up until that point in time. It is very important to complete the series or the puppy is at risk of getting parvovirus, or distemper.

Puppies do not get a set number of vaccinations, we vaccinate to a certain age. At each appointment, the puppy will be examined, and we will discuss any concerns. Puppies are started on heartworm preventative at their first visit, and we recommend bringing in a stool sample to check for intestinal parasites.

Congratulations on your new puppy!



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How to Care for New Kitten

Adding a new kitten to the family can be a fun and rewarding experience for you and your family. Helping your new kitten become adjusted to a new environment and providing the proper care is necessary to the health of your new kitten.

In preparing for this addition to your family make sure that they have a designated kitten area and provide water, food, a litter box, a bed, and toys. If you have other pets such as a dog or another cat, be sure to provide them separate beds and litter boxes as some animals prefer their own to establish their own territory. Behavior specialists recommend that you have one more litter box than you have cats. If you have 2 cats, you should have 3 boxes.

Make sure that you provide plenty of attention to your new kitten. Like with most pets, kittens will be curious of their new environment. Be sure to provide a safe area and in general keep objects such as vases and picture frames and loose things of this nature out of reach of your kitten. Cats love to eat stringy things, and often need surgery to remove yarn, ribbon, string, etc, so hide all of these items.



A major decision is whether to keep your kitten totally indoors, or to let them go outside. It is much safer inside, and veterinarians prefer that cats never go outside. Studies show that indoor only cats live longer, and stay healthier.



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If you have other pets, introduce your kitten to them slowly so that they may get comfortable with each other. First let the kitten alone into a neutral room so it can establish some scent there. Then remove the kitten and allow your other pets into that room. Do this for a couple days, and your pets will know there is a permanent addition to the house. Next, put the kitten in a crate, and allow your pets to see and get close to the kitten, but they are not able to hurt the kitten. See what their reaction is. Animals are typically territorial, which means they might hiss or bark. Be sure to gradually create friendships amongst the animals. If you have fish or birds keep them away from the kitten, your kitten could cause harm to those animals. Make sure to keep a keen eye on your pets over the course of 2-3 weeks.



Every 3 weeks your kitten will need to visit us for a check-up and vaccinations. The last set of vaccines are given at 16 weeks of age. If the person you got the kitten from says “they have had all their immunizations”, that means up until that point in time. It is important to finish the vaccine series or your cat is at risk of getting a serious disease. We recommend bringing in a stool sample to be checked for internal parasites.

If your kitten is vomiting, has diarrhea, is sleeping too much, or if your kitten is lethargic or has a poor appetite, contact your veterinarian immediately. Periodically check

your cat for any unusual bumps or irritations. Look in their ears and mouth for any abnormalities.

Cats require proper physical and oral hygiene as well. You need to brush your cat if it has long hair, short hair cats may enjoy being brushed as well. You are supposed to brush their teeth every day to keep your kitten’s teeth free of infection.



Congratulations on your new kitten!



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