

Tips for New Puppy Owners

Invest in Good Quality Puppy Equipment

Investing in good quality equipment for your pup is a must! Although it may be a bit more expensive, quality always pays off in the end.

Some puppy equipment includes:

- Food and water bowls
- A leather leash
- A soft harness or collar
- A crate
- A dog bed
- Toys



Read Up On Training Books for Puppies

We love a good read, especially when it comes to our new furry friend! For the first time puppy owner, there are plenty of great books and websites (dogwise.com) out there to learn all about proper training techniques. It's important to remember that the best training starts now. Puppies learn fast, and with positive reinforcement, obedience and training, your puppy will learn in no time. Keep the training fun and light, and most of all, positive, and we promise you'll see amazing results

Crate and Kennel Training for Puppies

Many first-time puppy owners think that training their puppy in a crate or kennel is cruel. However, it's quite the opposite! Investing in a good crate or kennel is one of the best decisions you can make when it comes to your new puppy. The crate or kennel can serve many functions within your household.

Some of the benefits of crate training your new puppy include:

- Assisting with potty training
- Avoiding mischief when left alone
- Serving as their quiet and cozy getaway
- Travelling safely while in the car

Crates aren't used as punishment, but more of a haven that satisfies your puppy's natural denning instinct. Most puppies will probably whine or howl at first. However, don't react or give attention. After they've rested quietly, let them out again and reward them with a treat (or two). Continue to lengthen the amount of time you leave your new puppy in their crate, and pretty soon, they'll love going inside.

Create Puppy-Safe Rooms

When it comes to your new puppy, baby gates come in handy! Buy one and block off the rooms you don't want your puppy in initially (at least until they're housetrained). It's impossible to supervise your new puppy 24 hours a day, so having a "puppy-safe room" for them to wander around is a great idea. Put some toys in the room, as well as their crate, bed and water.

Create a Daily Routine for Your New Puppy

First-time puppy owners need to be consistent and establish a routine early on for their new furry friend! Puppies are much like children, and creating a consistent schedule is expected behavior is important. Create a routine for things like feeding, playtime, training, potty time, and of course, cuddles, and it'll help your puppy feel secure and happy.

Practice Potty Training Your Puppy

Practicing potty training can be a frustrating exercise for new puppy owners (trust us, we get it). Puppies don't have full control of their bladders until about 12 weeks of age, so expect to encounter a little (or a lot) of accidents. However, if you're good about taking your puppy out to potty often and praise them when they do, the process will be much easier for both of you.

Take your puppy outside first thing in the morning, after a nap, after eating, after playtime, and before bed. Remember the crate? This is the time when it becomes your new best friend! If you have to leave your puppy at home alone, put them in their crate while you're gone. The crate will encourage your puppy not only to control their bladder but will also curb the instinct to chew everything they can get their teeth and paws on.

Enroll in Puppy Training Classes

Enrolling your new puppy in training classes is a great way to jump-start the process! Your new puppy will learn basic obedience exercises such as 'sit,' 'down' and 'come' and maybe even 'Fetch the slippers!' Most importantly, your puppy will have the opportunity to socialize with other puppies. Socializing is very important in the first few months. Expose your puppy to lots of new experiences and people. Places like dog parks aren't the best option for socialization as some dogs may not be properly trained themselves.

Correct Behavioral Problems Early On

Remember that behavior that seems 'cute' when puppies are young may become annoying or dangerous when fully grown. Behavior like jumping or crawling into your lap uninvited can be a problem down the road. Therefore, teach your puppy to enjoy being held from the very start. Look in their mouth and run your fingers over their gums to prepare them for tooth brushing. You can also run a brush over their body to get them used to grooming and handle their feet often to prepare for nail trimming. We promise your vet will thank you later!

Choosing The Best Puppy Food

Feed your puppy the very best quality food you can afford. Serving high-quality food is an excellent investment in your puppy's health and happiness. Our Now Fresh Grain-Free Recipe for puppies offers fresh ingredients like meats and fish for healthy growth and development. Similarly, when it comes to treats, choose natural treats like carrots or broccoli and high-quality commercial treats with healthy ingredients.

How many times a day should I feed my puppy?

Most puppies need to eat more frequently than older dogs. Find out how many meals a day your vet recommends and get more bang for your buck by feeding out of interactive puzzle toys. Reserve some of your pup's daily meals to use to reward and encourage desirable behaviors.

What type of food is best for a puppy?

Puppies typically require a different balance of nutrients than older dogs, including higher levels of protein, fat and calories. Providing proper nutrition early on can help your pup to avoid rapid weight gain, skin problems and other health issues. Talk to your vet about what brands or styles of food—kibble, dehydrated foods, canned food, raw food, home-cooked meals—they recommend for a growing pup.

How often should my puppy visit the vet?

Puppies go through so many physical and behavioral changes in their first six months they require more frequent veterinary check-ins than older dogs. Some vets like to monitor a pup during monthly wellness checks. Others may recommend visiting every two to three months completing their basic vaccinations.

When can I begin to walk my puppy outside?

In order to protect against diseases like distemper, parvo and parainfluenza, puppies require four sets of vaccinations. But most trainers and behaviorists agree that the vast majority of puppies don't need to wait until they are 100% vaccinated to begin to walk outside, as long as certain precautions are taken (including sticking to the pavement, avoiding grass, and keeping away from dog poop and unfamiliar dogs). Talk to your vet about what stage in their vaccination schedule it's safe for your pup to hit the road.

What kind of parasite protection does my puppy need and how often should I give it to them?

Keeping your dog safe from fleas, ticks and heartworms is a lifelong battle that begins in puppyhood. Discuss with your vet about the parasites that are most prevalent in your area and the treatments they prefer for puppies.

How do I care for my puppy's teeth?

Oral care is an important part of maintaining your puppy's overall health as they grow. Talk to your vet about the best way to introduce your pup to toothpaste and a toothbrush, as well as other supplements such as dental treats and water additives that will help keep their teeth healthy and strong.

Should I get pet insurance?

Pet insurance can help keep vet bills manageable, and a dog's puppyhood is often the best time to get it. That's because at birth, most dogs don't have any pre-existing conditions, which can keep them from being covered in later life. It's a good time to find out if your vet recommends any specific insurance providers for your dog's particular breed and health outlook.

When all else fails, let common sense and love rule your actions - you can't go wrong! Enjoy the puppy stage while it lasts. It's over much too quickly!