

New Puppy Care

Your puppy now depends on you for everything – food, water, exercise, training, good health and hygiene. Please remember that all puppies are different, and you should consult your veterinarian and trainer for specific needs of your pup.

It is exciting to bring your new puppy home and into your life and heart. I know you will be excited to show him / her off and play with him / her right away but remember to give your puppy some time to adjust! We recommend three days at home. No visitors and no outings. Your puppy is undergoing a lot of change and they need lots of rest while they adjust. Adding more stress during this transition is detrimental to both their mental and physical health.



Puppies do not know English. The best way to train a dog is when they do the behavior you want, praise the pup with a pat, a treat or a verbal praise (keep it short and simple we use the word 'YES!'). For example, don't say "Sit...sit...sit...sit...SIT" and expect a response. Get your puppy to do the behavior (sit) and then reward. You add the word and maybe even a hand signal later.

Puppy Chewing

Puppies have needle sharp teeth and this can be tough! Some tricks to help you avoid becoming a pincushion are to have chew bones and toys always close by!

Do not ever let them chew on you! All it takes is one family member that allows this behavior and it will be possible for the toddler to become a chew toy too. Keep your rules and boundaries consistent.

If your puppy chews on you, offer an acceptable item for them to chew on, always keep one handy. If they persist, then take yourself away from them (get up and leave or turn your back to them). They will not want to lose you! Another tip that works for many puppies is to make a quick, sharp puppy "cry" noise or a stern 'No' as you turn away from them. This is how they would let other littermates know it hurts!

Adapted from





Jumping

Jumping is another problem that young puppies may struggle with. Their excitement and overwhelming love for people can make this extremely difficult; however, do not even start allowing this behavior. Do not reward, pet or praise a puppy while they are overly excited. Ignore the puppy, turn your back, or walk away! You can also keep the puppy with a leash trailing behind them and step on it to physically prevent your puppy from jumping on you and your guests. Give them a soft, calm greeting with relaxing petting as soon as they sit calmly. A calm puppy that is sitting is a puppy that is ready for praise and love! Teach calm, self-controlled behaviors now; it will pay off as they get larger and stronger!

Feeding

I have cut the feeding schedule down to a twice a day schedule by the time your puppy comes home. So how much should you feed your new puppy? Please follow the guidelines on the particular kibble you feed that correlates to your pup's weight and age!

Potty Training

Depending on your bedtime schedule, remove food and water 2-3 hours before your bedtime to allow the puppy a greater chance of holding it all night. Remember that your dog's bladder will not be fully developed until he or she reaches five months old. Therefore, as your pup gets older, they will be able to hold it longer.

If you do have to take your puppy out at night, please do not make this a play session. Be matter of fact (as little talking as possible) and get down to business. Praise the potty behavior and right back into the kennel. These puppies are very bright and if they know that you will get up in the middle of the night to play with them, they will start waking you for this attention alone.

I strongly suggest kennel or 'crate' training, and potty training is one of the biggest reasons why. Puppies will rarely potty where they sleep. This is one of the main reasons I begin "potty training" puppies at three weeks old by dividing their whelping pool into 2 sections - one for a nurse and sleep area and one for a potty area with a litter box.

When you bring your puppy home and put him or her into an appropriate sized kennel (not too large, just enough room to turn around and lay down) they will fuss when they have to go potty! If you cannot watch your puppy or it is naptime, tuck them into their kennel. When it is time to go out, place the kennel by the door and let the puppy walk

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him or herself out. In the beginning you may need to place the kennel right at the door, sometimes they squat just after a few steps! Over time, you can move the kennel farther and farther away from the door. While puppies understand the concept of a den vs. an elimination area, you are bringing them to a new “den” and you will have to show your new puppy the ropes!

When your puppy has an accident, please just clean it up thoroughly and move on. Only clap hands and scold vocally **IF** you catch the pup going potty. Rubbing their nose in it, etc. is not acceptable and is a complete waste of time. In your pup’s brain they are wondering why you are making them smell their own urine or feces. They know what it smells like! In general, your pup will need to potty every 30 minutes as well as after a nap, vigorous play, exiting the kennel and following meals. When in doubt, take out! Again, if you can’t watch your puppy, in the kennel they go with a treat! They need to learn that their kennel is their ‘den’, a safe place to play or sleep.

Crate and Kennel Use

Dogs are den animals and actually prefer sleeping in small places. The cost of a crate may initially seem expensive, but when you compare it to the cost of ruined rugs and/or chewed up furniture, it is well worth it! When you bring your puppy home, it is best to begin using the crate right away with the kibble game or tossing toys in there during play time. There are many different crates, but I typically use the metal MidWest 24” or 30”. These kennels come with a puppy divider panel. The kennel needs to be large enough for them to walk into, turn around and lay down. You should refrain from giving your puppy too much space in the beginning, because you don’t want them to have enough space to have both a “sleep” and a “potty” area inside the kennel. Kennel training can make potty training easier, gives you and your puppy a few breaks throughout the day and helps keep your puppy safe when you can’t watch him or her! Teach your puppy the crate is a safe place throughout your first day together using this method:

1. Leave the door open and toss a piece of food inside, once they come back out, do it again, repeat several times. Praise them each time they go inside.
2. Next, When you toss the food, close the door behind him (but don’t lock it) Immediately open it back up as soon as they realize it’s closed, but BEFORE they cry. Repeat multiple times on & off for a few hours or so. In between practices, have your puppy playing and pottying outside as normal.
3. Feed your puppy their meals in their crate with the door closed. Let them back out before they start to cry.

Adapted from





4. Once you know your puppy is tired and exhausted, do a final potty time, sprinkle some kibble in the kennel, close the door and say 'nap time'. If puppy cries, sit next to the kennel and reassure him/her. You can put a special blankie in there that they only get when it's naptime.
5. I suggest putting a small plastic bin with a lid on the top of the kennel, filled with many different toys to keep your puppy occupied while he or she is in the kennel. Toys like Kongs, Busy bones, Nylabones, etc. are all great options. Puppies will enjoy going into their kennel to see what special surprise you have for them!

Even though we expose puppies to our wire kennels early on. They frequently have free reign in and out of them. Once you close the door, protest will likely occur. This is where tough love comes into play – you will need to ignore the whimpering & barking, while reassuring them with calm words if necessary.

Do not ignore outright screaming caused by severe panic. When/if you let them out for this reason, do this only during a pause in their crying, otherwise it will reinforce that screaming will get them out! Do not “play” with them at this point in time, or you are teaching them that they are correct in their feelings of panic. You cannot enable this behavior if you do not want it to persist into the future.

Continue calm reassuring words, a snuggle and some love. Then carefully place them back inside and name the behavior with the word, “Kennel” or something cleverer if you prefer. Generally, the crying and protesting only lasts 3 days - if you stick with it, it will pay off! Please contact us if you need guidance with this process.

Socializing and Developmental Stages

It is imperative that your new dog socializes with other people and pets in a safe manner. Try to steer clear of other unknown/unvaccinated dogs until your veterinarian has administered all of your dog's vaccinations. Having your puppy around other people, dogs, new locations, in the car, etc. will create a much happier, well-socialized dog in the long run. You will be so proud to take your pup with you on the go, and he or she will enjoy meeting new people and visiting new places. However, you **must be cautious of Parvo, a highly contagious and very dangerous virus** that can live in any environment frequented by dogs. Employ the “All Four Off the Floor” method when you socialize your puppy outside the home until he or she receives their 3rd parvo vaccination. Do NOT keep your puppy sheltered during these precious developmental weeks, just make sure that you avoid areas with other dogs and that your pup keeps all four paws OFF the floor outside of the home. Brief and safe socializing is so important

Adapted from





to the proper development of a puppy. I have 8 weeks. You have the rest. And it takes both of us to ensure a confident, well adjusted puppy follows!

Obedience/Training

Please start training your puppy immediately. They are smart, eager to learn and want to please! Dogs are pack animals and are looking to you for your leadership and guidance when they join your pack. You will be amazed at how much they can learn starting at 8 weeks. Start by using these two activities: the "[Sit on the dog](#)" activity and [Tether Training](#)! These two exercises are very beneficial in teaching your pup self-control, focus and pack order.

Veterinarian Care

Health records are enclosed in the puppy packet. However, your vet will advise you on what is best for the proper care of your pet. Please spay or neuter your pup at approximately 7-12 months old. The health benefits are overwhelming, not to mention the implications of an unplanned pregnancy can be devastating.

Parasites

Unfortunately, parasites in pups are extremely common and it is estimated that 95% of pups have parasites. We do our very best to keep our puppies parasite-free. They are dewormed with various different wormers at 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 6 weeks and 8 weeks.

However, not all parasites respond to particular deworming and excess stress with "go-home" can "awaken" parasite larvae that previously lay dormant in the lining of their digestive system. Throughout the eight weeks your puppy is with us, we perform random fecal tests to gauge any issues, and if any arise, we treat all of the puppies in the litter. We may send your puppy home with the remainder of his or her medication if there is an issue.

Nonetheless, it is much easier to stop repeated transmission when the whole litter is not together, since they keep reinfecting each other! Upon bringing your puppy home, it is worthwhile for your pup to have another fecal test done at the veterinarian at the same time you bring them in for their vaccinations. If you find out your puppy tested positive, please let us know which parasite your veterinarian says they have, as that helps us on our end to inform our veterinarian, in case our protocols are not working. As your puppy matures past the 4 month mark, their systems start to compensate and can frequently eliminate residual parasites on their own. In the meantime, clean up their poop immediately during the first few months as this is the primary source of reinfection.

Adapted from

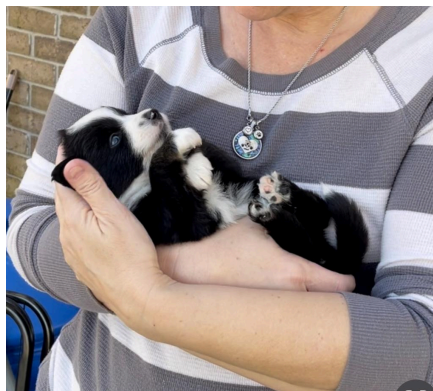


The Crazy Puppy Zoomies

FRAP (Frenetic Random Activity Periods) is the technical term for what some call the “puppy crazies” but we call this the “zoomies.” These FRAP sessions typically occur approximately two to three times a day. This is when your well-mannered puppy goes absolutely crazy! He or she will run around, jump on the furniture, attack everything, spin in circles, bark and quite honestly act like they have gone off the deep end. This is totally normal! The good news is that these periods of high energy only last a few minutes and your dog will grow out of them. With that being said, this is a time when young children need to be picked up and placed in a safe location!



Love and Patience



You have made the important decision to let a puppy into your heart and home. We sincerely thank you for trusting us to give your puppy the best start possible. I know there will be frustrations and patience will be tested in having a puppy, but I also know the rewards are wonderful and exponential. Enjoy the complete innocence of a puppy, their ability to stop and smell the flowers, and maybe even taste them, their curiosity is contagious, and playfulness is humorous. I can promise you that you will gain a comedian, confidante, companion, and ultimately a new family member.

Please don't hesitate to call, text, or email me if you have any questions and of course please send lots of updates and pictures.

Questions that we didn't cover?

Please reach out to us with your questions and concerns. We are happy to share the successes and experiences we have had with our own puppies (and there have been many) that have been in our lives over the years. Depending on the issues and how long they have been going on, I may recommend you connect with a private trainer that will come to your home for sessions geared to help your family effectively guide your puppy to success!

Adapted from

