

# Your New Puppy



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# LIFE WITH YOUR NEW PUPPY – THE FIRST 48 HOURS

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## Introduction

Getting a new puppy is not something that happens every month or even every year. You may have brought a new puppy into your home before, but that may have been years ago, and it is difficult to remember exactly what happened in the first few days and weeks of your pup's new life with you. This article is to remind you of some of the most important things that need to happen before and just after your pup arrives home.

Note: In terms of gender, the puppy is always referred to as "her".

## Before Your Pup Arrives

These are a few things that can be attended to before your pup arrives so that you're not rushing around organising things at the last minute.

Item	Check
Harness and Lead (2 metres)	
Bed	
Bowls	
Food	
Crate	
Poo bags	
Pee pads and a piece of fake grass to cover the pad	
Baby gates or barriers, if necessary	
ID tag	
Chew toys	
Chase toys	
Tiny Training treats	
Brush	
Shampoo	
Enzyme spray and carpet cleaner	
Check that your home is puppy safe	
Check that your vet's number is on speed dial	
Book your pup in to a puppy class	
Puppy proof your home and create a "safe puppy zone".	



# The First 48 hours

Make sure that there is always someone with the pup during this first period. Start now to create a bond. Your pup has spent all his life so far in the company of his dam and siblings and has never been alone.

## Toilet Training

Start toilet training right away. When you arrive home from fetching your pup and before you go inside allow pup some time out of doors to eliminate. Praise and make a fuss when she does. Check out this link to help with toilet training over the next weeks. <https://youtu.be/xpzjtHPQpOk>.

Set up a toilet schedule. The most important times to remember when scheduling toilet training is:

- After sleeping
- After drinking water
- After eating
- After playing

## Habituating to her New Home.

Allow her to explore in her own time, with supervision, her new home. Place barriers at the top or bottom of stairs and in areas that you want to keep her out of. If she is at all nervous or anxious about anything let her habituate in her own time.

Keep her first experience of her new home as calm as possible. This means that you will have to delay having friends around to admire your new pup for a day or two – but puppies habituate to new environments very quickly so by Day 3 you should be able to start introducing her to people outside your family. All these experiences should be positive so watch her reaction to anything new very carefully to ensure that they are.

You will also have made sure that your home is a safe place to explore by stowing all loose electric wires and cables, making sure that all bins are securely fastened, access to stairways is cordoned off until you have an opportunity to supervise, arrange a safe place for her to be in when she cannot be supervised, put all interesting objects such as TV remotes, cell phones, wallets, and spectacles out of reach. This way your pup's environment can be managed so that there are no accidents.

## Puppy's First Night





On puppy's first night, she will probably wake you up a few times. This is the first time she has been without her littermates and her mom so do what you can to make her feel comfortable. Like human babies, puppies wake up throughout the night. While the first night may be challenging and you might end up sharing your bed with your pup, a routine should help your puppy understand what's expected when the household goes to sleep.

You might want to put the puppy's crate or bed in your bedroom or prefer for the puppy to be in its own room from the beginning. The important thing is to establish a specific sleeping place to help your puppy get the routine. You can make it a warm, inviting place with a nice bed and fluffy toy or even a stuffed Kong.

Pups sleep an awful lot (they need between 18 and 20 hours a day) so don't be surprised if she falls asleep mid-play or just finds a comfortable place and nods off. This is an excellent article about puppies' sleeping. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/how-much-do-puppies-sleep/> so check it out.



Sleep is essential to healthy growth, contributing to the necessary development of her central nervous system, brain, immune system, and muscles. All that sleep also helps her rest up during growth spurts, and just like human toddlers puppies get pretty irritable when over-tired.

## Feeding

Your pup's breeder will be able to let you know what your pup has been fed so be sure to purchase the same food to begin with. If you need to change her food, then a good way to go about it is to mix the new food with the old food in the following proportions:

- Day 1:  $\frac{1}{4}$  new food  $\frac{3}{4}$  old food
- Day 2:  $\frac{1}{2}$  new food  $\frac{1}{2}$  old food
- Day 3:  $\frac{3}{4}$  new food  $\frac{1}{4}$  old food



This way you won't have to contend with an upset tummy and an unhappy pup. Puppies are normally fed three to four times a day until they are about 6 months at which time you can switch to twice a day feeding. It's important to establish a routine around feeding times.

The package will have printed on it recommended quantities per day depending on the adult weight of your pup. So, if the projected adult weight of your pup is, say, 30 kg, then the recommended daily allowance would be 350 to 400 g. Divide this by the number of meals per day (your pup will need to be fed at least 3 meals a day) so each meal would be between 115 and 130 g per meal. This is just an estimate – you would have to check the recommended amounts on the packet of dog food that you get for your pup.



Often, in my experience, the recommended daily quantities are too much but the best way is to monitor your pup's weight gain or loss by just looking at him. He should always be a little on the lean side and you should just be able to feel his ribs under his skin. Fat, roly-poly puppies may look cute, but too much weight is a strain on their developing joints and skeleton.

## Socialization

It is not a good idea to expose her to dogs you don't know until she has had her first two vaccinations, so avoid dog parks (off leash dog parks are not a great place for pups in any case) but you can expose her to riding in the car and meeting new people of different ages. A well-run puppy school will have measures in place to keep the area clean and all the dogs attending will be vetted in terms of their vaccination status.

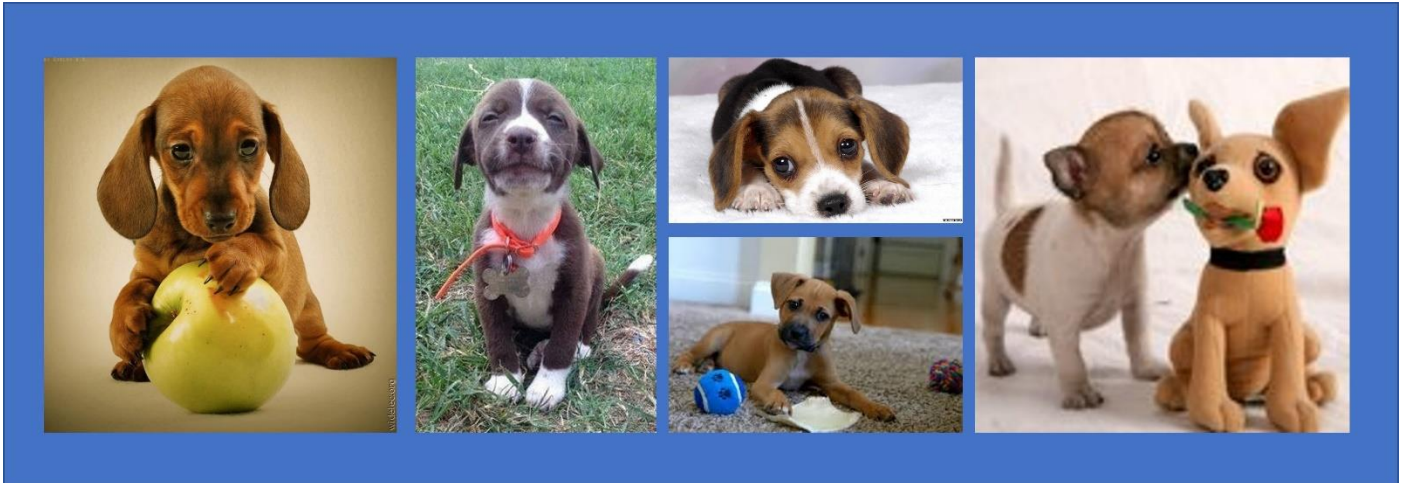
This video gives you a good idea of what is meant by appropriate socialization. <https://youtu.be/ewOyECuNw9Q>





## Further Education

The first 16 to 18 weeks of your pup's life is known as the Critical or Sensitive Period of Socialization and Learning, so it is important not to put this off as you want your pup to grow up to be a well-balanced, friendly, and easy-going dog that you can take anywhere with you. Don't put this off and find a puppy school that will offer you and your puppy a well-rounded education. It is highly recommended that you continue with the training as the puppy gets older.



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