



PUPPY GUIDE

Starting off on the right paw

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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations and welcome to the newest member of the family!

The arrival of a new puppy at home is an exciting time for the whole family. However, we must remember that a dog is an animal above all and not a little four-legged furry human. We are responsible for teaching him some clear rules and good manners so that we can cohabit together and this starts as soon as the puppy arrives home. As a dog owner, we must take responsibility for the education of our pup and guide him throughout his life.

PUPPY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

The neonatal period (0 to 2 weeks):

Puppies are born blind and deaf. They sleep 90% of the time.

The transition period (2 to 4 weeks):

The puppy can now regulate its temperature. His eyes are now open. He can now hear. He can now stand, he can now vocalize and grunt. He sleeps about 90% of the time.

The period of socialization (4 to 12 weeks):

This stage of the puppy's life is extremely important. It is crucial to introduce the puppy to men, women, children, dogs, cats, everyday sounds, different surfaces (grass, tile, carpet ...) etc. It is also during this period that he will learn the bite inhibition and other important stuff with his siblings.

The juvenile period (3 to 6 months):

The puppy memorizes and structures his achievements. Puppies can sleep as much as 20 hours per day. Around 16 weeks, puppies loose there first teeth, make sure you have a toy or kong for chewing.

The adolescence period (6 to 18 months):

The puppy continues to learn the social codes of his species. The puppy reaches sexual maturity. Your pup sleeps on average 16 to 18 hours per day.

Adulthood (Between 1 and 3 years):

Generally small dogs reach adulthood before the bigger dogs. Adult dogs sleep about 12 to 14 hours per day.

THE ESSENTIALS TO BUY

- Leash
- Collar
- Cage/Kennel
- Dog bed
- Bowls (stainless steel or ceramic)
- Food
- Brush and nail clipper
- Identification Tag
- Toys (Kong, rope, ball)

SAFETY FIRST

Puppies are curious little ones who like to explore. However, in our human world there are several things that can be dangerous for them.

Here are some examples;

- Electrical wires
- Toxic household products
- Plants
- Socks
- Etc...

It's important to store things that can cause harm to your puppy and also teach him that some things he can't touch.

VET VISITS

It's recommended to schedule a first appointment with your veterinarian so that he can do an exam to ensure the health of your pup. The veterinarian can advise you on vaccines to administer, deworming and the best time to spay or neuter your dog. Keep in mind that the basic vaccines given during the first year of life of the dog are often sufficient for a good part of their lives. Find out and read about it. Try to find a holistic veterinarian as needed

NUTRITION

It's important to choose a good quality food for your puppy. You can go with high quality kibble or raw meat. On the back of each food bag, you will find a chart showing the amount to offer depending on the age and weight of your dog. If you decide to change brand, remember to make a gradual transition to the new food.

Some harmful foods for your dog:

- Grapes
- Garlic
- Onion
- Avocado
- Chocolate
- Cooked bones
- Etc.

Offer meals at fixed times. This way your pup will need to go potty at regular hours. Even if he has not eaten anything, take his bowl away after 20 minutes. If you leave him food all day, he could nibble, eat too much or play with it. Offer fresh water. Frequency of meals; Between 2 and 6 months 3 meals, in the morning, lunch and evening and over 6 months 2 meals, in the morning and evening for all his life, whatever the breed of the dog.

DOG CARE BASICS

Mouth:

To maintain a good hygiene, offer your dog good food and you can brush your dog's teeth with a toothpaste designed for pets.

Eyes:

Clean daily secretions in your dog's eyes and if there is redness or yellowish / greenish secretions, consult your veterinarian.

Ears:

Only clean your dog's ears when they are dirty with a liquid cleansing solution that you can buy in pet shops.

Nails:

Accustom your puppy to the regular nail clipping (every 2 weeks) in order to desensitize it and keep his nails short. You can reward after the procedure.

CANINE COMMUNICATION

Humans are intellectual beings who communicate mostly verbally. Dogs are instinctual beings who communicate non-verbally through energy, touch and body language (eyes, tail, posture, ears ...). In simple terms, our energy represents us, it is a mixture of our intentions and our emotions that will determine the energy we project, so it's important to be conscious of how you feel around your dog, because whatever energy you project your dog will feel it immediately and respond accordingly.

INTRODUCING THE KENNEL

The cage represents the house, the safety for the dog. It's a need for him. This tool is extremely effective in helping your dog become potty trained as well as preventing behavior problems such as separation anxiety. It's important to buy a kennel adapted to the dog's size as an adult. The dimensions should allow him to lie down, stand upright and turn in his cage. During the growth of the puppy, reduce the space in the kennel with a separator. A dog will not want to eliminate where he sleeps. It's therefore faster to make a puppy potty trained with the cage. In addition, this tool will prevent your pup from breaking or ingesting objects in the house in your absence or at night. Gradually get the puppy used to his cage, make it enjoyable and stress free. The kennel shouldn't be used as punishment. If you are still not convinced, compare the cage to a baby playpen; You would never leave your baby alone on the floor unattended, because you want him to be safe, it's the same for your puppy.

Simple tips:

- Make sure your puppy did his business before putting it in his cage
- Introduce your pup upon arrival at home
- Give a treat or let your pup eat it in it's cage in order to associate the cage with something positive
- Leave your dog in the cage for short periods at first (5-10 minutes) and increase the time gradually
- Don't let your puppy out of the cage as soon as it cries, as it will associate crying to exit the cage

POTTY TRAINING

Learning to potty outside begins as soon as your puppy comes home. You will need a lot of patience and consistency. Puppies urinate frequently. Generally, a puppy can control his bladder an hour for each month of age. So, if your puppy is two months old, it can hold back for about two hours. Decide if you want your dog to be clean outside or on a pee pad. Do not put a pee pad inside in case your pup makes an accident before going out. Choose a single place not to confuse your dog.

Establish a routine

It's important to establish a fixed schedule with your puppy. The schedule allows him to know that he has a time to eat, a time to play, a time to sleep and a time to potty.

To start, bring your puppy out every 2 hours, right away when he wakes up, before and after playing and after he has eaten or drank.

Choose a place outside where you want your puppy to do his business. Always bring it to the same place on a leash. When your puppy finishes eliminating, use a keyword like "pee". Reward your puppy whenever he does his business outdoors by giving him a treat or simply praising with affection. It's important to reward your puppy only when he is finished peeing or pooping because puppies can get distracted easily and if you reward too quickly they may forget to complete their business. If it does not do anything after 10 minutes, there is no use staying out longer. If you have a kennel, put it back in rather than leave it free in the house, or put your pup on a leash inside to keep a constant eye on him.

Feed your puppy at about the same time every day. Give the recommended amounts of food divided into 2 or 3 meals a day, at specific times. After 20 minutes, remove food and water. The puppy will want to do his business about 10 to 30 minutes after his meal.

About two hours before bedtime, give the last portion of water to your puppy. If during the night your pup wakes up, bring him outside silently to fulfill his needs and return it to the cage immediately afterwards so that he does not think it is time to play.

Watch your puppy

Keep a constant eye on your puppy, do not give him the opportunity to do damage in the house.

Prevention is the key to success!

Your puppy sometimes demonstrates some obvious signs that he needs to make pee, such as barking, scratching at the door, get agitated, sniffing, or spinning in circles. Be careful and bring him out on a leash at the designated spot.

Oops an accident

It's normal for your puppy to have some accidents in the house when learning to be potty trained.

Here's what to do if it happens;

- Interrupt the puppy when you see him eliminated in the house.
- Say "NO" firmly, but not frightening him and bring him directly to the place determined for outside business. If he finishes his business outside, give him a treat or encouragement.
- Do not punish your puppy for making an accident in the house. If you find a soiled spot in the house, it's already too late.
- Clean area thoroughly. You can use a 1/2 vinegar and 1/2 water solution; this mixture masks the pheromones (hormones specific to each animal whose odors are imperceptible by our human nose) and urine odors.

Potty training is a very important step in educating the puppy. Take the time it takes to get off on the right foot. Be patient and persevering.

SOCIALIZATION

It's important to socialize your puppy well to all humans, dogs and different situations in everyday life. This will help your puppy get used to his new environment and it will also help prevent behavioral problems (anxiety, fear, phobia, etc.) that may occur due to a lack of socialization. Go gradually so your puppy has a positive experience.

DESENSITIZATION

Desensitize your puppy from a young age to manipulation by touching the ears, paws and mouth, this way when you bring your puppy to the vet or the grooming salon he will be more comfortable. It's also important to desensitize your dog to different noises; vacuum cleaner, fireworks, cars, doorbell sounds, etc. This way, you make these noises normal and unimportant.

THE WALK

Walking is a beneficial activity for you and your dog. You stimulate your dog physically and mentally when walking in a well-structured way. First start by getting your pup used to a collar and a leash inside the house. As your puppy probably never had the experience of wearing something around his neck, it may be uncomfortable at first. Do not get defeated, be calm, patient and persevering. Your walks can be short in the beginning and gradually extend the amount of time. A thirty-minute walk is recommended every day.

OBEDIENCE

Your puppy is like a sponge, it absorbs all the information that is transmitted to him. His basic commands such as; sit, down, place, come ... can be learned as soon as he arrives home. Start one command at a time, use a single word to designate the command and you can reward when the command is done successfully. You can enroll your puppy in a variety of courses starting with puppy kindergarten.

UNWANTED BEHAVIORS

Sometimes some unpleasant behaviors such as; biting, jumping, yelping, etc. may appear. We then have the responsibility as a dog owner/parent to educate and guide our dogs. We have to show them what is acceptable and what is not. If your dog does something good you reward it (affection, toy, treats...), if your dog does something wrong, address the wrong behavior, you can tell him << NO>> and then guide him to do the right behavior. If you see that you are not able to eliminate unwanted behaviors, call a qualified dog trainer who can help solve the problem. Do not wait, as the problem can get worse with time.

In conclusion, we hope that this puppy guide will help you during the different stages of your dog's life. There will be easier moments than others, but stay calm and patient. Take one day at a time and remember to always guide your dog. You are responsible for his education.

To your success!