

BRINGING HOME YOUR NEW PUPPY

Your New Puppy may be the cutest puppy in the world, but you won't be happy when this innocent looking angel chews your shoes, or messes on your prized Persian rug.

New born babies are not the only precious creatures that need attention in the middle of the night.

Be prepared to house train your puppy and have a **few sleepless nights** while it is settling into your home and his new routine.



Quick Checks to Puppy Proof your Home

- Remove or hide all electrical cords - Puppies have razor sharp teeth and will chew anything it can.
- Barricade staircases and balconies until your puppy has been taught about the dangers.
- Safely store all cleaning detergents, fertilizers and insecticides. Just a little bit can cause fatal poisoning.
- Medicines and prescription drugs often taste really good, ensure that your dog does not have access.
- Curious puppies particularly like anti-freeze, so keep all motor oil and such out of harms way.
- Repair existing or install garden fencing. It is essential that your doggie must not be allowed to roam, unsupervised, outside your property.
- Cover all water features and pools, many dogs young and old are accidentally drowned. Don't let this happen to your precious pooch.
- Many plants are poisonous to dogs. Ask your local Nursery if you are not sure.

Go shopping! Essential items on your shopping list

- Food and Water Bowls.
- Puppy Food: Be sure and ask a store clerk for advice on selecting food for your pup. The best choices are generally grain-free, with a whole protein source as the first ingredient (look for “chicken” instead of “chicken meal” or “by-product”). Top foods: Nature’s Variety, Great Life, Natural Balance, and Orijen or Acana.
- Adjustable collar and lead: We advise against retractable flexi-leads
- Soft bedding and bed
- Crate with panels to train new puppy. A safe haven for your new baby.
- Soft toys and approved dog chews. Keeps him occupied and stimulated.
- A coat for cold climates. Many types of dogs need extra protection.
- Appropriate dog grooming tools. Start grooming early on to get your puppy used to it. Touch feet, teeth, ears daily.
- Identification Tags; keep your microchip # in a safe place.
 - **IMPORTANT:** call your chip company and make certain your chip is registered to your name! NEVER assume it’s been done unless you confirm via phone. Then call back and have them look up your #.
- Baby gates for unsafe areas of your home.
- Pet Insurance - check the small print for your small dogs' specific health issues.
- Doggie School for socializing and basic dog training. (group classes at a local SPCA or Humane Society are often a great deal and provide lots of socializing opportunity for your new pup!)

Puppy socializing should begin the minute you get home. Introduce him to any other family members, especially children, in a controlled way. Children must always be supervised with small puppies and must be taught to respect the new member of the family. Teach any children how to pick up the puppy and that this is not a toy that can be manhandled. If your child is very boisterous bear this in mind when choosing your puppy's breed. Small dog breeds have fragile frames and **can easily be injured by young children.**

Remember your new puppy will be lonely and lost without his doggie family. **Give him time to inspect his new surroundings.** He may cry for the first few nights, while settling in to his new home. Put a piece of your clothing in his bed, your smell will be comforting to him. If possible also let him sleep in your bedroom, but not in your bed if you don't intend to allow him to in the future. **Set house rules.** Be consistent or your new dog will not know what is expected of him.

Within 48 to 72 hours, visit a vet for a general check up.

A new puppy is going to be part of the family, and if you train your puppy well, you will benefit many years pure pleasure with your precious new pet and experience unconditional love unsurpassed by any other animal.

Puppy Socializing is not an introduction to society reserved just for the rich and famous, your new pooch needs his own coming out parade too! A new puppy needs to be introduced to all aspects of life and you have to do it with him. He needs to meet and greet not just other humans and dogs but also gravel tarmacs, loud noises and so many other things that we humans take for granted.

Is Puppy Socialization Important?

Besides feeding your puppy the best food you can afford, puppy socializing is the next most aspect of responsible pet ownership. Dogs with no social skills and graces will end up in a pound, all as a result of lazy and ignorant owners.

Everything is new for your puppy and our small dog breeds are even tinier when just a few weeks old. Imagine how large and frightening the world can be to them. It is certainly a wise investment for you to take time to slowly and calmly **introduce your new puppy to all aspects of your daily life**. Puppy socialization is something that should start the moment you get home and continue for the first year and even throughout his whole life. Different issues may crop up when the puppy becomes a mature dog. You may have a new baby, you may move house each one bringing its own challenges. Puppy socializing will prepare your dog to accept the unexpected and you will reap these rewards for the life of your precious pooch.

Dogs that are well socialized are happy and confident, recover quickly if startled and won't snap at other dogs or children.

How do I Socialize my puppy?

Puppy Potty Training is actually the first step in Puppy Socializing, this is the basics of showing your puppy what is acceptable and what is not. He is learning that you are the decision maker and the pack leader, vital for your dog to know his place in the pack. That way he will be happy in his place and accept you as his leader.

Dog walking, is an excellent way to start the introduction to other smells, ground surfaces, big people, little people, noises and children. On his walk he will also have an opportunity to interact with other dogs which is a critical aspect for all small dog breeds. They need to exercise their dog behavior and practice their special doggie language. All dogs love a daily walk, what better way to keep your dog happy and you healthier!

Can I prevent a badly socialized puppy?

Breed selection is one way, but this is no guarantee. Most of the puppy socializing is up to you the owner, some breeds like the [King Charles Cavalier](#) are calmer and some are particularly stubborn or known to be protective over its space such as the [Chihuahua](#). If you are a novice owner you may want to consider a breed which is known to be less challenging on its human owner. However, even if you have never owned a dog before, you can easily socialize your puppy as it is not difficult. It takes some simple and basic steps and some follow through from you. You have to be persistent and you will be rewarded with a secure pet who is happy in his world with you as pack leader.

A dog which comes from a shelter may prove to have some learning difficulties, but even an older dog can be socialized but it may take more time and patience. The shelter will have done an assessment of the dog and will try to ensure that the dog being adopted will go to the right home and right owner.

Is it healthy to take my puppy out at a young age?

As long as your puppy has had all his vaccinations and is socialized in an area where they are other responsible owners. The dogs you meet on your walks, will be with their owners and are most probably vaccinated too. The vaccinations are effective after a few days, so check with your vet. At 8 weeks your puppy should have had all his injections and is ready to meet the world. Puppy Socializing must begin between 8 and 12 weeks. This window of opportunity is the best time and delaying socializing after this period can be problematic. Ideally you should start puppy training classes between 10 and 12 weeks. Choose a school which uses treats as the training tool. Avoid a puppy school which encourages choker collars or any other methods of punishment as a form of training. A puppy responds well to rewards for good behavior and any hitting as punishment for bad behavior is counter-productive and we strongly **recommend NEVER hitting your dog**.

Is there a possibility to over-socialize my puppy?

No. Short and sweet. Your puppy must be exposed to as many environments, noises, smells, types of people and various sounds as is possible. Take your puppy with you everywhere, let him hear, see and smell everything. Take him to the vet just for a friendly hello. Visit the grooming parlor just to get a treat and leave. So when he does eventually visit these places for treatment, he is relaxed and happy. The **biggest mistake is to under puppy socialize never to over socialize**.

Sometimes my puppy seems nervous, what should I do?

Never force your dog. Let your dog face his fears in his own way. You can help adjusting his behavior by leading treats up to whatever he is scared of. If he is nervous of your visitor, give your visitor a small treat to hold out for your dog. Just gently help him overcome his fears. Don't pet your dog when he seems afraid, you will re-inforce his fears. Don't ignore the problem but help him to adjust his behavior. If your puppy is scared of the car, just gently put your puppy in the car with a small treat or something to chew on, act normal. Don't start the car, just let him get used to the closed space, then when he seems more relaxed, start the car and drive a very short distance, praising him if he seems relaxed. If he is whimpering, ignore him and stop. Try again another day. He will also **sense your anxiety** if you are anxious, so stay calm when dealing with issues.

Puppy Potty Training Your First Gift to Your Dog

Puppy Potty Training must start immediately when you take your bundle of love home. Training a puppy begins with Potty Training, but don't expect miracles. Puppies won't develop sphincter control until 12 weeks of age, but with the correct behavior and training from you, **all small dog breeds** can be well on their way to being fully potty trained within a matter of weeks.

Crate confinement is an effective method for training a puppy. This is the easiest and quickest way to potty train a new puppy. The basic principle of crate training is that you are taking advantage of your dogs natural instincts as he will not want to eliminate where he eats and sleeps. Not only is the crate a training tool, it also provides a safe haven for your dog and can become his own favorite sleeping place and den. The **crate must not be used as punishment**, as your puppy will associate it with something bad and unpleasant. Should your puppy begin crying or scratching at the crate door, wait until he has stopped before letting him out, or he will get into the habit of complaining and barking to be released. The crate must only be used for **short periods to start**, not more than 30 minutes, then gradually increasing by 10 minutes to a maximum of 3 to 4 hours.



Vigilance is key, keeping an eye on your dog's behavior; scratching, sniffing walking in circles are all signs your dog needs to go to the toilet. Never shout at your dog, unless you catch him in the act. Even a minute later is too late to punish him. Your puppy's bladder is tiny and you can expect him to need an opportunity to relieve himself regularly, immediately after every meal, and every hour in between, including at least 4 times during the night, while puppy potty training while he is learning how to control his bladder.

The Umbilical Cord is another excellent tool for Puppy Potty Training. This method is ideal for someone who spends a lot of time at home. Attach a long leash to your puppy's collar and connect it to you. Wherever you go, your puppy goes. This method creates a strong bond, and is the perfect way to keep an eye on your puppy's signs that he wishes to relieve himself. You will soon get used to how often and when he needs to go. Naturally while potty training puppy you have to give him a fixed schedule of meal times and play times to get him into a routine. Regular trips outside, with lots of love and praise when he gets it right.

To assist your puppy to getting into a daily routine, **schedule regular potty times**, thereby avoiding "accidents". When you take your dog outside, heaps lots of praise on him when he has relieved himself. Give him praise and use the same word again and again. A word like 'toilet' or "go potty" repeatedly when they are eliminating will help them **associate the action with the word** in no time at all all you would have to do is say the word that you have chosen, and your dog will respond to this every time he is taken outside.

If you are out for several hours during the day, **do not put your puppy in the garage or an empty basement** as they will be unhappy and lonely. Rather confine them to a part of the house (just while puppy potty training) where they will still be **interacting with the family**. Put down newspaper or commercial wee pads in a part of the bathroom or kitchen where it is easier to clean the floor. Your dog will not want to soil his sleeping area. Employ the same tactics as for when they are being trained outside, give them lots of praise when your puppy has used the newspaper area. Gradually reduce the amount of floor area covered by newspaper. Soon they will be confined to just a square of newspaper which will be used for accidents and can be easily cleaned up.

Many small breeds can be **trained to use a litter box like a cat**. This is particularly useful for those living in an apartment or for the elderly who are unable to take their dog outside every few hours.

Be patient while Puppy Potty Training You and Your Dog Will Reap the Rewards.

*Information in this packet was taken from the wonderful website <http://www.aboutsmalldogbreeds.com>
be sure and visit them for more useful tips!*