



**Moon Dog**  
Consulting and Services

# New Puppy Booklet



*A guide for bringing home a new dog*



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I have learned and relearned a lot in my time working with dogs. Techniques have changed with increased education in the dog field and increased interest on how to incorporate dogs into families. My background comes from an interest in dogs ever since I was a toddler chasing the family dogs around the yard. This interest grew into an obsession on how the animal known to science as a canid lives and interacts with people in both wild and domestic situations. I started helping people with dog behavioral problem over 30 years ago and haven't looked back, seeking out formal education to back up what comes naturally to me. Over the years, I have worked with dogs of all ages, breeds, and backgrounds – studying behavioral cues and how to “talk” with dogs so that they understand what I would like them to do. My passion, however, is with dogs that have backgrounds. The rescues that have issues fitting into a family life, teaching them to learn how to trust and accept a family.

I created this booklet as I see the same questions over and over again. There are many resources out there dealing with puppies, but I don't see many that act as a guide, just quick answers to some of the common questions. I have included worksheets and handouts that I use with clients to help us understand their dog. I hope that by reading through the booklet, some of your questions are answered and that you use the worksheets provided to help with raising your puppy.

As always, I am happy to answer questions.  
Carrie

[www.moon-dog.org](http://www.moon-dog.org)  
907-203-0792  
@moondogcs on Facebook

# **Congratulations on bringing home your new puppy!**

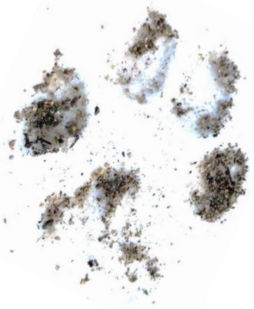
Welcoming a new puppy into your home can be a bit overwhelming, even if it is not your first time with a puppy. There will be a lot to learn and much to do. Each dog has an individual personality, and this may differ from what you thought the dog would be like. This booklet is designed to give you some pointers on starting things right with your puppy.

## *Rule of Three*

First - all dogs follow the “Rules of Three”, even puppies. Three days to adjust, three weeks to learn your routine, and three months to settle in with their routine. Puppies go through this faster than adult dogs, but all dogs have to have time to adjust.

Second – all the dogs (whether puppy or adult) have gone through some sort of trauma to get to you. Most will be physiological trauma, although there might be some physical trauma as well. A lot of the trauma is from just being put into a crate, transported away from the smells and sights they are used to, and thrust into an entirely new environment with new people, new smells, and new sights. There is extra stress and trauma on dogs that had to be captured, dogs that have never been in a crate before, and dogs that have never been in a vehicle before. Puppies normally get over this very quickly and it doesn’t seem to affect their decompression process. Adult dogs have a harder time adjusting and some of this trauma might linger for months or longer. Individuality and circumstances of how the dog got to you has a lot to do with the adjusting process and how long it will take.

Trainers and behavioralists have developed the “rule of three” to help others understand what is going on for the dog in a rescue/rehoming situation. Most dogs fit into this pattern, though there are some exceptions that will either make the general timelines shorter or longer. As stated above, puppies tend to go through this process in a much quicker fashion. Adult rescues will take at least a few weeks to show their true personality. The Rule of Three applies every time the dog switches homes, the more times this happens it seems to take the dog longer to settle in the new home.



# Rule of “3”

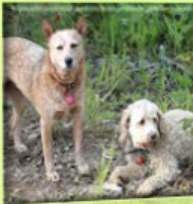
This applies to all dogs, whether puppy or adult, when entering a new home.

\*Timeline differs between individual dogs. Rescues can take longer.



## 3 Days to Decompress

- ❖ Might feel overwhelmed, scared, or unsure of what is going on
- ❖ May not want to eat or drink
- ❖ Hides or shuts down
  - Or tests boundaries and acts out
- ❖ Not comfortable enough to be himself



## 3 Weeks to Learn YOUR Routine

- ❖ Starts settling in and feels comfortable
- ❖ Figures out his environment
- ❖ Gets into a routine
- ❖ Lets his guard down – some personality starts to show
- ❖ Behavioral issues start to appear



## 3 Months to Feel at Home

- ❖ Finally feel completely comfortable in the new home
- ❖ Begins to build trust and a true bond
- ❖ Gains a sense of security
- ❖ Sets into his routine.

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If you have questions about your dog being withdrawn or see signs of the dog not adjusting, please contact the rescue, breeder, shelter, or a trainer. They can give advise on whether to give it more time or what else to try. The first step if you suspect that something might be wrong is to see your veterinarian.



# Dog Facts

Dogs are a bit like humans in basic biology functions, but not alike at all. Here are a few facts that will help you make sense of your dog.



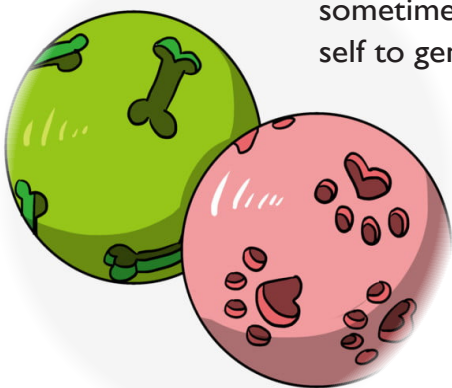
## Senses

- Dogs have a very good sense of smell, in fact, can be considered the primary sense. Dogs sense of smell can be up to one million times stronger than humans. Dogs also use their sense of smell to learn about the world around them. The brains of dogs are more active when they are smelling. This helps them make sense of what they smell.
- Dogs have slightly different eyesight than what we think. They are not color-blind but have what we can call a limited vision spectrum. The colors that they see are in the yellow and blue ranges. Dog's eyes have more cones than rods (remember biology in school?) and only have two types of cones compared to the three humans have. Dogs see better in low light conditions, but their eyesight is not as sharp as ours even in the best of light.
- Dogs are very sensitive to touch. They can feel anything on their body at any time. This heightened sense of touch helps them navigate the world around them. Touch socialization is very important to dogs living with us.
- Dogs taste is not as great as ours. They have much fewer taste receptors, but can taste sweet, salty, sour, and bitter. They also have another taste receptor that we do not have – for water. Dogs do not have an affinity for salty foods but do for sweet foods such as fruits and veggies.
- Dogs have a broader range of hearing than humans do, particularly with the higher pitched sounds. Some of the everyday noises we have in the household might be very loud to the dog or even stress them out. *Fun Fact: All dogs are born deaf. The hearing develops by approximately 21 days of age.*

All these senses working together helps a dog be a dog. For more information on dogs' senses, check out [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

# Puppy Basics

- Remember that puppies are very social. If you adopted a single puppy, prepare for some separation anxiety and the want of cuddling.
- For the first few days of the puppy being in your home, do not expect to sleep alone. Not only are you going to be getting up to let the puppy out to pee during the night, but the puppy should also be close to you. Not everyone is comfortable sleeping with a tiny animal, but you should be close to the puppy. For example, if the puppy is on a bed by the couch, then you should be staying on the couch. Some puppies will also feel better with a stuffed animal to snuggle with, just remember to get one that is meant for infants (no plastic noses or eyes).
- All puppies teethe! This means that even if your puppy is older, it will chew on things. It is ok to have puppies chew on things like frozen carrots, frozen celery stalks, raw bones, bully sticks, pig ears, hooves, etc. There are also toys just for puppies to chew. For a teething puppy, you can also tie knots in old socks, soak, and freeze. Just have some things for them to chew on so you can redirect them.
- Preparing your home is a lot like baby proofing a house. What is left out will get chewed on or gone through. Dogs are curious, they will go through things. It is ok to have baby gates up to cordon off sections of your home. Just remember that the puppy will want to be with you.
- You want to start on a schedule right away – feeding times, potty times, play times, etc. This will make potty training easier and training easier all around.
- The puppy is never too young to socialize! Socializing is more than meeting people and other dogs. See the Socialization section for more on this.
- Puppies need toys! You don't have to go out and buy tons of toys, but puppies need things to play with.
- Don't forget to have fun with your puppy. Getting new puppy can be stressful, sometimes you need to forget about the mess for a few minutes and allow yourself to genuinely enjoy being with your new friend.



# *Do you know your dog breed?*

Dogs were domesticated between 20,000 and 40,000 years ago. Not much is known about the domestication process, though we believe the animals that showed more tame qualities were selected to hang out around humans. Over time and with humans selectively choosing these “Proto-dogs” to travel with them, we started the domestication process.



Dogs sort of hung out in this Proto dog stage for a long time before what we consider breeds were actually developed. There is controversy over when breeds were developed, but what we do know is that the breeds that were developed were done so because of the traits that they showed. Some dogs were better at flushing game, some dogs were better at herding animals, and some dogs had stamina and strength in order to pull supplies. By isolating these traits and only breeding dogs that had the same traits to each other, is how breeds were formed. The traits that the breeds show are a genetic component of their makeup. One cannot train a genetic trait out of a dog. Knowing what your dog was bred to do originally helps with integrating the dog into your household.

Dogs were domesticated between 20,000 and 40,000 years ago. The exact process remains largely unknown, but it's thought that dogs with more docile temperaments were chosen to live alongside humans. This selective process, involving humans choosing these "proto-dogs" as companions, marked the beginning of domestication.

Proto-dogs existed for an extended period before distinct breeds emerged. While the timeline for breed development is debated, it's clear that breeds were developed based on specific traits. Some dogs excelled at flushing game, others at herding animals, and some possessed the stamina and strength for pulling supplies.

Breeds were formed by isolating and selectively breeding dogs that shared similar traits. These traits are genetic components of a dog's makeup and cannot be trained out. Understanding a dog's original purpose can be beneficial for integrating them into your household.

A good article that describes what is thought of the domestication process can be found in the Smithsonian Magazine or by this link. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-wolves-really-became-dogs-180970014/>



Modern dog breeds can be classified into 10 categories or groups. These groups are; bulldogs, guardian dogs, gun dogs, herders, scent hounds, sighthounds, terriers, toy breeds, natural dogs, and world dogs. By organizing all of our dog breeds into these groups helps us better understand some of the genetic traits that they display. Often in pet households, these genetic traits are what people perceive as behavioral problems.

Knowing what your dog's breed was bred to do will assist you in training your dog, help with behavioral issues, give enrichment ideas, explain some health issues, and give an overall understanding of your dog's way of thinking.

When getting a new dog/puppy, do some research, preferably before you pick a dog out, but anytime is a good time. You should be able to find the answers to these questions online:

- What breed or mix of breeds is your dog?
- What was the breed bred for originally?
- What job does this breed do currently?
- Does this breed have any health concerns?
- Does this breed have any overarching behavioral issues?
- How active is this breed?
- How easy is general maintenance for this breed?

Some good sources to research are:

[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)  
[www.dogster.com](http://www.dogster.com)  
[www.thesprucepets.com](http://www.thesprucepets.com)  
[www.vcahospitals.com](http://www.vcahospitals.com)

There are many more sites to look at for dog breed information. The more you learn, the better prepared you will be.

# Welcome Home



Before you bring the puppy home, it is a good idea to look throughout your house and puppy proof. This means making sure cords are not in reach of sharp teeth, breakables are put up higher, house plants are out of reach, and anything food related is put up. No place is completely puppy proof, but at least starting out with things put away will help keep the puppy out of trouble.

## Items to have before you bring a puppy/dog home

Most of the time getting a puppy or new dog is not a on the spot decision. Some thought goes into the decision and often that is filling out forms and waiting for the day you get to bring the new family member home. When you decide to bring a puppy/dog home, there are a few items that should be purchased.

Some of these items are:

- ☐ Food and water dishes
- ☐ A 5- or 6-foot leash
- ☐ A collar
- ☐ Age-appropriate toys

Other things to have on

A bed – a bed does not have to be purchased but rather have a place or item to use as a bed. Whatever it is, it should be a place to snuggle and stay warm. It should also be cleanable because accidents happen.

Puppy pads – even with good intentions, puppy pads may be needed for the first few weeks, There are both washable and disposable varieties.

An exercise pen or x-pen – Although this isn't necessary, it is helpful for young puppies. It give you a place for them to be when not right beside you that is safe

Baby gates – not a bad idea for any home with dogs

## Puppies 8-12 weeks

The time period between 8-12 weeks of age is very important to the puppy's development both socially and physically. This is when they fully learn how to self-soothe, learn to deal with separation, learn bite inhibition, learn play skills, and learn how to interact with other dogs. The time when puppies learn how to be dogs. It is very important to have puppies in groups during this time, even groups of different ages work. Having an adult dog that is able to discipline the puppies is also crucial to their development. If the mother is not around, another adult dog (either male or female) is able to perform this function. Socialization techniques need to start during this time.

Puppies still need to sleep together or with a warm blanket during this time. This is why puppies cry when being put to bed. They are not able to fully regulate their temperature yet and need the cuddling while sleeping.

Puppies are now becoming weaned as their digestive tracts are now capable of digesting solid foods. They are not fully weaned until 10 weeks of age and may need milk/broth added to their food until then. The amount of milk/broth will be much less, and this can be mixed completely into their food at this point. Puppies should not be free-fed during this time as potty training is still being worked on. Food/water should be available every 4-5 hours. Some puppies might show that they would like to have water more frequently – just remember to take them out to potty about 10 minutes after they drink.

The puppy's temperament is just now beginning to fully show. You would have been able to tell a laid-back dog vs a hyper dog prior to this, but this is when you are going to see if the dog is playful, if they get upset if you wake them up, if they are better with other dogs or like being alone, and how quickly they learn new skills.

### **What to feed my puppy**

This is a topic that is debated about quite a bit. The general rule of thumb is to feed what the breeder or shelter is feeding and slowly switch to what you want to feed. Puppy diets are higher in protein to aid in bone and organ growth. Raw diets are also different for puppies having a different ratio of proteins to carbs.

Some helpful tips:

- If your puppy is under 10 weeks of age, you should be wetting any kibble and possibly adding in some goat kid milk or puppy milk replacer (let it get mushy). Remember that puppies' digestive tracts are not fully developed yet, so although they can eat solid foods, they might not be able to extract all the nutrients from it. Slowly decrease the amount of milk until the puppy is eating all solid food.
- When puppies gobble down food quickly, they ingest air. For some breeds, this will be a problem. To slow the puppy down when eating, feed on a tray or cookie sheet. Spreading the food on a tray will also help the puppy search for all the food, creating good mental stimulation. If your puppy is eating dry kibble, go ahead and spread some on the floor for the puppy to find.
- Puppies need to eat multiple times a day and must have access to fresh water multiple times a day as well. As the puppy grows, the food can be condensed into just two or three times a day.
- How much you feed your puppy will depend on the breed, what diet you are feeding, and how fast your puppy is growing.
- Puppy food (Kibble) is normally higher in protein and has added vitamins for puppies. Change to adult food between 6 months to a year of age.
- Dogs are omnivores. This means that they do require grains, vegetables, and fruits in their diets along with the protein. Feeding "grain free" is not necessary unless your dog has allergies. If you do feed grain free, make sure that your dog is getting enough other vegetables in their diet. Talk with your vet or a dog nutritionist. If you would like to feed a raw diet, do the research. There are websites that help break down the proportions to give your dog a healthy diet. If in doubt, ask your vet.
- It is important to let the puppy have time to eat without being disturbed, but you don't want to leave the puppy alone.
- Puppies can have raw bones! Keep the size and bone appropriate for the size of the puppy. Femurs and other leg bones are harder than ribs. Antlers are harder still. It is ok to feed out raw chicken bones as well (wing tips and chicken feet are good treats). Take away the bone when it gets small enough to swallow whole.
- Hooves and horns are good chew treats. As with bones, take them away when they get small enough to swallow whole.

## DO NOT FEED OUT COOKED BONES!!!

Cooked bones splinter and can cause internal injuries.

Disclaimer: if you have a dog breed that is known for having dental issues, discuss chewing bones with your vet. Some breeds are known for cracking teeth by chewing hard objects or developing jaw issues.

Supervise your puppy when chewing. If they are aggressive chewers, monitor what they are chewing. Excessive chewing can mean health or diet issues. Bring up excessive chewing to your vet or trainer.

If you find yourself with a younger puppy, do not worry. The same tips apply to those younger than 8 weeks. The difference is that a puppy 6 weeks and younger will be eating a mash or a bottle.

Puppies still might still need stimulated and cleaned after eating, especially if they are younger or seem to have issues eliminating. This can be done with a warm, wet cloth. Wipe in longer strokes, mimicking licking. Stimulation can be scaled back as you notice the puppies are urinating and defecating on their own, but they will still need to be cleaned on a regular basis until they are accomplishing this on their own. This helps them be clean dogs as they grow.

### Water

All dogs need fresh water often; this goes for puppies too even if they are still eating food with milk. Puppies will play with the water, so it is ok to only put a small amount out at a time. Watch for signs of being thirsty – playing with the empty dish, licking a dry dish, or looking for water. Don't ever withhold water!

### Teething

All puppies teeth (the process of losing baby teeth). Teething puppies will want to chew more, but they will go for the softer chews as it feels better on their gums. Some good teething items are:

- Frozen veggies (Carrots, celery, green beans, etc.)
- Frozen rag
- Teething toys
- Pieces of hide







# Potty Training

Potty training can be started as soon as the puppies comes home. Talk with the breeder or foster to see what they have already done. Potty training might have already started and seeing what has been done before the puppy came home will help greatly. A routine needs to be created to help them learn. Try a similar routine that breeder/foster have already started. Most puppies will get the routine easily although there will still be accidents.

Patience and routine are key to potty training your dog, whether you are using puppy pads, doggy doors, walking, or other forms of taking your dog out. Some things to remember when potty training:

- Consistency is key! Keep to the routine and do not change it up on the dog!
- Timing. Take the puppy to where you want them to do their business about 10-15 minutes after they drink, about 15-20 minutes after they eat. Stay there until the puppy goes.
- Praise! Praise! Praise! Praise the puppy when they eliminate where you want them to and do not get mad if they eliminate where you do not want them. Just pick them up as quickly as you can, even if they are still in the process, and move them to the desired location. Then praise!
- If you are using a cue word, use it every time that you take the puppy to the desired location. "Let's go potty!" is a common one. If you would like to use a bell, ring the bell with the cue as you are going out. Have the puppy touch the bell with the paw or nose so they learn.
- If you are outside already for something else and your dog eliminates, praise them! Don't save the praise for just potty time.

### Things to remember:

- No matter the breed, puppies do not have fully developed bladder muscles or nerves in that area until they are between 6-12 months of age. This is for both males and females.
- If your puppy is doing well, then reverts suddenly, talk with your vet about urinary tract infections. They are common in some dog breeds and with female puppies.
- Do not get discouraged if it takes a long time. Some puppies get it right away, while others take a long time. It may take up to a year for some dogs.
- Males will not always lift their leg to pee, most squat. Some females will lift their leg.



A chow mix, rescued as a young adult. He has an ID tag while waiting for adoption.



# Sleep and Exercise

Not all dog breeds are the same and each breed has different exercise requirement. Individuality also plays a large role in how active your puppy is. A cattle dog puppy will be more active than a Great Dane. In general, puppies do not need walks for the first month or so that you have them. Ample exercise can be obtained by playing in the house and yard. There is no set time or amount of exercise for a puppy to get.

Puppies normally have short bursts of energy followed by decent naps. Remember that puppies sleep a lot! This can be up to 20 hours a day at first. A puppy that is overtired will have tantrums, act out, and just be plain obnoxious. Watch for signs of tiredness – stumbling, wobbling, becoming snippy, or simply laying down. This is when you should let your puppy rest or have a break. Some puppies seem to never stop, and with these a forced time out might have to be enforced. This can look like holding the puppy and stroking ears for relaxation or directing puppy to an exercise pen with a chew toy.

Is physical exercise enough? The quick answer is no. Mental stimulation is very important for learning, creating confidence, and physically tiring out a puppy. That is correct, mental stimulation will physically tire out a puppy (or dog in general).

Mental stimulation for puppies can be in many forms.

- Working with the puppy on the basics (sit, down, stay, leash walking, etc.) is great exercise.
- Playing games including sniffing
- Feeding on trays or scatter feeding
- Food games/toys
- Car rides or people watching

A good balance of physical exercise, mental stimulation and sleep will make a balanced puppy.

## Nighttime with your puppy

The first night in your home, the puppy will more than likely be a bit afraid. They might be chilly or uncomfortable. This will be the first night away from the mother dog and/or the siblings. Dogs are social animals and need the comfort of other beings when they are young. They will be seeking the warmth and companionship of other beings – this is why puppies cry at night.

- Sleeping with your puppy. Not everybody is comfortable doing this and that's ok. You don't have to invite the puppy into your bed but sleeping with them on the couch or beside them on the floor is one way both you and the puppy can get some sleep.
- Get a heartbeat animal. These stuffed animals are dog shaped, have pockets for a reusable heating pad, and when turned on, will mimic a heartbeat sound.
- Rolling up warm towels. A warm towel out of the dryer rolled and placed in a circle for the puppy to snuggle up in will help.

If you wish to crate train your puppy, this should not start the first night away from the mother dog. The first few nights, the puppy will be seeking comfort. Start the crate training during the day and as the puppy learns to take naps in the crate, transition them to sleep in the crate at night. This slow transition will help the puppy get used to the new environment, new sounds, temperature, and the routine.

*Do not let them cry it out!*

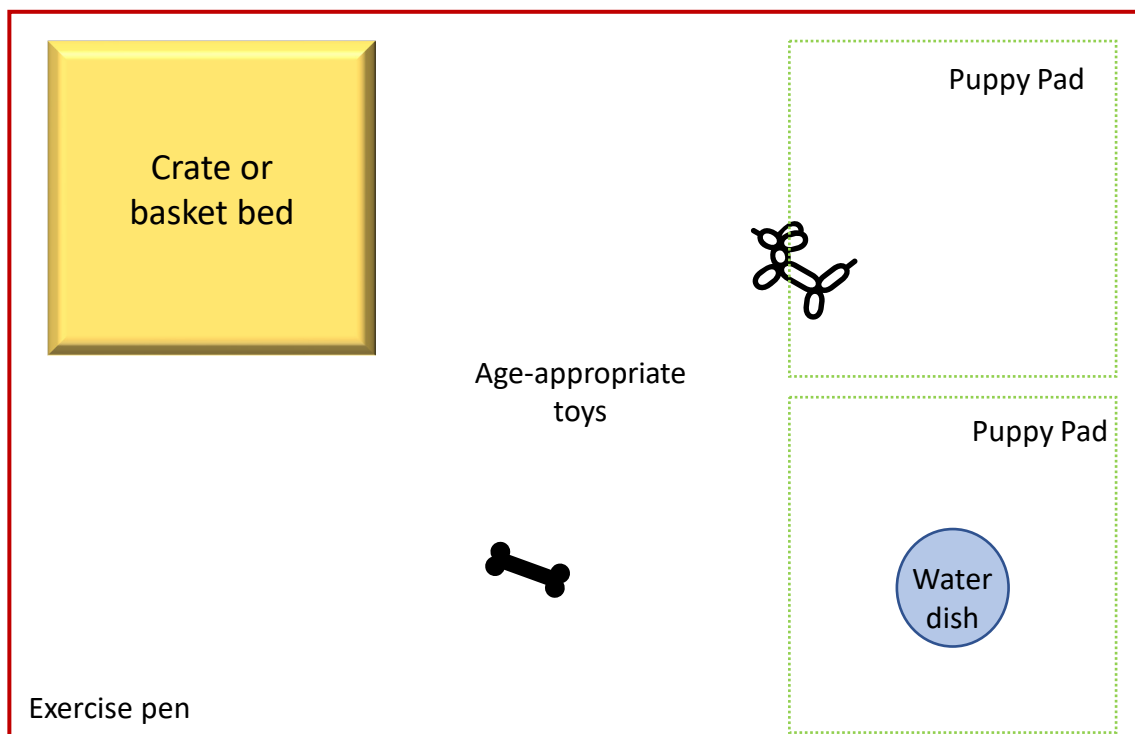


# Set up for puppies

The set up you have for your new puppy will have to fit within your own home, but below I have a generalization. An area for the puppy[s] to play without getting into things they shouldn't is a must. This can be an exercise pen or a room that is puppy proofed.

There should be a bed/sleeping area. Either a crate, a dog bed, or a basket works. A blanket or towel should be in the bed area to help keep the puppies warm and let them snuggle. Puppy pads or a washable blanket is preferred on the floor to help keep the area clean for accidents. Anything soft in this area needs to be washable or disposable.

Toys in the area should be age appropriate and washable. A water dish can be kept in the area even if there is little to no water in it. Never withhold water from the puppy.



Everything in the area should be able to be cleaned and sanitized, including the bed. Blankets should be washed/changed on a regular basis and the floor should be cleaned regularly.

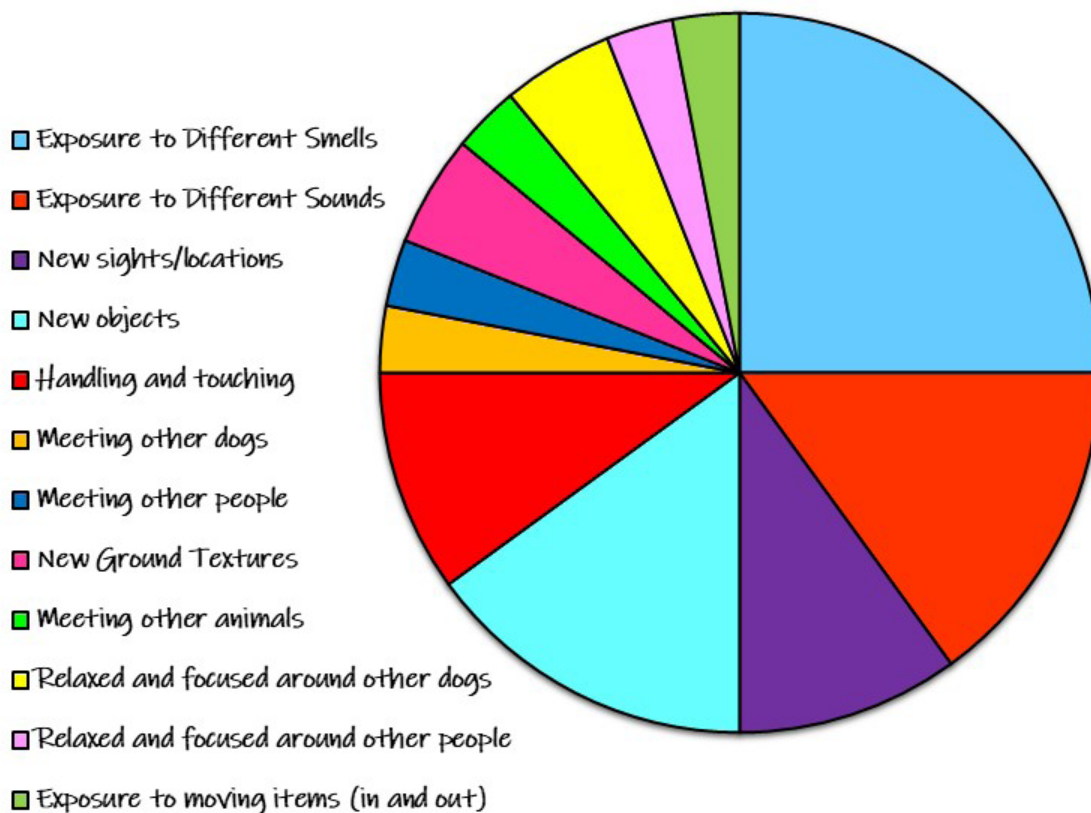
*Tip: make sure the door of the exercise pen is accessible. You'll be needing to come in and out frequently.*



# Socialization

Socialization is very important. A socialized dog is more happy, obedient, and well behaved. Socialization should also called confidence building or learning about life. It is the building blocks that sets the foundation for the puppy to grow and learn throughout life. Socialization never stops, but the first few months will help shape the way your puppy goes through life. Dogs start the socialization process early in life with the litter mates and other adult dogs in their household, but it needs to be continued once the puppy is in its new home.

When should a puppy be socialized? As soon as they are born through their final days – it's a lifelong journey. There are critical periods for puppies to learn certain things. Bite inhibition is one, this is learned between 10 and 14 weeks of age. Starting at a younger age will help the puppy learn how to process the new experiences. Confidence is nurtured through learning about their environment. Socialization is so much more than meeting other dogs or people! It is giving the puppy options to experience new smells, sights, sounds, tastes, textures, and how to be handled. Taking the puppy to new areas, letting them meet new people, discover new things, and letting them be dogs and explore the world. Remember to always keep safety in mind, both to you dog and to others around you.

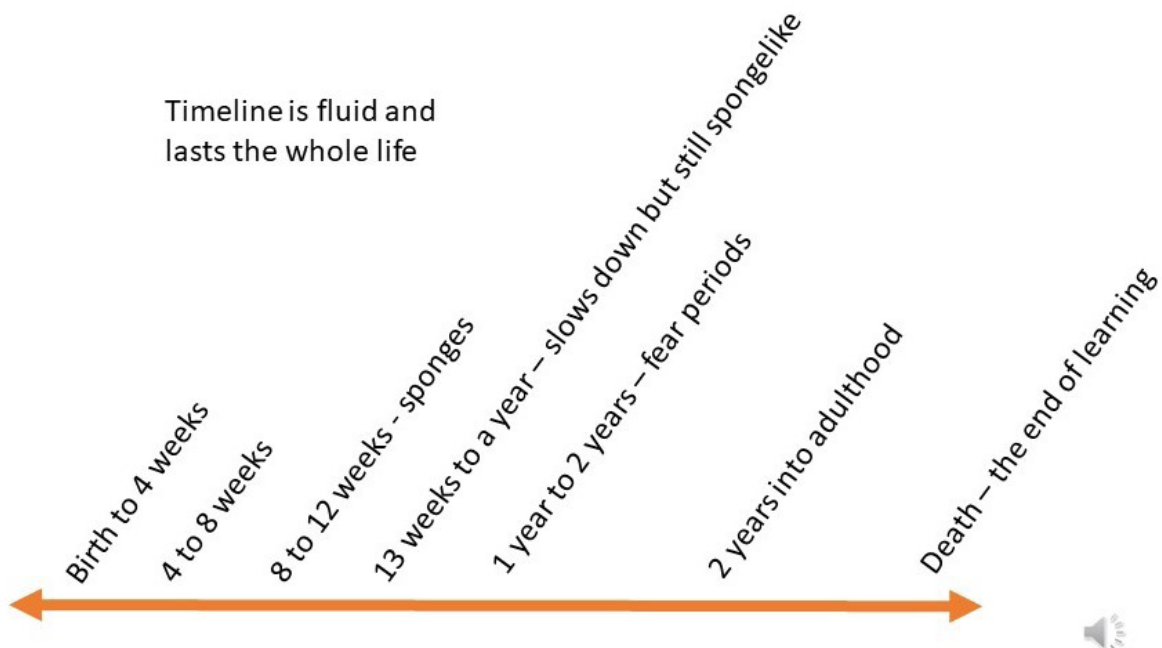


Some dogs are afraid of new smells and/or objects. Start slow. Let them approach the object at their own pace without being provoked. When they gain confidence then praise them. Most times a dog will only be fearful of an object at first and will very soon forget the fear once the connection is made that the object is not harmful.

Some dogs, for whatever reasons, are fearful of being in crowds or being around other dogs/animals. These dogs also need socialization in their lives. Start slow from a distance. If they are small dogs or puppies, carrying them into a situation might make them feel more comfortable. For larger dogs, walk slow and allow your dog to put you between who they are afraid and them. When meeting other dogs, allow your dogs to sniff, that is their “handshake”. If your dog is hesitant, do not force them to meet. Let them walk up to others on their own terms. Slowly as your dog sees that it is ok to meet new people and other dogs, the fear will subside.

*Socialization is a lifelong journey!*

## Socialization Timeline



# Aggressive or fear?

Dogs in general are not aggressive animals. There is always a reason as to why the dog is acting aggressive. With that said, **NEVER UNDERESTIMATE ANY DOG ACTING AGGRESSIVE. ALL BREEDS OF DOGS CAN DO SERIOUS INJURY TO PEOPLE WHEN ACTING AGGRESSIVE!**

Often dogs are labeled as aggressive due to the misunderstanding or miseducation of the people involved. Dogs, whether wild or domestic, react to what is going on around them. If the situation is fearful, the dog will act defensive. If the situation is aggressive, then the dog will act aggressive. If the situation is calm, the dog will act calm. It takes a lot of training and individual personality to allow a dog to act calm in a stressful situation. When you are around your dog, you are also part of the situation. If you are fearful, aggressive, or calm during a situation, the dog will react to you as well. Remembering this bit of information is key in handling situations that arise.

Fear is often displayed very similarly to aggression and may be hard to distinguish from aggression. A fearful dog can do one of two things, either fight (bite, growl, snap, or lunge) or flight (cower, run and hide, run away, etc.). Be supportive of fear shown in your dog and help them put distance between what is causing the fear and them.

**If your new puppy is acting aggressive or extremely fearful, contact the breeder, your veterinarian or a trainer immediately. There are resources and training that may help your dog before a situation arises.**

Are you able to tell if this dog is showing fear or aggression? They look very similar and sometimes are hard to tell apart.



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# Giving Medications to Puppies

It is inevitable that your puppy will need some sort of medication in their lives. Whether the medication comes in liquid form or pills, there are tricks to make it easier.

There are multiple ways to give medication to dogs. Some medication can be hidden in pill treats or foods such as cheese or peanut butter, while others may require a syringe. Sometimes the pill has to be put into the puppies mouth directly.

## Giving puppies liquids via syringe:

- ☐ Measure out the correct amount in the medication syringe (ones with no needles).
- ☐ Have a rag or washcloth that is wetted with warm water ready for cleanup.
- ☐ Sit down with the puppy, either on the floor or in a chair with everything within range.
- ☐ Hold puppy upright and securely in your lap, with one hand able to be at the muzzle.
- ☐ Open the lips with that one hand and squirt the liquid in slowly – making sure to squirt on to the cheek or space between tongue and teeth to prevent inhalation of liquid.
- ☐ Hold muzzle together and upright to promote swallowing of the medications.
- ☐ Speak in calming tones while you are administering the medication, wipe puppy's face afterwards in motions mimicking mother grooming.

**Note: If you are uncomfortable with giving liquid medication, please speak up to the veterinarian. They are able to teach you how to do it.**



Syringes with hoses used for administering liquid medication. Not all medication syringes come with hoses attached.

## Giving puppies pills

### Disguised as treats

- ☐ Give a few treats to the puppy to get them used to taking the food from you.
- ☐ Sneak the food wrapped pill into the mix
- ☐ Give another treat right away to “hide” the taste of the medication
- ☐ Praise the puppy

### Given straight without food

- ☐ Sit on the floor with the puppy or have the puppy on your lap.
- ☐ Tilt the head up and open the puppy’s mouth gently with a finger. Do not force open.
- ☐ Drop the pill on the tongue and quickly allow the mouth to close, still holding the muzzle up.
- ☐ Hold the muzzle lightly until the puppy swallows. Gently massage the neck to

The same methods apply to administering medication to adult dogs. Some dogs will not give any fuss about medication, while others will do everything to not take it.

If your dog spits out the pill, you may need to crush it and add to wet food or add water and use a syringe. If you are having trouble administering medication to your dog, reach out to the veterinarian.





# Common Questions

## **Is it ok to give my puppy a bath?**

Yes! Puppies can get baths at any age. Remember that puppy skin will dry out a bit quicker, so you want to use a gentle shampoo and not bathe too often. Do not submerge the puppy but rather allow the puppy to play in shallow plain water (no bubbles) and use a washcloth. If you would like to use a showerhead, introduce slowly as the puppy gets used to baths.

## **How long can I leave my puppy alone for?**

Not very long. It is ok to leave the puppy alone for a short time if they are in a safe area, but do not leave them unattended outside this safe area. Young puppies should not be alone for more than on to two hours at a time. A general rule is one hour for every month of age, but no more than 8 hours the first year.

## **When should I start potty training?**

Immediately when you bring the puppy home. Some breeders will have already started the process. Potty training is easier when the puppy is younger. Don't be discouraged if your puppy doesn't get it right away – some dogs take a few months to learn while others will get it right away. They will not be fully potty trained until their bladder muscles develop completely around 6 months of age no matter how quick they catch on.

## **Should I crate train?**

This is ultimately up to you, but the smart answer is yes. Crate training should be done for all dogs, even if you do not want to use a crate in the house or vehicle. Dogs/puppies will have to be crated in certain areas such as veterinary offices or airports/trains. Crates are also used in emergency situations.

## **When should I start taking the puppy to a groomer?**

This will depend on the breed, but the sooner the better. Even if the appointment is just to get the puppy used to the equipment/methods used. Do not wait to get your dog groomed until the last minute.

## **Should I see a trainer?**

The quick answer is 'it's up to you'. Contacting a trainer or enrolling the puppy or new dog into a training class is a good idea if you have any hesitations. Trainers help with basic life skills training, problem areas, and general dog questions. Find a trainer that has professional training and experience.

## **When should we see a veterinarian.**

Setting up a profile with a vet is a good thing to do as soon as you can. Contact the vet when you know you will be bringing home a new puppy or within a few days of bringing the puppy home. You will need to set up appointments for the remaining puppy shots.

## **What can I give for biting/teething?**

An age-appropriate chew toy, pieces of animal hide (not tanned), carrots, celery, and a knotted rag are all good options. You can soak or refrigerate/freeze all the above to help with sore gums.



## General Notes

Have a tag with your contact information on the dog incase they take off on you. Scared dogs will try to run if given the chance.

Always take dogs out on a leash unless you have a fenced in yard, even puppies.

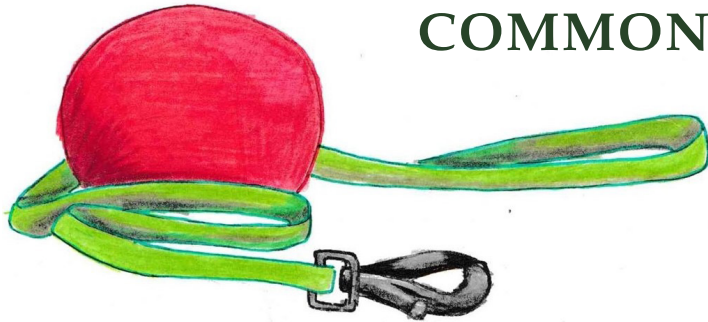
Ask questions

Don't be afraid to talk to the rescue, breeder, veterinarian, or a trainer about issues.

You will know the dog the best, speak up if you see or feel something isn't right

## ***Trust your gut!***

Anything that does not seem right (behavior, eating habits, potty habits, etc.) reach out for help. Contact the breeder, veterinarian, or a trainer with the concerns.



## COMMON PUPPY “PROBLEMS”

- Biting/Tackling - surge when teething and in adolescence (@ 9 months)
- Destroying things – Surge when teething and possibly last up to two years. More often a surge in adolescence
- Sniffing – surging in puppyhood and needs to be accepted through their whole life
- Potty training – puppies may not get it until a year of age. The body and brain needs to fully develop (between 6 months to a year) Consistently is key.
- Basics training – needs to be reinforced throughout life. Going through a puppy class is just the beginning.

