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Bringing Home a New Puppy



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Congratulations !!!



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This is such an exciting time. Few things in life feel as good as having a new puppy in the house, and you're going to have a great time playing and getting to know each other.

During the first year your tiny ball of cuteness is going to grow up quickly and learn new things every day. This booklet is going to give you tips and tricks to get you started on you and your puppy's journey together.



New Puppy Checklist:

- Collar
- Leash
- ID Tag
- Food and water dishes
- Puppy bed
- Grooming tools
- Nail trimmers
- Toys
- Crate/kennel



Bringing Your New Puppy Home

The first few days are very stressful. Here are a few things to help smooth the transition:



Try to keep the household as quiet as possible. All family members should remain as calm as possible. When introducing the family, do it one at a time to avoid overwhelming your puppy.

Potty Time. Upon bringing them home, show your pup where you would like them to go potty. Try and make it a routine,

taking them to the same spot every time you take them for a pee, and take them out often to avoid unwanted accidents.

Set up a crate!!! Crate training can be a useful tool for many things such as potty training, alone time, traveling, and a safe space for your pup to relax. Make the crate a positive experience. Place toys and treats and feed your puppy in the crate so that they come to know that the crate is a happy place (more on this topic later). Crate training also makes vet visits less stressful if they have to stay at the clinic.



Start building a bond. Play with your pup, give them treats and have fun. This will help create a bond that will last a lifetime. Positive reinforcement and consistent rules and routine will help your puppy adapt to his new family. Training can never start too early.



Visit Your Veterinarian

What to expect:

During the first exam your pup will receive a physical exam where the vet will:

- Weigh your pup
- Listen to the heart and lungs
- Take his temperature
- Examine eyes, ears, and genitalia
- Examine skin and coat
- Examine mouth and teeth
- Palpate abdomen and lymph nodes



Deworming

Deworming is highly recommended in the puppy stages. Puppies are usually born with worms passed on from their mom. In addition, puppies tend to get themselves into mischief by placing their mouth on everything, increasing the risk of your pup getting worms.

Pet insurance

Medical pet insurance is so important especially for those unexpected vet visits. Buying pet insurance can give pet owners peace of mind and options so they can make the best care decision possible for their pet. For some breeds (Bulldogs, Pugs, Dachshunds, German Shepherds, King Charles Spaniels), it is highly recommended to have pet insurance as they are more prone to diseases or health problems.

Vaccines

Making sure your puppy is up to date on vaccinations increases the chances of them living a happy and healthy life.

What diseases do vaccines protect against?

***Canine Distemper: CORE-** This disease is contagious and often fatal. Distemper attacks the nervous system, respiratory system, and gastrointestinal systems. Dogs may have symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, listlessness, fever, coughing, and discharge from eyes and nose. As the disease worsens it may cause convulsions and paralysis.

***Infectious Canine Hepatitis (Adenovirus): CORE-** This disease is contagious and affects the liver. Hepatitis is spread between dogs by contact with urine, feces or other secretions. The result of the disease can range from mild to death.

***Parvovirus: CORE-** Highly contagious and debilitating. This disease is spread mainly through feces and bodily fluids. Symptoms may include high fever, listlessness, vomiting, and diarrhea. In severe cases it can lead to death.

***Parainfluenza: CORE-** Highly contagious respiratory virus and is one of the most common pathogens of infectious tracheobronchitis, also known as canine cough. Although the respiratory signs may resemble those of canine bordetella (kennel cough), they are unrelated and require different vaccines for protection.

Rabies: CORE- Rabies attacks the nervous system resulting in fatal death. All mammals including humans are susceptible to this disease. Rabies vaccination is required by law for travel outside of Canada. ~ 0.5% of bats in BC carry rabies (~8% of bats sent for testing are positive)

Bordetella (Kennel Cough): Optional - This disease is highly contagious. It is caused by airborne pathogens. If you take your dog where other dogs have been then they are at risk of getting this disease.

***These four diseases are combined into one vaccine known as DA2PP.**



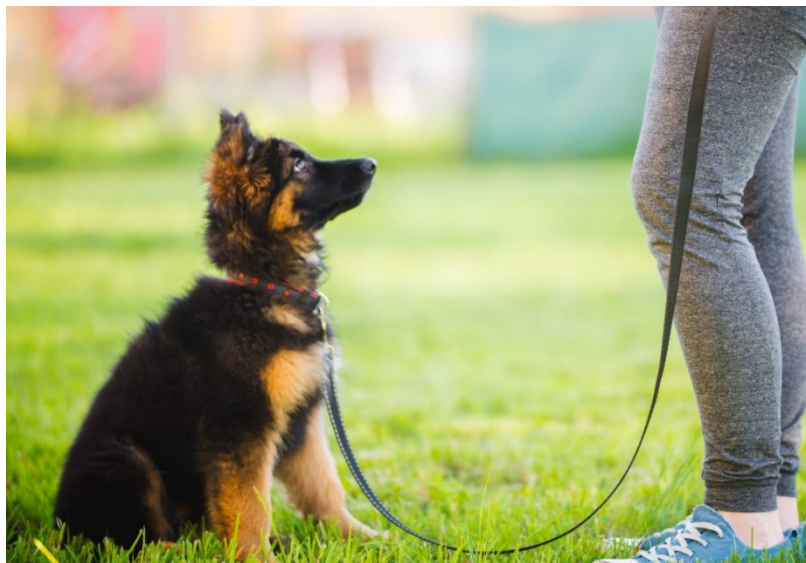
Puppy Vaccine Schedule

8 Weeks	12 Weeks	16 Weeks	1 Year
DAPP	DAPP Bordetella	DAPP Rabies	DAPP Rabies Bordetella

When can I take my puppy outside?

Two weeks after the second vaccine you can take puppies outside in a controlled environment (example: puppy classes). Dog parks are not recommended during this stage. While you are waiting you can still socialize with other dogs. It's important to make sure they have a good temperament and are up to date on their vaccinations.

If you stick to the puppy vaccination schedule your puppy will be fully vaccinated after the third set of vaccinations. Two weeks after the third vaccine you are safe to take your puppy outside and socialize. While you are waiting it is still important to socialize and get your puppy used to different environments. Puppies who are kept from socializing until vaccinations are complete end up with a very short window of opportunity to become socialized, and usually end up with behavioral problems.





Feeding your Puppy

We know that as pet parents you want to feed your new puppy the best food so that they can grow up happy and healthy. Each puppy has unique nutritional needs depending on size and breed. Finding a diet that is well balanced is essential to the development of your pup.

Key goals to look for in a puppy food:

1. Promotes brain development
2. Healthy growth- optimal energy, protein, vitamins and minerals
3. Promotes healthy GI health - highly digestible proteins

Puppies need puppy food!! Why? Because puppy food is formulated with a balance of nutrients to help puppies grow healthy and happy. Depending on the breed of puppy you have will determine the kind of food you will get. Small breeds and large breeds have different nutrient requirements. Large dogs require food that will help support strong bone growth, whereas small breed dogs may require a smaller kibble so they can chew their food easier.

How much should I feed?

This really depends on the size of the dog and how much exercise he or she is getting. We want to feed a diet that supports their average growth rate. Based on your pup's estimated size you will want to adjust the amount accordingly. A good place to start would be to look at the feeding instructions on the back of the pet food bag. From there you can ask your veterinarian to calculate how many calories they should be getting.

How often should I feed?

Puppies have small stomachs that can't hold the amount of food that their adult stomachs come with. However, puppies do require more food on a daily basis than their adult self. With that being said it is best to feed smaller, more frequent meals throughout the day. A good rule of thumb is to feed 3-4 meals per day until your pup is 3-4 months of age. Then you can start feeding twice a day, if they can comfortably eat their daily allotment in these two sittings.



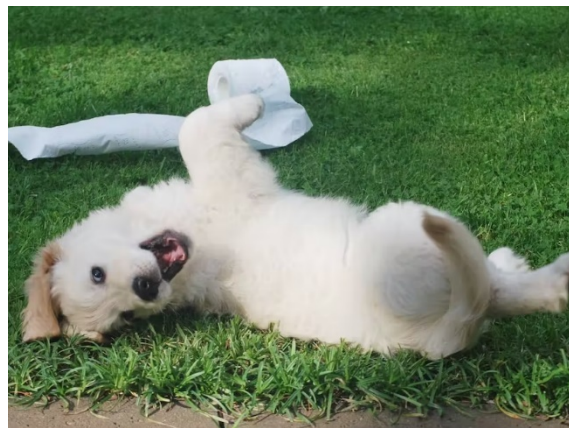
Potty Training

Potty training is probably one of the most important things you can do with your puppy. Some key points to keep in mind when potty training are regular outings, proper management, and positive reinforcement. Potty training takes time and patience, but you and your puppy will master this task.

Step 1: Show them where to go. It is a good idea when you first bring your puppy home to show them where you would like them to go potty. Make it a habit to bring them to the same spot every time you take them out.

Step 2: Make a schedule. Making a routine plays a huge role in potty training success. As your pup grows older your schedule will change as they may not have to go as often. Most puppies will need to go every 30 minutes at first. When making your schedule monitor your puppy events and habits. When your puppy is young you can expect to take him out when:

- First thing in the morning or last thing at night
- After playing indoors or when you take them out of the crate
- Upon waking up from a nap
- After eating/drinking



Step 3: When potty training it is important to look for behaviors that your pup needs to go outside. Some signs include: whining or barking at the door, circling and sniffing, or pacing. Being aware of this behavior can set them up for success.

Step 4: When your pup goes potty in the right place make sure you praise them or give them a treat. Carry treats everywhere to ensure you can treat them right when they go. Make a big deal out of this, have a party with your pup to let them know they did it right.



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Crate Training

Introduction - When introducing the kennel let them explore it. Leave the door open and let them sniff in and out. Don't force them in, let them do that on their own time at first.

Reward - Every time your puppy touches, sniff, or goes in the kennel make sure you reward him/her so that they associate the crate as a good place.

Open and Close - Once they are comfortable going in the kennel try closing the door, give them a treat and then open the door to let them out. Do this over and over and you can slowly increase the length of time they are in the kennel

Play time - It is important while training to take breaks. Make the training experience fun.

Practice Makes Perfect - Practice leaving him in the kennel for longer periods of time. Start by closing the kennel and walk out of sight for a minute or two and come back with lots of treats and praise. If they start to whine while you are out of sight, hold your ground and wait until they stop whining before you return to your pup to let them out.

Coming Out - When taking your puppy out of the kennel do not let him bolt out. Make him sit and then you can open the door. If he gets up then close the door again and start over until he gets that he has to sit and stay before he can come out. While training this make sure you give lots of treats. When he sits and stays while you open the door you can release him and give lots of praise. It is always important to end training on a positive note.

Schedule - Consistency is key. Practice several times a day and use the same training words such as "kennel" or "go to bed".



Dental Care

Brushing a dog's teeth may seem tedious but if you keep on top of it you can reduce dental disease in the future. Brushing your dog's teeth is more than just keeping their breath minty fresh. Over time your dog's mouth collects bacteria which can lead to periodontal disease or decay of teeth. Just like in people, plaque should be removed every 24 hours to remove buildup before it becomes too hard to brush off.

Introducing your puppy early to a toothbrush is the key to keeping your puppy's teeth strong and free of bad breath.

With puppies you want to start by getting your puppy used to you touching their mouth and putting your fingers alongside their gums (be careful, their teeth are very sharp). Start by lifting their lip and then give a treat. Once he lets you do that then try putting your finger on their gums and slowly increase the time until he is comfortable with your fingers in their mouth. Now you can start to introduce a toothbrush. Getting them used to the toothbrush is the same process. Let them sniff the toothbrush and run the toothbrush along the gums in a circular motion. It's always a good idea to reward your dog after you are done brushing.

Puppies have sensitive stomachs and introducing new things like toothpaste can cause an upset tummy. At the beginning it is probably a good idea to skip the toothpaste.





Socializing



Socializing means that your puppy should be able to meet new people, hear new sounds, explore new environments, and meet new animals. Socializing your puppy now will help them become more comfortable with their environment when they are older and it will help with behavioral problems in the future. Dogs who are not socialized well are often fearful and can show aggression in certain situations.

Socialization starts from 5 weeks of age till about 12-14 weeks; during this stage puppies are like little sponges and absorb all sorts of information regarding their environment. It is imperative that you start socializing right when you get your new puppy, the sooner the better. It all starts at home, getting him used to new sounds like a vacuum, water running from the kitchen sink and new surfaces of floors like tiles or carpet. 2 weeks after his or her second set of vaccines you can then start venturing outside your home. Puppy classes are a great way to socialize your puppy. These classes are there not only to help you train your puppy but also to meet other puppies and people in a safe and controlled environment.

Socializing should be a fun experience for you and your puppy. Bring treats and toys to help make each new interaction a positive one. Some puppies are a bit more shy than others so it is important to go at their pace and not push them, they will eventually get

New things to Explore:

- New people - men, women and children
- New animals - other dogs, cats, chickens, horses, etc.
- New surfaces - tile, carpet, laminate, grass, sand, wood
- New environments - pet stores, playgrounds, construction sites, parking lots
- New items - wheelchair, flags, walking cane, vehicles,
- New noises - car horn, people talking, loud banging, music

to a point where they are comfortable with their environment.



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Grooming

Grooming is a great way to spend quality time with your pup. Even if your puppy has short hair they are still going to shed so it is important to make sure from the beginning that your pup is used to some sort of brush. All breeds are different in terms of hair type, some are long haired, short haired, wire haired, curly haired. Some breeds have an under coat and some breeds don't. Each breed, depending on the hair type, will need a different type of brush, so it is important to do your research before you bring your puppy home so you have the right supplies.

It is important to get your puppy used to the brush so that grooming him or her when they get older is not so much of a chore. Start by presenting the brush to your pup. Allow him to sniff and give him a reward every time he goes near it or touches it. Next try stroking him with the brush, if he lets you great, if he backs away allow him to sniff it again and give a treat. Keep doing this, and then you can increase the amount of time you brush him as he gets more comfortable with the brush.

Depending on the breed and how messy your pup is will determine how long you can go in between baths. With most dogs, if they can stay clean, you can wait at least 1 month (sometimes longer) until the next bath. Like everything, it's good to get your pup used to the idea of a bath so that it is not a fight getting them in the bathtub when they get older. Bath time is also a good time to check the ears for debris. If they are dirty you can clean them with a dog ear cleaner. If you have a floppy eared dog they often trap moisture so after a bath or a swim in the lake you should dry the ears and get them as dry as you can to prevent infection.

Nail trimming. Seldom do dogs like to have their paws being touched. Just like anything else, start now. Start by playing with your puppy's paws, rubbing them and handling each one of their toes and giving them a treat each time they do not bite or lick your hand. Then introduce the clippers, let them smell them or paw at them. Then you can start to touch the clippers to the paws. Once you can do that you can try and clip the nail being careful not to cut it too short. Just start by clipping little bits at a time.



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Obedience Training

Puppies can begin basic training such as “sit”, “down”, and “stay” as soon as you bring them home at 8 weeks of age. Puppies learn from every experience and delaying training means missed opportunities for the dog to learn how you would like him to behave.

When training, use methods that rely on positive reinforcement. Positive reinforcement is the process of giving your puppy a reward to encourage a behavior you want. To apply this, find out which rewards work the best for your pup. Rewards might include a tasty treat, a toy or maybe just praise.

Puppies have a very short attention span, so it is important to keep training sessions short. Have a goal for you and your puppy to do at least 5 minutes of training a day. It’s important to always end training sessions on a positive note so they are excited for the next training session. Training should be a fun experience for the both of you.

When training, it is important to be consistent. Use the same commands or hand signals each time you ask them to do something so eventually they will know what you are asking of them. Puppies are learning and growing everyday. They will make mistakes and sometimes may not know what you are asking of them. It’s important to be patient, as each puppy learns at different speeds. Keeping a consistent routine again will help your puppy feel secure.





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Local Dog Trainers (Cranbrook and Kimberly)

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