

## **WELCOMING YOUR NEW PUPPY**

The thought of bringing home a new puppy can be exciting and overwhelming at once. Here are some puppy-specific suggestions that will help make your new family member welcome a warm and lasting one.

The best time to bring your newcomer home is at the beginning of a weekend. If possible, add a few vacation days. This gives you time to acquaint your puppy with his new home and to begin house and other training. Even at the age of 8 weeks, your puppy is able to learn things. It is recommended to start house-training and showing him simple commands, upon arrival in your home. Show your puppy where he may eat, drink, sleep and go to the "toilet".

Avoid bringing home your new puppy during busy times such as birthdays and holidays. The noise and confusion may frighten him. Family members are generally too busy with the festivities to devote adequate time to help the puppy become comfortable in his new home.

Do your shopping in advance, you'll need a collar (should be made of lightweight nylon or leather), a leash (a six-foot leash is the ideal length for both training and walking), a crate (a great aid in housebreaking), brush with natural bristles or hand mitt for grooming, toys that will be safe for the puppy (large rawhide chips, nylon chews and hard rubber balls are fun and safe), a bed for the puppy and easy-to-clean food and water bowls.


If the puppy is to be housed outdoors, choose a well-insulated doghouse large enough to accommodate the puppy at his full-grown size. It should be located on a high, well-drained site protected from the wind. Choose a location that provides outdoor shade during the summer.

Once in his new home, remember that your adoptee is adjusting to strange new surroundings and people. Children can become excited. Explain to them that as he may be disoriented, their new companion needs time out for naps. Show children how to pet the puppy and the proper way to pick him up. A puppy should be closely supervised and taken outside to relieve itself after eating, following naps and play periods.

### **Basic medical exam for your puppy**

You must take your newly adopted puppy to your Veterinarian as soon as possible. This is what will probably happen during the first visit:

- Meticulous physical exam to determine the health status of your puppy.
- Search for external parasites (fleas, ticks, lice, mites).
- Search for internal parasites (tapeworms, roundworm) if you bring a faeces sample.
- The puppy has had his initial vaccination. The Veterinarian will discuss what vaccines will be administered or discussion on the types of vaccines your puppy will need to receive. Your vet will indicate when they should be administered to your puppy.



The first medical exam will provide your vet all the information he needs to recommend a healthy nutrition and the immediate care you should provide your puppy. It will also serve as a “reference” to evaluate and compare the health of your companion during future exams.

### **Puppy-proof your home**

Like a child, your puppy can get into a great deal of trouble in the blink of an eye. Here are some tips for puppy-proofing your home.

Keep small items such as tinsel, rubber bands, buttons and beads out of reach — your puppy could choke on them. Put household cleaners and detergents and other chemical compounds in tightly closed containers and be certain they are properly stored. Medicines should be kept out of reach. Keep electrical cords out of reach or wrapped in electric tape. A good rule to follow is that anything that is not safe for children is not safe for pets.

### **Grooming your new puppy**

It is important to make your puppy feel comfortable about grooming from an early age. Look into his ears, eyes, nose and mouth regularly. Look at his paws to prepare him for claw trimming when he needs it. Brush or comb your puppy regularly.

### **Diet/nutrition**

Puppies need a different kind of diet than adult dogs, as their stomachs are smaller and their nutritional needs different. Your puppy has a big appetite and will need to be fed several times a day! Feed your puppy a puppy food, in small amounts, that is specially designed to meet its nutritional requirements.

**Key words to remember as you welcome your puppy: Gentleness, Care, Patience, Consistency, Praise, and Love.**

**Your reward is a delightful companion for years to come.**