

# Instructions for New Puppy Families

Congratulations on your new addition to the family! While raising a pup to be a good citizen and family member is a daily responsibility, once you realize how your new puppy is thinking, how to communicate with it and how you can structure your environment in order to limit frustrations, the day-to-day activities of puppy raising will become simpler.

**Puppies thrive on consistency and predictability.** As soon as you get your new puppy home try to establish a consistent bathroom and sleeping schedule. The greatest reward you can give your new pup is a stress-free existence. To decrease your own frustration remember that a young puppy doesn't really develop impulse control until he or she is 6 to 8 months old.



Having a new puppy in the family can feel a little overwhelming! But the sooner you are able to establish a routine that is workable and satisfactory for you and your family the rewards and pleasures of raising a puppy are countless. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

## Meal Time

Schedule your puppy's feeding time. Place the bowl in the same spot at every feeding time and encourage your pup to sit before eating. (Believe it or not some experts believe that this small gesture also improves potty training outcomes!)

Always feed your puppy high quality puppy food to help avoid unnecessary accidents due to diarrhea. Read the dog food bag for number of recommended cups to feed your new companion. Consult with your veterinarian for guidelines on how often to feed your new puppy.

## Drinking

If you're concentrating on house-training you may want to consider controlling when and how much your puppy drinks. Always provide water with each feeding and at regular times during the day. Remember: consistency is the key to victory! After your pup eats and drinks you'll want to take the pup outside for what will soon be a successful potty experience for both puppy and new family. No matter what happens, never ever withhold water as a punishment for a bathroom accident.

## Potty Training

Remember: What goes in must come out. With a very young puppy try to relax your expectations. Force is never effective nor is rubbing the puppy's nose in the accident or physically "correcting" the puppy after a mess. It's very important to pay attention to the details with your new puppy; when was the last time your new bundle of joy peed and/or pooped? Paying attention also means observing how your new puppy behaves before he/she has to go to the bathroom. Watch for these pre-potty signs and get moving when you see them! Crate training your pup is an excellent and humane addition to potty training. Keep in mind that younger pups can only hold their business for about 2 hours initially so it is very important that someone in the family can let the new pooch out of the crate to use the designated bathroom facilities whether it's going outside, for a walk or on a potty pad.

## Sleeping

Overtired puppies (and people!) can feel almost impossible to deal with. Make sure that if there are children or other well meaning visitors playing with your new family member that time is made for your puppy to rest. Ideally, positive use of a crate is ideal for puppy naps.

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This sheet is intended for general informational purposes only and is not, and should not be considered by you as a substitute for professional training and/or medical advice. If your animal appears sick or is exhibiting unusual or aggressive behavior, please seek medical attention immediately or contact a professional trainer in your area.