



Tips for bringing home a **PUPPY**



A new furry friend can be a bundle of joy, but a canine companion comes with the responsibility of guardianship. Be certain that you or the recipient is ready for such a commitment.

Tips for the New Arrival

Before you bring home your puppy, have these supplies on hand:

A crate is an invaluable tool when housebreaking a puppy. It also provides your young dog with a sense of security when you are busy or away. However, introduce a crate gradually at first and never leave a puppy in a crate longer than 4-5 hours.

Bedding should be thick enough for comfort and sized appropriately for the breed. Be aware that some puppies that are left unattended for too long may chew their bedding.

Baby gates serve as a great training tool to block off “restricted” areas of the house and help to teach your puppy what areas are off limits.

Dog-appropriate toys, like the puppy-sized KONG products, are the smart choice. Never use old clothing or shoes as a toy; a puppy cannot differentiate between your old and newly bought items. Stick with size-appropriate toys for your breed.

Two dog bowls: one for water and one for quality food. Consult your veterinarian for food recommendations.

A well-fitted collar and lead are a must for training and safety during outdoor excursions. Avoid chain leads a soft cotton lead is a better alternative.

WaggTagg™ allows your puppy to find his way home should he roam. You may also want to microchip your puppy at your next vet visit.

Brushes and dog shampoo will eventually be needed for every breed.

An odour and stain eliminator is a cleaner you will want on hand for those inevitable toileting accidents.

A veterinarian should be researched and chosen beforehand. Introduce your new puppy early to the vet and learn what vaccinations he will need.



Tips to “Puppy Proofing” Your House and Yard

In addition to the essential supplies mentioned above, ensure your home and yard is safe for the exuberance of a new puppy.

Remove potential hazard – anything that would make an enticing chew toy – such as power cords, potted house plants, shoes and clothing and anything “bite-size” that could be ingested by a curious puppy. Outside, remove small rocks, sticks, fertilisers, gardening tools and equipment. Also, be mindful of toxic household and garage items, such as antifreeze, detergents and tobacco products.

Move anything cherished or breakable to higher ground.

Get on your hands and knees – at the puppy’s view – to look for potential problems. If you think an item could be a hazard, remove it.

Tips for the First Day Home 🍗

Your pup will be excited and anxious in his new environment. It is your job to make him feel safe and comfortable.



Be patient. Although accidents will happen, do not reprimand your puppy during the first 24-48 hours while he is acclimating to the new environment. But do praise him profusely when he does something positive.

Structure is a must. Have a planned schedule from the day your pup arrives—especially when trying to housebreak. Take your puppy outside frequently and stay with him so that you know he has toileted.

Getting acclimated will take him some time. Show your pup where he will be eating, sleeping and toileting. As your puppy adapts to his new surroundings and routine, he will feel more comfortable.

Naps are important for a puppy. Be sure to give him the space and time he needs to relax. Try not to overwhelm your puppy. He is like a new baby and will need frequent naps throughout the day.

Start training early. Dogs are pack animals and seek authority and reassurance from the pack leader. Providing this leadership is key to managing a dog's behaviour.

Tips for the First Night Home 🍗

The first night may prove to be a challenge as puppies often cry and whine throughout the night. Also, he probably will need to go out to toilet. Just as the daytime routine is important, so is the evening routine.

Use the crate and bedding at night. As difficult as it is, avoid letting your pup sleep with you or any other family member. It could lead to behaviour problems down the road.

Your puppy's sleeping arrangements should be in a central location in the house. If you let your puppy sleep in your room, you may have trouble catching any shut-eye.

Tough love should be your motto. Usually, a pup takes a few nights to feel safe at night. Take him out to toilet every 4-5 hours. Other than that, he will need to get used to sleeping on his own.

If your puppy still has trouble sleeping at night, hide a ticking clock in his bed. The sound imitates the heartbeat of the mother and can sometimes soothe an anxious puppy. To simulate the warmth of his littermates, place a warm water bottle or oversized stuffed toy in his crate for added comfort.



Tips for the Future 🍗



Picking a trainer can be a daunting task. Consult your veterinarian or visit www.BarkBusters.co.nz for the best training options for you and your growing puppy.

Keeping your puppy healthy starts with a visit to a veterinarian. Usually, a yearly exam and the vet-recommended vaccinations will keep your puppy in tip-top shape.

Exercise your puppy regularly. A walk in the neighbourhood or a trip to the park is good for mind and body and for both you and your dog. Be careful not to overdo it with young pups.

Be consistent. Puppies learn through experience and association. The more consistent you are, the faster your puppy will learn and the better he will perform.

