



Bringing Your New Puppy Home

- Choose a quiet, calm time to bring your new puppy home. Avoid having lots of visitors within the first few days, allowing your puppy time to settle in.
- Within a few days of collecting your puppy, it is advisable to have a health check done by one of our friendly Vets. During this appointment, you will get a chance to discuss any concerns including how to care for your pet.
- Be prepared – have a puppy crate/safe space prepared for the puppy. This should not be used as a punishment, but a “chill out” space. Somewhere the puppy can feel safe and secure. Feed your puppy in this area initially to create a positive association. It is important that this area is large enough for a bed and a separate toileting area. Puppy training pads are recommended rather than newspaper. Using a crate/safe area, allows older dogs to smell and see the puppy whilst minimising the risk of injury. NEVER leave older dogs and a young puppy alone, until they have established a good relationship.
- Young children should NEVER be left alone with a puppy or dog. Under supervision, allow children to handle the puppy but remember they are not a toy and need time to rest. 45% of people who get bitten are minors.
- Train your puppy using a reward-based system. A dog has approximately 1 second of association time – this means you need to reward good or distract from bad behaviour within this time. Dogs communicate through sound, posture and eye contact – not words. Be consistent, clear and simplistic in your cues. Animals learn by reward and not punishment. Reward the good, ignore/redirect the bad.
- Young dogs will look for their place in the family upon arrival. Ensure humans initiate games and attention. It is good practice to acknowledge humans before dogs when greeting. Avoid rough and tumble games. Fetch games are encouraged, initiated by humans – use a reward system – exchange the toy for a treat. Children should be included in these games, but NEVER unsupervised.
- Leave your puppy in a safe, secure area/crate for very short periods of time, gradually increasing. You must give the puppy a toy or something safe to chew during this time; make it a pleasant experience.
- Regularly groom your puppy, ensuring to handle the feet and look in the mouth. Getting the puppy used to these procedures makes vet examinations and grooming much less stressful later on.
- Ensure older dogs are not left out – slow controlled interactions are encouraged. The older dog should receive as much, if not more attention than the puppy to avoid rivalry.

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- Cats and dogs can get along together, but this shouldn't be forced. Allow them to smell each other through a closed door, progressing to a baby gate before being in the same room completely. Sometimes cats and dogs just simply won't tolerate each other, this needs to be respected and never forced – this will only result in injury to the animals or you.



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