

*Full of advice  
on caring for  
your pet*

## *Your guide to* **Puppies**



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# Are you ready?

Committing to a puppy is exciting but also a huge responsibility. The average life span of a dog is around 14 years.

Owning a puppy can be a very rewarding experience. With their energetic personalities and loyal and committed natures, a puppy really will become an important member of the family and a lifelong friend. However, it is important



**Puppies require a lot of time and attention**

to remember all the responsibilities that come with owning a puppy and the amount of care they will require throughout their life.

Once you are certain that you and your family can provide a loving, long lasting home for your puppy, you must consider the following

## Are you really ready for a puppy?

**Have you done your homework?** Have you researched all breeds and found a reputable breeder that you trust? If you buy a pedigree puppy then you should receive kennel club registration papers.

**Can you afford a puppy?** You must take into account the cost of food per month, toys, accessories and bedding. On top of that you have flea and worm controls, grooming, kennel and day care requirements, vet bills and pet insurance.

**Do you have the time to spend with and exercise your puppy?** It is not advisable to leave your puppy for more than four hours at a time as this can result in separation anxiety and bad behaviour. Regular walks and exercise are an essential part of your puppy's development.



## Selecting your puppy

**Pedigree or cross breeds?** The Kennel Club recognises over 188 pedigree breeds, which does not take into account the variety of cross-breeds available. Consider the sizes, grooming requirements, how energetic they are and their temperament and personality.

**Male or Female?** Female dogs come into season up to 3 times a year. In this time they must be separated from males to ensure any unwanted pregnancies. Male dogs can become irritated if they are separated from females during their season.

**Spay or neuter?** To avoid unwanted pregnancies, it is advisable to have your pet sterilised. This will not have negative effects for your puppy and will not tamper with their personality, behaviour or weight. It has been known to decrease aggression, roaming and increase concentration.

**Adoption?** Unfortunately, there are a large number of dogs in need of loving and caring families for life. You should consider adopting a puppy or an adult dog from an animal rehome centre providing a new loving home for a rescue puppy is very rewarding.

**Vaccinations?** All puppies from the age of 8 weeks old should be vaccinated against Hepatitis, Distemper, Leptospirosis and Parovirus.

**Training** - Your puppy can attend training lessons usually after their first vaccinations. Puppies should be trained by rewarding good behaviour, not punishing unwanted behaviour.

## Before collecting your puppy

**When can I take my puppy home?** Puppies should be at least 8 weeks old, fully weaned and eating from their own dish before being taken home.

**How should my puppy look?** They should be active and bright eyed. They should have healthy looking skin, a glossy coat, clean ears, mouth and nose and should not possess any unusual odours.

**Should my puppy have been vaccinated?** Ensure that your puppy has been examined for worms and that it has received at least one vaccination before being taken home.

## At home with your puppy

You are finally ready to take your puppy home.

**Settling your puppy into their new home** - Puppies need lots of rest, so when you get him home, let him rest when he wants to, but don't leave him on his own for long periods of time.

**Sleeping arrangements** - With a new puppy it is vital to establish a specific sleeping area for them so that they can settle into a routine and recognise their area as a safe place. An indoor crate can be used as a sleeping area and is also a useful training aid for your puppy.

**Vaccinations  
need to be kept  
up to date**

**Toilet Training** - You will find that your puppy will learn fast, but you must be consistent in training in order to get the best results. Take your puppy outside first thing in the morning, after meals, bedtime and during the night, wait until he has done his business and then praise him so that he understands what you expect of him.



**Exercising your puppy** - It is important to ensure that your puppy has been fully inoculated before you can start taking them for walks. Start off with short walks, slowly building up the distance, as your puppy grows older.

**Toys, chews and playtime** - Dogs of all ages love to play with toys and chew on things. Provide your puppy with a variety of dog toys designed specifically for chewing which will keep them entertained for hours.

## **Diet**

### **How often should I feed my puppy?**

To start off with your puppy will need four meals a day but this will be reduced to three times a day at 12 weeks old and at six months your puppy can enjoy two meals a day for the rest of their life.

**What should I feed my puppy?** It is important to provide a highly nutritional healthy diet so that your puppy can grow and develop into a healthy and active adult.

**How much food should I feed my puppy?** Follow the guidelines on the petfood packet. It is important not to overfeed your dog as this can lead to obesity. Obesity in dogs will cause serious health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and arthritis.



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**Can I give my puppy treats?** Treats are a good way to train your dog by rewarding them for good behaviour. Offer treats in moderation, as they are high in calories, which will turn into fat if your dog does not receive enough exercise. Never use human food treats for your puppy as they can contain harmful ingredients.

**Water** - Your puppy should have access to fresh clean water at all times.

## Health

**How important are vaccinations?** Vaccinations will protect your puppy against many diseases that can in the most extreme cases cause fatality if not treated. Your puppy should receive their first vaccination at the age of 8 weeks followed by numerous booster vaccinations throughout their life.

**Fleas and worming** - Your puppy should be treated for fleas and worms on a regular basis. Effective treatment can be bought at your local Jollyes - please ask an assistant for advice. At six months old, you should treat your puppy for roundworm and tapeworm, and then every 3 months for the rest of their life.

**Signs of fleas** - If your puppy has fleas it can cause itching, chewing and licking. The skin can become irritated and inflamed. If your puppy has these symptoms it is important to act straight away. Consult your local vet if you are unsure.

**Signs of illness** - Illnesses to watch out for include sickness or diarrhoea, weight loss, lack of appetite, not drinking, little energy, sleepy, skin conditions, swellings, limping and signs of pain. If you think your puppy has any unusual symptoms then seek advice of your local vet as soon as possible.

**Microchipping** - In order to increase the chance of your puppy being reunited with you if lost then Jollyes recommend that you get them microchipped.

**Puppies need lots of toys to stop them getting bored**



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# Shopping Checklist

We recommend the following items for your new puppy.

## Puppy Checklist

- Bed/basket
- Food and water bowls
- Suitable Puppy food
- Grooming brush, comb and nail clippers
- Worm and flea treatments
- Toys and chews
- Collar/harness and lead
- Identification tag / disc
- Toilet training aids
- A puppy crate
- A car crate, car divider or car harness
- Puppy care book

It is now time to enjoy your puppy and watch him grow into an important member of the family.

## For further information contact:

Jollyes Petfood Superstores  
1 Lea Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1AS

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