

Exercise

A puppy is a natural exerciser. Everything he does is "in a hurry." As he matures, he'll require more supervised exercise such as walks, ball and stick fetching. A lot depends on his size. If in doubt, check with your pet store or veterinarian. If his exercise area will be a fenced yard, make certain there are no holes in the fence and that the gate is securely locked. Check the fence line frequently for any signs that your puppy is trying to dig his way out. And, if your trash and garbage are placed in back yard containers, make sure your puppy is kept inside on pick-up days. Also re-check the gate following trash pick-up. One slip up could mean a lost puppy.

Alternatives to a completely fenced yard include a staked tie-out or a trolley line. Many commercial versions are easy to use and are available at your pet shop.

Spay/neuter and Shots

An increasing problem in the U.S. is an overpopulation of dogs and cats. Unless you are a serious breeder of specific breeds, it would be wise to have your puppy spayed or neutered at the appropriate age (about six months). This service can be provided by your veterinarian.

When you bought your puppy at the pet shop, it had already been started on an immunization program. A check with your veterinarian is recommended as soon as possible to set a schedule for further inoculations, heartworm testing/treatment and other needs.

Remember that your puppy is fragile. Treat him gently and avoid dropping, pulling or hitting him. When you pick him up, place one hand under his rump and the other around his middle.

Above all, ENJOY YOUR PUPPY!

This informational pamphlet is not a substitute for a good book. Visit your pet store for a wide selection of books on the care and maintenance of your puppy.

MY PUPPY

Puppy's Name: _____

AKC#: _____

Date: _____

Veterinarian: _____

Phone: _____

Ver Checks	Date	Care Prescribed
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Spayed/Neutered: _____
Date _____

Shots:	Type	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Food:
Type: _____
Frequency: _____

Owner:
Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Purchased from: _____



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TAKING CARE OF YOUR PUPPY



PET INFORMATION BUREAU

"WE CARE ABOUT PET CARE"™

“WE CARE ABOUT PET CARE”™ and we know you do, too!

That’s why we’re including this care and handling brochure with your new puppy. This guide will answer many of your questions and will help you to take good care of your puppy. Sometimes you will have to consult your local veterinarian on animal health problems. You, your veterinarian and your pet store form the team which will be responsible for your puppy’s well-being during its lifetime. You already know your pet store. Now, for your puppy’s continued good health, get to know your veterinarian.

As far as basic puppy care goes, you can become good at it very quickly. Here are the major ingredients:

Love!

This one bit of magic can overcome many obstacles. Your puppy will love you for life as long as you are gentle and considerate. If you are rough and uncaring, your pet will be the same.

Collar and ID

Since puppies are naturally curious, they tend to wander and sometimes become lost. While you are still in the pet store where you bought your pet, buy him or her a collar and affix a permanent identification tag to it complete with your name, address and phone number. (And whenever you take your pup on a trip, add a temporary tag with your vacation address on it.) Check with your local government about dog license requirements.

Leash Laws

Most urban and suburban jurisdictions require that dogs and puppies be kept on leashes when they are walked on property other than their own. You’ll need a leash which is strong enough to hold your puppy if he bolts after another dog or a squirrel, but not so heavy that he has a difficult time holding his head up. Your pet store carries a wide selection of leashes and will be glad to help you fit a leash to your puppy’s needs.

Bed

Puppy beds can range from those available at your pet shop to simple, home-made types. Whatever you do, make sure the puppy’s bed keeps him off the floor to avoid drafts. Place the bed in a corner that is reserved strictly for the puppy. He needs his space just as you need yours. And he will need lots of sleep. A puppy is a lot like a baby—very active while he is awake, but tires quickly and must have the opportunity to nap. Often a pup will fall asleep right where he is playing. This is fine, but to keep him from being accidentally stepped on, encourage him to use his bed.

Food

Young puppies should be fed three times a day until they are six months old; and then twice a day until they are fully grown. Feed them only what they can consume in five to ten minutes. Most adult dogs need only be fed once a day. Pick a time that is convenient for both you and the dog—and then stick to it! Discard uneaten food and keep his dish clean. Avoid letting your puppy beg at the table for scraps. This will form a lifelong habit and possibly cause him to become overweight in later life. Your pet shop also carries a variety of snacks and treats your puppy will enjoy. But don’t overdo!

Water

It is absolutely essential that your puppy have access to water at all times. Maintain a bowl of water in the same location as his feeding bowl and freshen it frequently. Use supplemental bowls as necessary. Your pet shop carries a wide selection of food and water dishes.

Housebreaking

Housebreaking is easy if you follow a few common sense rules. Introduce your puppy to its new outdoor environment as well as its indoor surroundings. Whenever he wakes up, and after every meal, take him into the yard (well fenced and secure) and encourage him to eliminate. This will take patience on your part. Praise him when he has finished. Patience is again required when he makes mistakes in the house. When this happens,

simply let him out and encourage his use of the outdoors. Don’t resort to hitting him (ever) or rubbing his nose in his mistake. These tactics are rarely effective and often rob the puppy of character and spirit. Newspapers on the floor help with a quick cleanup.

Grooming

Use a soft brush to gently groom your puppy. Brushing removes loose hair and dirt. As your puppy gets older you’ll notice whether he sheds his coat. You can help him shed by brushing him regularly. Some long haired dogs need to be brushed every day. Ask your pet shop about shampoos and use them only as recommended.

Toys

These are very necessary for puppies as it encourages them to play with things which are for them alone. Toys also help keep the puppy from chewing on household items such as carpets, shoes, slippers and furniture.

Control

A key to long term happy puppy ownership is to remember that you must maintain control of your pet at all times. Control involves the physical restraint of the puppy, particularly as he grows into a full size dog. It also requires training on your part to help him mature in temperament and conduct. You and the puppy will gain lifelong respect for each other if you train him properly.

Etiquette

If your puppy happens to soil a neighbor’s yard or walk, make sure you clean it up. Your pet shop carries a wide selection of scoops and shovels—also feces disposers for use in your backyard.

Barking

Make sure that your puppy does not become a neighborhood nuisance. What may be music to your ears may be offensive to your neighbors. Out of consideration for them, train your puppy to bark reasonably (to come in, for food, water or to warn of intruders, etc.). Discipline is as healthy for animals as it is for humans.