

# Congratulations on Your New Puppy!

## Help Your Puppy Feel at Home

Provide your puppy with somewhere warm and quiet to sleep. They will probably be quite overwhelmed at first, so you may need to give them some quiet time alone, to get used to their sleeping spot.

## Puppy Nutrition is Important

Good nutrition enables your puppy to grow into a healthy dog. Puppies are typically high energy, but have only small stomachs, and require more frequent feeding: often three feeds a day until 3 months old; then two feeds a day until 6 months old. There is no firm rule regarding when to reduce the number of feeds per day, so consult with your veterinarian. A good quality puppy dry food is important, and should make up the majority of your dog's diet. Good quality pet foods are available from your veterinarian or pet barn. For large breed dogs, it is particularly important to choose a puppy food appropriate for the breed. A puppy food with the right balance of vitamins and minerals for bone growth, gives them the best chance of avoiding joint disease later in life.

## Start Training Right Away

Training is most effective if it involves positive reinforcement and is undertaken consistently. Toilet training is one of the first lessons. Encourage success by being mindful of when your puppy needs to go to the toilet; take them to the area where you wish them to eliminate, after every sleep, playtime or meal. Praise them profusely when they go, and even give treats to reinforce the behaviour. To train the puppy to eliminate on command, say a word such as 'toilet' or 'quick quick' when your puppy eliminates in front of you in the correct place. If your puppy has an accident, clean thoroughly to remove any scent, and ensure your puppy has every opportunity to go in the correct place.

## Worming

Puppies need intestinal worming every two weeks until 12 weeks; then monthly worming until 6 months old.

## Handling Your Puppy

A dog's torso and bottom should be supported when being lifted, so that it feels secure. Children must be taught that animals are not toys, and it is unsafe—for both dog and child—for a young child to be left unsupervised with a dog. To help your pet prepare for grooming and medical examinations, endeavour to touch all parts of your puppy from an early age, including opening the mouth, and touching the ears, legs, tail, and between the toes.

## Toys and Playtime

It is important your puppy has toys that are safe for play. If your pooch has many toys, it's a good idea to select a few, setting out different toys each day, to prevent boredom. Playing with your puppy and his toys is a great way to positively reinforce playing with toys, and help avoid destruction of your furniture, garden, or shoes.

If you have any further questions about caring for your new puppy, please discuss them with your veterinarian.