

## Caring For Your Healthy Puppy

When you get a puppy, it's a lot like having a new child. It is your responsibility to take care of it, protect it, and make sure it stays out of harm's way. And just like a child, puppies and their immune systems are subject to plenty of diseases that we can help prevent by taking the right steps when we first bring our new puppies home.

### **Hints on giving your dog a great start in life**

1. Have a strategic **housetraining** plan for your puppy and be consistent. It will make a great deal of difference in the future if you do it correctly in the beginning.

When to take your puppy out?

- ✗ After waking up, even from a nap
- ✗ After extreme excitement
- ✗ After drinking water
- ✗ After prolonged chewing on a toy
- ✗ If he starts sniffing around the house for a good spot

- ✓ The rule of thumb on how long your puppy can hold it is: Starting at the age of three months, take the number of months times 1 for the number of hours your dog can hold it.
  - It is critical to understand that you **cannot expect a puppy to go a whole 8 hours** in a crate while you are at work and not make an accident. As an owner of a new puppy you need to find a way to stop at home twice during the day. If need be, look into hiring a dog walker.

2. What kind of **food** should I feed? Your puppy needs to be on puppy food until he is at least nine months but not past twelve months of age.
- a. Recommended is Purina Pro Plan Focus Lamb and Rice Dry Puppy (non-shredded)
  - b. For very young puppies who have difficulty eating dry kibbles, you can soak the kibbles in water for 10 to 15 minutes until soggy
  - c. Bowls that fit your pup's smaller mouth. Plastic is not recommended as it holds in bacteria.

### **Feeding Schedule**

- ✓ 6 to 16 weeks - 4 times a day
- ✓ 17 weeks to 9 months - 3 times a day
- ✓ older than 9 months - 2 times a day (at this point you can also move up to adult formula) Never just feed your dog once a day. 2 times a day may not even be enough due to activity level

3. Young puppies **sleep** A LOT! Remember, they're just like babies, they'll need to eat, play, potty and SLEEP (but definitely not in that order).

4. **Grooming** is necessary for all dogs of all ages

- ✓ Start a regular ear-cleaning program. Don't wait until his ears are so dirty that infections can take hold. Wipe out often with cotton ball.
- ✓ If you get your pup used to having his nails trimmed as a little tyke, you'll have a much easier time of it later on when he's stronger and more agile.
- ✓ A bath once every four weeks is plenty and this will also help in not drying out his skin. Of course should you go to a park, or he needs to be cleaned up from an accident, that warrants a bath as well.

5. Start a complete **preventive healthcare** plan for your pup. This includes regular [vaccinations](#), annual veterinary visits, and [flea and tick prevention](#). A regular heartworm preventive will protect your pet against heartworm even during their puppy years.
6. Appropriately-sized chew **toys**.
  - ✓ Remember that your puppy will be teething up to the age of seven months.
  - ✓ [Plush toys or a soft, squeaky toy](#) for your pup to cuddle with to remind him of his littermates
  - ✓ [Rubber toys](#) with holes to fill with treats to keep pup occupied or to chew on
7. Training **treats** to use as a quick "good dog!" reward
  - ✓ You do not want to over do it either. So if need be, take a treat and break it up into small pieces. It is not the size that matters in this case.
8. Managing off-limit **chewing** areas such as the legs of furniture, or other precious and/or dangerous objects
  - ✓ Find a way to deter your puppy from these areas. Items that work are:
    - Water bottles
    - Replacing the “off-limits” item with a chew toy and removing the dog from the area
    - A firm ‘No’ and a tap on the nose
9. [Puppy Crate](#) for housetraining your new pup
  - ✓ Your puppy needs to graduate to a soft queen size bed. Start with a small hand towel in the crate. As time goes on and your puppy is able to go days without an accident in the crate, you can graduate him to a bath towel, then a baby blanket, then up to a dog bed.

It is important that your puppy be crated when you are not home for his own safety

#### 10. Additional supplies recommended:

- ✓ Collar and leash – recommend a nylon leash to start with and a harness. Harnesses are great, especially when on a walk, as they do not place pressure to the neck
- ✓ Cleaning supplies – Spot shot, white vinegar, OxyClean are all great supplies

10. Don't forget **patience, love and kindness** when you deal with your puppy. This is probably the single most important thing you can do to begin a great relationship with your future adult dog.

## Safety

Do NOT place your puppy on **public ground** til the age of 5 months as you puppy has no immune system to fight off diseases, parasites, and bacteria. Adult dogs can be a carrier and not display any symptoms. This includes dog parks, pet stores, and neighborhood sidewalks.

Protect your puppy from **falls** by limiting access to steep, open-step stair cases. Also, supervise small children when playing with your puppy as they may accidentally drop or fall on the puppy causing injuries.

Be **watchful** of your puppy when she is outside in the yard. Puppies can easily escape from small gaps in your fence that you weren't aware even existed.

Puppies are very cute and just the right size for **children** however a short fall from their arms can result in broken bones or even death. Make sure that children are not carrying the puppy around but sitting when wanting to hold the puppy.

## **Puppy Medical Care**

Little puppies have a certain amount of natural immunity that they get from their mothers milk, but that wears off somewhere between 5 and 8 weeks of age.

After that they are at serious risk of contracting serious, and often potentially fatal, canine disease such as [Parvo](#).

Below is the recommended medical care your puppy should receive

- |                                                       |                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ 6 weeks dewormed for the first time                 | date completed/needed: _____ |
| ➤ 8 weeks DHLPP + Corona9 (First puppy shot)          | date completed/needed: _____ |
| ➤ 9 weeks dewormed for the last time                  | date completed/needed: _____ |
| ➤ 11 weeks DHLPP + Corona (Second set of puppy shots) | date completed/needed: _____ |
| ➤ 11 weeks microchipped                               |                              |
| ➤ 14 weeks DHLPP + Corona1 (Third/Last puppy shots)   | date completed/needed: _____ |
| ➤ 6 months – Rabies (1 yr shot) and spay/neuter       | date completed/needed: _____ |
| ➤ 6 months – start on heartworm preventative          | date completed/needed: _____ |
| ➤ 1 year – Heartworm tested                           | date completed/needed: _____ |

\*The items that have no date indicated are to be completed and are the responsibility of the new owner as documented on the adoption contract.

Once your little one has had her three sets of combination vaccinations plus the Rabies shot he will need to have them repeated on an annual basis.

Any questions, concerns or need for validation please contact MidAmerica Boston Terrier Rescue any time.  
Contact person is Jennifer Misfeldt at 402-510-1346 or [luckypawpals@aol.com](mailto:luckypawpals@aol.com).

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