



Puppy How-To Guide

NUTRITION AND HEALTH CARE FROM A TO Z



Your Pet, Our Passion.®

FOR A GREAT START CHOOSE PURINA!



This book is not intended as a substitute for professional veterinary medical care, but it should provide you with valuable information about your dog at any life stage.

For more information about pet food and pet care, visit www.purina.com

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Welcome to Puppyhood

Everything your puppy is to become starts now, in puppyhood. Knowing a few basic facts about pet behavior and care will help you establish a good relationship that will last a lifetime.

Starting on day one, take some time to learn about caring for your new pet and how to make your home safe for him. Give him excellent nutrition, veterinary care and training to help your puppy grow up to be a healthy, happy dog and a faithful companion.

Nutrition by Purina

Because you wouldn't trust your puppy to just anybody.

Purina is proud of its reputation for unsurpassed quality and nutrition. We have more experience developing quality, nutritious pet foods than any company in the world.

The right food at the right time.

Because different pets have different needs, Purina makes a variety of delicious, nutritious foods and treats, including special diets prescribed by veterinarians. Whatever his needs, you'll find a Purina® food that's right for you and your dog.

At Purina, quality is a top priority.

Purina meets or exceeds the industry standards for manufacturing all of its pet foods, including those established by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) for nutritional adequacy.



Welcome Home

Puppy-Proofing Your Home

Puppies are like babies—they're lively, they're curious and they teethe. This can lead them into serious trouble unless you take preventative measures.

It's practically impossible to completely puppy-proof your home against accidents, but for your puppy's safety, here are some suggestions:

- Confine your puppy to a safe area inside and keep doors and windows closed and/or screened securely.
- Don't leave a new puppy unsupervised inside or outside.
- Keep your puppy off balconies, upper porches and high decks.
- Keep toilet lids closed. Puppies may play in or drink the water. They could be hurt by a falling lid. Toilet bowl cleansers are harmful if swallowed.
- Keep electrical cords out of puppy's confinement area.
- Conduct a "puppy check" before leaving home to make sure he hasn't been accidentally locked in a room or unsafe area.
- For safety's sake, keep plastic bags away from your puppy. And that goes for plastic six-pack beverage holders, too. Small puppies can get tangled in them, so cut them apart to prevent potential trouble.
- Make sure your puppy does not have access to cleaning supplies, paint and paint thinner, fertilizer, disinfectants, mothballs, insect and rodent poisons, antifreeze, medications (prescription or over-the-counter), sewing supplies (ribbons, pins, buttons, beads, balls of yarn or thread), and hardware (nails, screws, paper clips, etc.).
- Remove poisonous houseplants. Remember to pick up plant leaves that drop onto your floor.

For a list of many common houseplants that are poisonous to dogs, visit www.purina.com under dog care/safety.



Let's Go Shopping!

Here are the basics you should have on hand when you bring your puppy home for the first time:

CRATE—This is one of the most important items to purchase for your puppy. The crate will be his “den”—his special place to sleep, stay and go to feel safe. It can be constructed of wire or plastic, and should be large enough for your puppy to stand up, turn around and lie down in comfortably, but not so large that your puppy will soil one end and sleep at the other.

If your puppy is a large breed, you might want to purchase an adjustable crate to allow for his rapid growth or purchase two or three crates in increasing sizes. The crate should have adequate ventilation, but openings should be small enough so your puppy cannot get his head or paws stuck.

Give your puppy a safe chew toy while he's crated. No food or water should be left in his crate because after eating or drinking, he'll need to relieve himself and he'll have no other choice but to soil his crate. And for your puppy's safety, be sure to remove his collar while he's crated.

The place where you locate the crate should be easy to clean and draft-free. Put the crate near or in the family hub of activity—such as the family room or in the kitchen—so your puppy will feel like he is part of the family. Once you've chosen this comfortable location for your puppy's “home,” it should become the crate's permanent location.

To introduce your puppy to his crate, place a kibble of puppy food in the crate and gently push

him inside as you give him the command, “Kennel.” Close the door briefly. Once he is calm, praise him. Then let your puppy out of the crate. Repeat this for longer periods of time, always praising him for going inside. Your puppy should nap in his crate and sleep there overnight from the beginning. If you cannot crate your puppy, the use of an exercise pen is recommended.

The key to successful use of the crate is to always use it in a positive manner—never as punishment. When you are too busy to supervise your dog, or when you have to be away, place your dog in the crate with the proper chew toy. (Always be sure you give him an opportunity to eliminate before you crate him.)

COLLAR AND LEASH—Your puppy's first collar and leash should be made of lightweight nylon or leather. Measure his neck and add two inches.

TRAINING COLLAR—Ask your veterinarian for recommendations and advice about proper use.

IDENTIFICATION TAG—Your puppy's name, your name, address and telephone number (with area code) should be permanently attached to the collar. Another option is a microchip, which is injected under the skin. It contains your contact information and can be scanned at most clinics and rescue facilities should your dog become lost. Ask your veterinarian about this option.

FOOD AND WATER BOWLS—Twin stainless steel bowls are ideal. Wash them daily.

GROOMING TOOLS—These will vary, depending on your puppy's breed and haircoat. See recommendations on pages 28 and 29.

TOYS—Never underestimate the importance of toys because they encourage exercise and provide a safe way to satisfy your puppy's need to chew. Choose toys that cannot be splintered, torn apart or swallowed. Don't let your puppy play with your old shoes or clothing. To a puppy, this signals that all shoes and clothes are fair game.

Welcome to the Family, Little One.

As you prepare to introduce your new puppy to the family, take a moment to think about it from your puppy's perspective. One minute, he's surrounded by his mother and siblings. The next, he's in an unfamiliar environment surrounded by strangers. Needless to say, your puppy is relying on you for direction, comfort and protection.

Most children love puppies and vice versa, but it's important to teach children that your puppy is a sensitive, living creature. Introduce your puppy to your children gradually, during short periods of time. Children must learn not to pull puppy's tail or ears, squeeze or poke him, make loud, threatening noises or rush toward him too rapidly.

Show all family members the proper way to pick up and hold your puppy: one hand under the hindquarters and the other under his chest. Never pick up a puppy by his front paws or the scruff of his neck.



There's a new kid in town. Introducing your puppy to other pets:

Use care, as these first moments will set the tone for the relationship. When an older dog meets a puppy, it is advisable to have both pets on leashes. Allow them to gradually approach and sniff one another. Do not leave them alone together until you are confident that they are friends.

Whether your other pet is a cat or a dog, make a point of showering your older pet with love and affection so that she will not be jealous of the puppy. Let them get acquainted at their own pace.

DID YOU KNOW?

Here's an important tip to keep in mind if you're introducing a new baby to the household. To a puppy, an infant is a totally different creature than a child or adult. It doesn't look, smell or sound like an adult. Introduce them to one another very, very gradually. Don't leave puppies and babies alone together unattended.



Puppy Training

Yes, you can teach a new dog old tricks.

There are a few simple rules to follow in training your puppy:

- Be firm, but gentle.
- Be consistent. All family members should have the puppy follow the same rules.
- Follow through with each command.
- Never hit your puppy for disobeying.
- Always reward your puppy for good behavior with plenty of praise and positive reinforcement or with a small kibble of puppy food.

Behavior training. It's for his own good.

Your puppy must learn to respond to his name and come when he is called. Use his name often and make "Come!" the first spoken command your puppy learns, always followed by praise. In this way, he will learn to associate positive experiences with this command.

Always supervise your puppy when he is outdoors. He should be walked on a leash or contained in a fenced area.

Proper house-training is no accident.

When it comes to house-training, the key word is consistency.

1. PROPER DIET AND SCHEDULING

- You must be consistent in both food and water and time of feeding. By feeding your puppy at the same times each day, you can train his sensitive digestive system to become more predictable.
- He will need to eliminate shortly after each meal.
- During initial house-training, remove water 2 to 3 hours before bed.

2. HOUSE-TRAINING COMMAND

- After meals, take your puppy to the same spot each time.
- Stay with him and encourage him by using your happy voice with words such as "potty time" or "hurry" so that he will associate these words with relieving himself.
- Reward him with calm praise. Tell him "good puppy," then bring him inside immediately. Do not extend this period into an outdoor play session or your puppy will confuse the purpose of the visit.
- Your puppy may also need to eliminate at other times:
 - When he wakes in the morning and after naps
 - After he finishes playing
 - After he drinks water
 - Just before bedtime
- Use the same door each time. He will eventually learn to scratch or sniff the door to tell you that he needs to eliminate.

3. SUPERVISION

- First thing each morning, take him from his crate (or lead him on his leash) to his elimination spot. Praise him when he's finished.
- During house-training, he should not be allowed to have the run of the house unless you are there to watch him. When you are away, confine him to his crate or a room that is easily cleaned (laundry room, bathroom or kitchen).
- Do not confine a puppy to his crate for long periods. He does not have mature bowel and bladder control yet. To determine the number of hours he can be confined comfortably without eliminating, a good rule of thumb is to take his age in months, then add one.
- Your puppy's sense of smell is more acute than yours. If he has a mishap in the house and the odor is not completely eliminated, he will return to the same spot later. Conventional cleaners will not do the job, but pet stores carry special pet odor neutralizers that are highly effective.

How to keep normal behavior from becoming problem behavior:

CHEWING—Puppies chew for three reasons: teething, boredom or stress. To keep normal chewing behavior from becoming a problem:

- Offer plenty of safe chew toys to reduce boredom and soothe gums. Otherwise, he will chew whatever he finds.
- If you leave, confine puppy to his crate so he will not get into chewing trouble.
- If you catch your puppy chewing something that is off limits, say “No!” or “Ahhh!” and quickly replace it with a safe chew toy. Praise him when he chews the toy.

PLAY—Never underestimate the importance of daily exercise and regular playtimes. Normal playtime:

- Helps develop your puppy's social skills.
- Provides exercise.

- Strengthens the bond between you.
- Play also provides a constructive release for your puppy's pent-up energy and can go a long way in eliminating problem behaviors caused by boredom or stress.

The key is not to let play become too aggressive. Tug-of-war, jumping up, growling, nipping, etc. should be discouraged as it can lead to unsocial behavior.

SOCIALIZATION—Having your pet interact with other people while he is young teaches him to get along well with others and enables him to adapt to new situations more easily.

- Reassure your puppy that people are friendly and encourage him to greet them appropriately.
- Introduce your puppy to different environments.
- Take him for walks, rides in the car and on family outings.



Feeding 101

Why puppies need special nutrition.

Imagine growing from infancy to adulthood in a single year. Puppies aren't just small dogs. They have special needs during that crucial first year or two of rapid growth.

- During the first year of growth for most breeds—and up to two years for large breed puppies—your maturing pet will need the best possible nutrition to promote:
 - Strong bones and teeth
 - Proper development of body functions, strong muscles, good vision and a thick, lustrous hair coat.
- Your puppy will do best on a food that is specially formulated for the growth of puppies.
- Some puppy owners may choose to feed specially formulated large breed puppy foods to puppies that will weigh 50 pounds or more in adulthood.

Where, when and how to feed:

- Check the puppy food package for the amount of food recommended for various age levels and breeds, then adjust so that your puppy does not become overweight.
- Bringing a puppy home can be stressful and cause digestive problems. Making an abrupt change in a puppy's food can cause digestive problems, too.
 - Anytime you change your puppy's food, do so gradually over a 7- to 10-day period.
 - Mix the old and new foods, gradually increasing the ratio of new food.
- Even if your puppy's food is moistened, you must make fresh water available at all times.
- Clean food and water dishes daily.
- Place dishes away from foot traffic and noise.

What NOT to feed your puppy:

- Table scraps can create a finicky eater. Since they're high in calories, they can cause obesity.
- Feeding puppy from the table can lead to behavior problems.
- Bones can splinter and lodge in his throat or pierce his stomach or intestines.
- Cat foods are not intended for puppies.
- Between-meal snacks are unnecessary. During obedience training, offer a kibble of puppy food as a reward.
- Some foods, like chocolate, can be toxic to your puppy, even in small amounts.

Happy Birthday! Making the switch to adult dog food.

You can usually switch your puppy to adult food after his first birthday. But if you have a large breed puppy, talk to your veterinarian. Some large breed dogs aren't fully mature until their second birthday. These puppies can continue to eat their specially formulated large breed puppy food until age two.



DID YOU KNOW?

A dog's body uses water for virtually every bodily function. That's why it's important to make fresh drinking water available in a clean bowl at all times.



Keeping Your Dog Healthy

When you get a puppy, it's important to establish a relationship with a veterinarian right away. Regular visits should begin immediately.

- During your puppy's routine examinations, your veterinarian will:
 - Listen to his chest for heart and breath sounds.
 - Feel his abdomen.
 - Check the coat condition.
 - Inspect the eyes, ears and mouth.
 - Perform a dental checkup.
 - May examine the feces for worms and parasites (you may be asked to bring a stool sample).
- Because diseases are easily transmitted between pets, it's important to follow your veterinarian's recommended vaccination schedule. This is usually determined at the initial visit.
- Your puppy should have an annual medical exam.
- If your veterinary clinic is not open for emergencies, ask for a recommendation for nearby care that is available 24/7. Familiarize yourself with the location in advance (you don't want to go searching for this information in the middle of a crisis). Keep the phone number and directions on file in case of emergency. Make sure everyone in the family is familiar with the information.

Neutering: It's the right thing to do.

Neutering is a generic term which refers to the sterilization of male or female dogs. Unless you have a purebred for breeding purposes, neutering is recommended. Millions of dogs are euthanized each year because there are not enough homes for all of the unwanted pets. There are other positive reasons for neutering. A neutered dog:

- Is easier to train.
- Is less concerned with marking his territory with urine (indoors and out).
- Has less desire to run away or roam in search of a mate.
- Makes a calmer, gentler pet.
- Avoids certain health risks, such as pyometra, a life-threatening infection in females.
- Is at lower risk of breast cancer in females and prostate problems in males.

Parasites

Parasites are organisms that can live in or on another living thing. Parasite checks must be conducted early and often, since parasites can be transmitted to puppies from their mothers. If left unchecked, parasites can make life miserable for you and your puppy.

Internal Parasites, including worms

Internal parasites usually live in a puppy's digestive system and are detected by an examination of the puppy's stool. Treatment for worms and parasites—including roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, coccidia and heartworms—can begin at two weeks of age and repeated every two or three weeks as determined by your veterinarian. Talk to your veterinarian about the early signs and symptoms.

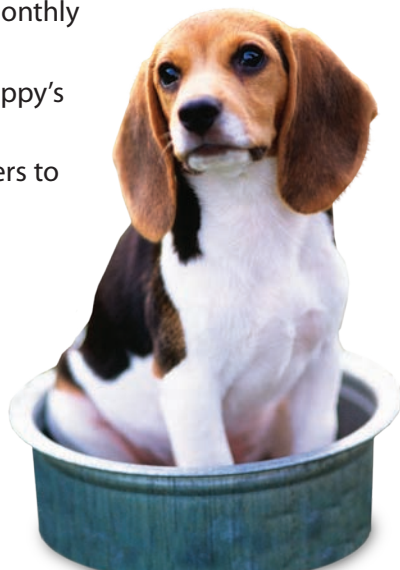
External Parasites

External parasites—including fleas, ticks, lice, mange mites, ear mites and ringworm—live on a puppy's body. They are diagnosed by physical examination and skin tests. Two of the most common external parasites are fleas and ticks.

Quick! Get that tick!

Ticks are typically picked up in wooded areas during spring and summer and can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme Disease or other diseases. Your veterinarian can prescribe a monthly medication to repel ticks.

1. If you should ever find a tick on your puppy's skin, remove it promptly and carefully.
2. Wearing protective gloves, use a tweezers to grasp the tick near its head and pull. Make sure head is removed.
3. Dab spot with alcohol.
4. Consult your veterinarian to determine if further treatment is necessary.



Fleas be gone!

Puppies may acquire fleas from their mother or from their environment. A puppy infested with fleas scratches or bites himself frequently. Small red spots may show up on his skin. Black specks (flea dirt) may cling to the fur on his neck or rump. Fleas may also cause allergic dermatitis, which shows up as encrusted lesions. To combat fleas, treat your puppy and his environment:

1. A flea bath or dip by the veterinarian or groomer is an efficient method for serious problems.
2. Or bathe your puppy thoroughly and follow up with flea spray or powder that is labeled safe for puppies. Never buy these products at random—talk to your veterinarian. Innovative, easy-to-administer treats and preventative measures for flea control are available from your veterinarian.
3. Next, you must also wash your puppy's bedding in hot, soapy water. Use flea-killing room foggers according to your veterinarian's instructions to be sure all newly born fleas are destroyed. Clean the carpeting with a commercial rug cleaner safe for dogs. Vacuum thoroughly, then throw away vacuum cleaner bags.

Symptoms of illness

Even the best cared-for puppy may become ill or injured, so it's a good idea to be aware of some of the most common signs of illness. If your puppy exhibits these or other unusual symptoms, call your veterinarian.

- Loss of appetite for more than one day.
- Diarrhea, constipation or difficulty with urination. Take your puppy to the veterinarian immediately if he is unable to urinate or defecate, but continues to try, or if there is blood in the urine or stool.
- Fever—indicated by a dry, hot nose, dull eyes, and a noticeable rise in body heat.

DID YOU KNOW?

There's an art to giving a puppy a pill:

- First, wrap one hand over his muzzle.
- Lift his head with thumb and forefinger on either side of the upper lips.
- With the other hand, gently but firmly pull down his jaw and place the pill at the very back of his tongue.
- Close his mouth and hold it shut.
- Firmly stroke downward along his throat until he swallows.



Minding Your Manners, Respecting Your Boundaries

A crucial part of pet ownership is teaching your puppy proper pet manners and how to be a good neighbor. Even the friendliest neighbors, including those who love animals, will be resentful if your puppy barks incessantly, wanders on their lawn, soils their yard or tears up their flowers. It is your responsibility to prevent this.

- Your puppy should never be left outside unattended and you should always obey the leash laws in your area.
- Basic training could also save your puppy's life. Knowing a simple command, like coming when called, could help keep your puppy out of danger.

Behavior Training 101

It is never too early to begin teaching your puppy acceptable behaviors. Puppies learn best in calm, quiet situations with minimal distractions so that they can focus on the lesson you are teaching.

Remember, your puppy is like a small child. Certain behaviors are due to curiosity or not having appropriate outlets for exploration and play.

To redirect inappropriate behavior, follow these basic steps:

- Get your puppy's attention by using a low-pitched, serious voice. Say "Ahhh!" This will startle him and he will stop what he is doing and look to you for further direction.
- Provide an acceptable alternative behavior or distraction.
- Praise correct behavior. In an upbeat, high-pitched voice say "Good boy!" or "Good puppy!" and reward him with calm petting or a treat.

Do not use direct punishment because this may frighten your puppy.

In some situations a leash may be the best way to get control and show your puppy the proper behavior.

GROWLING AND BITING—A puppy may attempt to nip you while playing. He doesn't understand that his bite is painful.

- When he bites, yell "ouch," turn away and ignore him. Then slowly resume play.
- If he continues to nip, stop playing and calmly leave the area.
- Always monitor the intensity of play and stop before the puppy becomes too rambunctious and excited.
- Avoid pushing, hitting or yelling at your puppy since this is likely to increase rather than decrease his excitement.

CRYING—Puppies crave human companionship. When you leave, he isn't sure you are going to return. Reassure your puppy by teaching him to stay alone:

- Let him get accustomed to spending time in his crate while you are home.
- Praise him for being quiet.



Don't make a big production out of leaving or returning as this will reinforce his anxiety. The more matter-of-fact you can be, the better. Your puppy will soon learn that even though you are leaving, you will return.

JUMPING UP—Your puppy needs to learn how to greet people calmly. If your puppy jumps up on people, he needs to learn the commands “Off” and “Sit.” Keeping your puppy on a leash and using a head halter when meeting people at home or away can help in teaching him proper greeting etiquette.

- As your puppy begins to jump up onto someone, pull his leash in a downward movement as you say “Off” in a low tone and move him into a sitting position.
- Once he is sitting, praise him calmly. This teaches him that the way to get attention is not to jump, but to sit calmly.

BEGGING—It is natural for your puppy to beg when you eat. However, it is important never to feed your puppy from the table since offering him tidbits will only reinforce this bad behavior. Here are some strategies to avoid begging behavior.

- Feed your puppy before dinnertime and then ignore him when he appears at the table.
- Place him inside his crate with an appropriate chew toy.
- Teach him to stay in his crate or lie down at your feet during your meals.



Basic Training Tips

Here are some tips to help make training your puppy more enjoyable for both of you:

- Let your puppy play first. Otherwise, it is difficult to hold his attention.
- Keep training sessions short—5 to 10 minutes daily.
- Pick an area with minimal distraction.
- Be patient. Keep showing your puppy what to do until he responds and then praise him.
- Consider enrolling in a puppy socialization class at around three months of age. Formal obedience training can begin when your puppy is about six months old.
- Never lose your temper with your puppy or hit him. He won't understand why you are angry, nor will he learn from such treatment. Instead, he may fear you.
- Use puppy treats as a reward to help strengthen the behavior you request. Eventually, treats can be phased out.
- Be firm and consistent. Always be sure to use the same tone of voice and the same words when giving a command. Make sure all family members do the same.
- Remember, when your puppy does not want to do what you have requested, it is likely he just has not learned the task or is too distracted—not that he is being defiant.
- Always end each training session on a positive note. If your puppy hasn't mastered a new command, go back to one he can carry out and praise him for doing so.



SIT



STAY



HEEL



DOWN & DOWN-STAY

COMMANDS

“COME”

- This command should be introduced as early as seven weeks and should be the first thing you teach him.
- Tell your puppy to “Come” when you feed him (an instant reward). Have him follow you around while using a very animated tone, saying “Puppy, Come.”

“COME”—THE LEASH METHOD

- With your puppy sitting a few feet away from you on his leash, call him in your high-pitched, happy voice, using his name and the command “Come.”
- Tug him gently. Give him a reason to want to come to you! Squat down with your arms wide open to make a nice target for him.
- When he reaches you, he may be so excited that he jumps on you, rolls on the ground or even urinates. Since he has responded to the command, don’t correct him immediately. Let his enthusiasm bubble over a few times, then gradually encourage him to sit when he comes to you.

“SIT”

- Hold a piece of kibble just over your puppy’s nose as you say “Sit.”
- Move the kibble above your puppy’s head toward his back as he falls into a sitting position. Do not lift the kibble so high that he jumps up to get it.
- Praise him and offer the kibble as an extra reward.

“STAY”

- With your puppy sitting at your left or in front of you, hold the leash in your left hand above his head to gently restrain him.
- Tell your puppy “Stay” as you swing your right hand in front of his face with your palm facing him, fingers down.
- Straighten up while watching him for any attempt to move.
- If he moves, gently remind him to sit and repeat the “stay” command.
- Gradually you can move a short distance away; return and praise him for not moving.

In the beginning, make him stay 5 to 10 seconds before releasing him with gentle praise. Gradually increase the time and distance.

HEEL OR FOLLOW: WALKING ON A LOOSE LEAD

- With your puppy at your left, get his attention and step forward with your left foot.
- If he doesn't move, use his name and encourage him to move forward by patting your thigh and using a happy voice.
- Take a few steps with him at your side and praise him.
- If he runs ahead, don't hold him back, but simply stop moving. When the leash pulls taut and restrains him, say his name and encourage him to return to you and begin again or make a sharp U-turn to the right so that the puppy is behind you. He will have to run to catch up and praise him as he comes alongside you.
- Your goal is to walk with a loose leash without tension or pulling.

As he learns the task, every time you stop, have him "Sit." Eventually this will become automatic.



"DOWN" AND "DOWN-STAY"

The "Down" and "Down-Stay" commands can be useful when you send your puppy to his bed or his safe place.

- Start with puppy in sitting position, then say the command, "Down." Help him into position by offering a kibble of food.
- Move the food down to the ground between his front feet near his chest, then toward you while you say "Down." The puppy's nose will follow the kibble. If he does not lay down, try pushing the kibble back between his front feet.
- Praise him when he's all the way down and offer the kibble as a reward.
- Once your puppy knows the "Stay" and the "Down" commands, you can teach him the combined "Down-Stay." Always reward him with calm praise and a treat, like a kibble of puppy food.

In Summary

- Be consistent with praise and rewards. Give your puppy a break between training sessions and spend some time with him as a reward for his efforts.
- Training sessions should always be positive, short and fun.
- Begin to ask your puppy to "sit" before you let him outside or place his food on the floor or before you pet him.
- Use the "come" command to call him for a play session, ask him to sit, and to stay before you open the door to let in a visitor. This will help your puppy learn to have control and manners in all aspects of your daily life.

Grooming

Hey, Good Lookin'!

Regular grooming sessions of 5 to 15 minutes do more than just keep your puppy clean and healthy. They also strengthen your bond with him and allow you to check his appearance to make sure he stays in peak condition and is healthy.

Brushing and Combing

Grooming needs vary according to breed. But no matter what kind of puppy you have, you should regularly check the condition of his eyes, ears, teeth, skin, paws and nails. Do this gently, when the puppy is calm and quiet, perhaps right after a nap.

Most puppies love being brushed and combed, especially if you hold the skin tight with one hand and brush with the other, so it doesn't pull.

- Short-haired breeds should be brushed two or three times a week with a soft or medium bristle brush, rubber curry or grooming glove and a fine-tooth comb.
- Puppies with medium length hair, woolly coats or curly hair should be groomed with a wire pin brush and a wide-tooth comb.
- Long-haired breeds require daily grooming with a soft, natural bristle brush and a wide-tooth comb.



- Matted, tangled hair may require special lubricants or mat combs. Groom your puppy several times per week to keep matted hair and tangles from developing. If the coat becomes too difficult for you to groom, you may want to take your puppy to a professional dog groomer.

Bathing

Give your puppy a bath only when he needs it. Frequent bathing can dry out the skin and haircoat. Be sure to read the directions on any shampoo or bathing product to confirm it is recommended for puppies.

Dental Care

Dental examinations should be done during your dog's regular veterinary check-up. Between visits, dental chew toys can act as a scraper and help prevent tartar buildup. Dry dog food and treats can also help because they act as mild abrasives, to help keep teeth clean.

- Experts suggest brushing a puppy's teeth at least every other day. Start by gently massaging your puppy's teeth and gums with a fingertip, then graduate to gauze, then a soft, children's toothbrush.
- Ask your veterinarian or check at your pet store for pet-specific dental products.

Reservations about Traveling?

When planning a trip, one of the biggest decisions is whether to leave your dog at home or take him along. Consider your pet's personality and the length and distance of your trip in making your decision.

Air Travel

If it's necessary to fly with your puppy or dog, keep in mind that regulations vary from airline to airline. You will find valuable air travel tips on the American Animal Hospital Association's web site for pet owners by visiting <http://www.healthypet.com>. Then go to the Search function and enter Air Travel.

Leaving Your Dog Behind

If you decide to leave your dog behind, here are some general tips:

- Ask your veterinarian, groomer or other pet owners to recommend reputable boarding facilities or pet sitters. Visit the facility to meet the people and check the safety and cleanliness of the operation.
- If hiring a pet sitter, meet the sitter in your home to see how he or she and your pet interact.
- Leave feeding instructions, medications and a supply of your dog's regular food. If leaving your pet with a sitter, discuss his exercise routine.
- Be sure your dog wears a collar with identification tags.
- Leave information about your veterinarian including office and emergency numbers.
- Be sure to leave a number where you can be reached.



Taking Your Dog Along For The Ride

Call ahead to be sure your dog will be welcome at the hotels, motels, homes or parks where you will be staying.

- Take along a copy of his medical records, proof of vaccinations, your dog's regular food, special medications, a supply of water and if space is available, his bedding and favorite toys.
- If traveling in the car, stop along the way and give him water and a walk, as needed.
- Be sure your dog has a collar with an identification tag containing your name and telephone number (including area code). A photo of your pet is important in case he gets lost.
- Never leave your dog loose in a hotel when you are not there. Keep your dog confined in his crate and check on him frequently. When taking him outside, keep him on a leash at all times.
- NEVER leave a dog confined in a car in warmer weather—even for a few minutes. The temperature inside a closed car rises quickly. A dog's circulatory and respiratory systems can become quickly overtaxed to the point where permanent damage or death may occur.

For additional information about traveling by car with your puppy or dog, visit <http://www.healthypet.com>. Then go to the Search function and enter Car Travel.

