



Puppy Care Guide

Puppies Downunder

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Dear Customer

Thank you for choosing one of our puppies. Here are some handy hints that we hope will help you.

Bringing Your Puppy Home/ Health Concerns

Bringing home your puppy can be an exciting time, however for puppies this can sometimes be a stressful time as they learn to become familiar with their new family and surroundings.

- Some of the symptoms you may notice as a result of this stress is loss of appetite, loose stools and diarrhoea . This will usually pass within a few weeks and is not a cause for concern providing your puppy is still active and appears content. However, if you feel concerned at all we prefer you call us immediately so we can advise you accordingly.
- Another reason why your puppy may develop diarrhoea can be due to eating too much dry food or has eaten a new food that it has not eaten before.

We recommend you feed your puppy as per our **Puppy Diet Guide**. A printable copy can be downloaded at www.puppiesdownunder.com/puppy-diet-guide.

- Puppies Downunder offer 4 weeks free Pet Insurance with [Knose Pet Insurance](#). Please note there is a 14 day waiting period for any sickness claims.

If you have any concerns regarding the health of your puppy during this time period please contact us as we have a veterinary surgery on our premises and we will be able to treat your puppy should the need arise.

Feeding

Twice a day- a combination of any of the following:

- Variety Shapes Dry Food (Biscuits) **(Once Daily)**
- Raw chicken wings or drumsticks to chew on (great for puppies teeth) **(Once Daily after 14 weeks of age)**

Never give cooked bones as shards of bone can be a choking hazard or cause serious damage to your puppy's mouth, throat and stomach.

- Prime 100 Chicken Roll **(Twice Daily, Breakfast and Dinner)**
- Lactose Free Milk only. **(Once Daily) DO NOT feed your puppy cow's milk as this can cause diarrhoea, vomiting and loose stools.**

A printable version of our Puppy Diet Guide can be downloaded at www.puppiesdownunder.com/puppy-diet-guide

Worming

Intestinal Worms can be very easily caught so treating your new pet is important.

- Worming should be done once a week or fortnight depending on the syrup or tablet; please refer to directions on packet.
- Adult worming is necessary every 3 months once the puppy reaches the age of 12 months. (We use Drontal All Wormer/Aristopet All Wormer)

Heart worms can be contracted through mosquito bites and can result in heart failure, organ damage and lung disease

- A Heart worming preventative treatment should be commenced before 6 months of age. We treat our puppies with Advocate.
- We recommend taking your puppy to a vet to get an annual Heart worm Preventative Vaccination.

Flea and Tick Prevention

- We use Simparica for ticks and fleas once per month. It is recommended to refer to the instructions prior to administering to your puppy.

Vaccinations

- Do not take your puppy to parks before the C5 Vaccination. Protection after the vaccination may take up to 10 days. Avoid contact with un-vaccinated animals during this time.

Look after your dog's limbs and spine!

- Please do not allow your puppy to jump on furniture, climb stairs or over exercise as this can cause numerous injuries and issues with your dog's limbs and spine in the long term.

Toy Warning!

- Always keep an eye on your puppy when he/she is playing with their toys. Some toys feature small parts that can fall off or can be chewed off. These can cause choking or serious internal issues should parts be swallowed.
- Replace toys as soon as possible if they have parts that appear to be loosening or wearing out. We prefer to use rope toys for our puppies.

Training/Obedience/Socialisation

- Commence puppy training from 10 weeks onwards. The training should commence on the first day the puppy is taken to its new home. Enrol your puppy into a puppy training school at least 10 days after it has received its (C5) vaccination.
- Socialisation is very important, make sure that your puppy is well socialised at a young age with other pets, people and environments

For more information read our puppy behaviour and training guide.

www.puppiesdownunder.com/puppy-behaviours-and-training

Crate Training

- We crate train our puppies from 8 weeks of age for 30 -60 minutes per day. We highly recommend you continue to crate train your puppy for 30 -60 minutes every day and place your puppy in their crate at night for bed. This will help train them to be independent and prevent separation anxiety.
- It is normal for the puppy to cry for the first week as it begins to settle into their new home. Only give your puppy your attention when it is calm and quiet in order to reinforce positive behaviour. Giving attention when they cry will lead to unwanted and disruptive behaviour.

Grooming

Coats

All different types of dogs with different types of coats will need a different type and quantity of grooming, we recommend taking your new pet to a professional groomer.

- Avoid bathing your new pet too often or you will strip their coat of all their natural oils making them more prone to dandruff, dryness and matting.
(Bathe your puppy every 3-4 weeks unless dirty or smelly)
- Buy a shampoo and conditioner specifically designed for dogs, as human grade shampoo and conditioner may irritate your new pet's skin causing adverse reactions including dryness, rashes and irritation. We recommend pet shampoos with Aloe Vera and Oil of Rosemary extracts which are natural flea repellents or Petplay shampoo and conditioner.

Nails

If you walk your new pet often it is likely that you will not have to trim their nails often, but it is important to handle your new pet's feet at regular intervals so that they are used to it anyway. To trim your new pet's feet you will require nail trimmers specifically designed for dogs. It is important to associate trimming your animal's nails with good things such as treats or praise so that it does not become a chore.

Steps:

1. Pick up your animal's paw and handle it for a small period of time.
2. Taking it slow and easy, gently place the nail clippers over the excess nail and trim. Be careful not to trim too much of their nail.
3. Repeat this process with each paw until complete.

Remember to praise and/or treat your new pet after each paw or after the entire process is complete.

Ears

It is important to clean your pet's ears often to avoid nasty infections and/or ear mites. We recommend doing this every two weeks and any time your animal is bathed (at 6-12 week intervals). We currently recommend EpiOtic to clean their ears.

Steps:

1. Hold your pet firmly, using a cotton tip gently wipe the inside of each ear (you may need more than one cotton tip).
2. There are many curves and crevasses inside a dog's ear, insure you get inside all of the curves and crevasses.

Be sure that you do not place the cotton tip too far into your pet's ear to avoid harm and/or injury. Vet practices and groomers also provide this service, if you are not confident cleaning your pet's ear it is important that you hire a professional.

Toilet Training

- We recommend taking your puppy outside first thing in the morning and last thing night before bedtime to help prevent any accidents in the crate.
- Take your puppy outside frequently during the day, every 1-2 hours and give them plenty of time to roam around outside for toileting.

We hope this guide is helpful and we wish you all the best with your new member of the family.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call us on **0499 912 709**.

Thank you, Charlie, Sharron and the Team at Puppies Downunder.

IMPORTANT!!!

When your puppy leaves Puppies Downunder it will experience stress!

This may be not entirely evident because the puppy is active and happy. However, it is very important that you administer the Vytrate solution (in your puppy pack) to the puppy immediately when it arrives at your home.

The is important for the following reasons:

1. Vytrate will replace lost fluids and essential electrolytes that arise as a result of diarrhoea or a dehydrated puppy.
2. Aids in the treatment of a stressed puppy
3. Is highly recommend following any period of stress

There are a number of germs and parasites that puppies can come into contact with and which can be passed on to humans. Some examples of germs that can be passed on from puppies to humans include the following:

Campylobacter: This is normal bacteria that is found in the intestinal tract of both healthy and sick animals. This has the potential to pass on from dogs to humans.

Giardia: This is a common parasite found in dogs and can be present without the dog showing any symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting or any signs of illness. It can be found in food and water and is almost everywhere. This parasite can survive for a long time in it's environment and is difficult to eradicate.

Clostridium is a bacteria that can be found in soil and can be easily picked up by a dog if it is ingested. It can also be passed on when a dog comes into contact with infected feces at a park or in an environment with other animals. This bacteria can be found in dogs that are not exhibiting any stress.

For an extensive list of zoonotic diseases that can be passed on from pets to their dog owners please see: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/index.html>

The CDC Centers of Disease Control and Prevention states

'...dogs can spread germs that can make people sick, from parasites to bacteria. Even clean and healthy pets can spread germs.'

It is therefore very important that each time you handle your pet you maintain good hygiene and wash your hands. Hand washing is the easiest way to stay healthy around animals. You should wash your hands with soap and water after handling animals and after touching anything where they live.

This includes:

- After touching or playing with your puppy
- After feeding your puppy or after handling their food
- After handling their food containers or toys
- After cleaning up after your puppy
- After leaving areas where animals live e.g. pet shops
- Before eating and drinking
- After removing soiled clothes or shoes

Note: Children younger than 5 years of age, people with weak immune systems, pregnant women and people aged over 65 years of age are at a high risk of contracting an animal related disease.

It is important that before you purchase a puppy you consult with your GP and discuss whether it is suitable for you.