

# NEW PUPPY CARE FACT SHEET



## **How to make your puppy's environment safe?**

Make certain your house has been puppy-proofed. Pick up anything small enough to be swallowed, and remove anything you would prefer the puppy not chew. Puppies chew; it is a natural and necessary part of puppyhood. Prevention is the best way to protect both your puppy and your possessions. We have included a more detailed guide for puppy proofing your home!

## **Where will your puppy eat, drink and sleep?**

Decide where to put the puppy's crate, food and water dishes, and toys. You'll want to focus on your new puppy once you bring it home, not on where you want things to go.

## **What should your puppy eat?**

We will send you home with the puppy food your puppy has been eating so as to ease any transition for the dog. Have a supply of good quality puppy food on hand, as well as the name and phone number of a local vet and emergency clinic. Since your puppy is not legally transferred, if your puppy is sick or injured and it is not life threatening, please contact us to assist in directing you to a vet. Be sure that your puppy has clean, fresh water at all times during the day. Be sure to feed your puppy a premium food without artificial preservatives and colorings. We highly recommend food that is wheat and corn free. Your new puppy should be fed 3 times a day. Follow the directions on the bag for the age and weight of your puppy. Do not put the food in a bowl and assume your puppy is eating. Pay careful attention to how much he is actually eating each day because this is critical to their health. Your puppy can be switched to an adult formula food at around 6 months. Please talk with your vet about this since most large breed dogs need certain supplements.

Your puppy is currently on \_\_\_\_\_

If you choose to switch to a different brand of dog food, the change must be a gradual one. Change the food over a 4 day time period, following this regimen:

1. 100% of the original food the first day
2. 75% original food and 25% new food the second day
3. 50% of each the third day
4. 25% of the original and 75% new the fourth day

This gradual change will reduce the amount of stress to the puppy.

## **How to help your puppy sleep and nap**

Remember a new puppy needs to have regular nap times throughout the day to rest in between play sessions. It is also important that he has a very warm place to sleep. Your puppy may whine or cry at night at first. He has been separated from his mother, and litter mates, and will be lonely. Unless the cries are sharp indicating pain or illness, do not pick up the puppy. If you do, he will continue to cry every night. Place the puppy in his crate, and then go and reassure him periodically. He will soon learn that nighttime is for sleeping, not crying. I also suggest giving your puppy a small stuffed toy right away. It will comfort your puppy when you are away. Be sure that the toy has no pieces that could be chewed off and choked on.

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**When will your puppy get shots?** Maternal antibodies may interfere with early vaccinations, so SPR adheres to the recommended schedule for puppy vaccinations. Young puppies are started on their puppy vaccinations at 6 weeks and then every three weeks after until 16 weeks of age. Common dog illnesses are generally easy to prevent, but very hard to cure. Your puppy will have been wormed and given his first DA2P+PV combo shot before they leave our rescue.

## **How to minimize puppy illnesses?**

A new puppy should also be kept away from areas where non-resident pets are (public parks, rest stops), until the puppy has finished all of his/her puppy immunization shots (16 weeks). A puppy is not fully immune to these devastating and deadly viruses until all booster shots have been given. The puppy shots are usually finished around 4-5 months of age. Do not let your puppy play on the ground until he has all his shots. He could pick up an illness that could cost him his life! (i.e., Parvo virus, distemper) The treatment for Parvo can cost anywhere from \$200 to \$600. **Remember...they are not safe until 2 weeks after they have had all three shots. So keep them off the dirt. Clean your shoes when you come in.** Having a new puppy can be very exciting for all your friends and family, remember that a puppy is a baby and needs time to rest. When they are sleeping they are growing. If your friends or family have their own new puppy, to eliminate the risk of spreading disease, it's best to wait until your puppy has finished their shots to introduce them. We also recommend that you avoid places that have new puppies in them (pet stores, other rescues and shelters). Puppy illnesses are so easy to spread with the touch of a hand from a well meaning stranger just saying hello in the pet store check out.

We will coordinate with you to get your dog spayed/neutered and have their rabies vaccination when your puppy is old enough. Your puppy will get their microchip while they are under anesthesia to minimize any discomfort.

## **Exercise, play and your puppy.**

Be careful that playtimes are kept short, whether the play is with people or other pets. Puppies can play themselves into exhaustion or not take the time to eat or drink. Remember, Arizona heat can kill since it is harder for a puppy to regulate their body temperature as compared to an adult dog.

Jumping and jarring the joints of a puppy can have a long term effect on their growth and development. Do not let your puppy jump off couches, chairs or any other high place. We have included a chart that shows at what ages it is safe for your puppy to jump. Puppies need that interaction, but remember puppy teeth can be very sharp, so be careful and use your play time with your puppy to work on any biting issues you may encounter. We can offer you various techniques for biting such as placing a toy in their mouth, ending the play session for a minute then resuming when the biting doesn't occur. The puppies only have the knowledge of playing with their littermates, so biting is something they have learned.

All contact between a new puppy and resident pet should be 100 percent supervised for at least the first two weeks. Be especially careful if your other pets are much larger than your new puppy. One way to separate your pets is to use child safety gates or pet exercise pens.

## **Potty Training Your Puppy**

A young puppy needs special care, much as a new baby would. Treat the puppy as you would your own infant: with patience, constant supervision and a gentle touch. Moving to a new home is a big change for a puppy. Expect the puppy to take a few days to acclimate to its new surroundings. The way you interact with your puppy at this age is crucial to his

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socialization. Acclimate your puppy to your normal daily routine. Be alert for signs (sniffing and circling) that he has to go to the bathroom, and then take him outside immediately. If he goes, praise him. Never punish an accident. He won't understand and may learn to go to the bathroom when you are out of sight. We recommend housebreaking your puppy by using a crate. Dogs avoid going to the bathroom near their eating and sleeping areas, so they will by instinct try to keep their den (crate) clean. Keep your puppy in the crate whenever you are not directly supervising them. Take the puppy outside every 45 minutes to one hour (once during the night). Take him out the same door and to the same spot every time. Be patient and consistent.

Until he is reliably house trained, never allow your puppy to wander the house. If you must leave your puppy unattended, use a crate or play pen when you cannot personally supervise your dog. Immediately take him for potty when you let him out of his crate. No, this is not cruel **unless overused or the puppy doesn't have a crate large enough or with enough time out of the crate**. Your puppy will come to think of his crate as his den and will appreciate having a place of his own.

1. Schedule feedings 3 times per day. Remove any leftovers after 30 minutes.
2. Take your puppy outside for potty breaks often - especially first thing in the morning, after meals, and after naps.
3. Decide on a verbal cue such as "potty" to use each time you take your dog outside. Say his name first and then "POTTY." Reward him with lavish praise, a small treat, petting, etc. as soon as he "goes."
4. If your dog has an accident inside, tell him firmly "NO" and then take him outside. Yelling at or hitting your dog is counterproductive and not advised! Clean the accident area with an enzyme cleanser so he will not be attracted to it again.
5. If you cannot take your dog outside, you can train to puppy pads or newspaper. If you train to newspaper, do not leave your "good" newspaper lying around! Litter box training is not recommended, because the litter can be dangerous if ingested.

## When should you start training your new puppy?

Train your new pet is one of the most important parts of raising a puppy, and can be extremely rewarding. What he/she learns from you will help them to be a good companion for years to come. Be patient ~ some learn quicker than others. Positive reinforcement using praise and treats is the easiest way to work with your new puppy. Short sessions work the best as puppies have very short attention spans. There are many good training books on the market and tips on the internet. When your puppy is old enough and past their shots, SPR offers puppy obedience classes free of charge. You can check our website for dates and times.

Saving Paws Rescue is there to support you during this time, so contact us if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trisha Houlihan".

Trisha Houlihan, Executive Director

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