

The New Puppy Planner

Bringing home a puppy is exciting, joyful, and full of new routines. This vet-guided starter planner helps you prepare your home, track early milestones, and build healthy habits from the start.

Essential Puppy Starter Checklist

A little preparation can make your puppy's first days at home smoother, safer, and more comfortable. Use this simple checklist to get ready for everyday care, home safety, and healthy routines.

Must-Have Supplies

- ☐ Cozy crate & safe sleeping area
- ☐ Plush bed & familiar-scent blanket
- ☐ Durable food & water stations
- ☐ Premium, age-appropriate nutrition
- ☐ Adjustable collar, harness & lead

Initial Priorities

- ☐ Schedule comprehensive vet visit
- ☐ Organize vaccination records
- ☐ Discuss microchip identification
- ☐ Establish a consistent feeding plan
- ☐ Set up a reliable potty schedule

Daily Care Habits

- ☐ Introduce gentle tooth brushing
- ☐ Positive paw & ear handling
- ☐ Daily grooming & coat care
- ☐ Interactive enrichment play
- ☐ Hydration monitoring

Puppy-Safe Environment

- ☐ Remove potentially toxic plants
- ☐ Secure household chemicals
- ☐ Install safety gates where needed
- ☐ Protect electrical cords
- ☐ Check for small choking hazards



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Your Puppy's Early Milestones

The first year brings fast changes. This guide highlights common early milestones so you can celebrate progress and support your puppy's growth with confidence.

6–8 Weeks

Early Settling-In

Focus on warmth, comfort, and gentle vet guidance for initial health checks.



8–10 Weeks

The Homecoming

The crucial bonding period where trust is built and home routines begin.



10–12 Weeks

Active Learning

Potty training becomes more intentional; curiosity and exploration increase.

3 Months

Identity & Focus

Recognizing their name and beginning to focus on basic cues during play.

4–6 Months

Teething & Exploration

Managing the chewing stage with appropriate toys and social exposure.

6–12 Months

Growing Independence

Adolescent behaviors may emerge; maintain consistency and celebrate their first birthday!



Training Foundations for a Happy Puppy

Short, positive sessions can help your puppy build confidence and learn everyday skills. This roadmap outlines key focus areas for the early months.



7–9 Weeks: Focus & Attention

Name recognition and building eye contact through positive reinforcement.



10–12 Weeks: Essential Routines

Establishing crate comfort and a predictable potty schedule.



12–16 Weeks: Core Skills

Learning "sit", "come", and becoming comfortable with calm handling.



4–5 Months: Social Manners

Developing bite inhibition and practicing polite play with others.



6 Months+: Real-World Confidence

Maintaining consistency in new environments and around visitors.



Pro-Tips for Success

- Keep sessions brief (2-5 minutes) to maintain focus.
- Always reward calm and desirable behaviors immediately.
- Use high-value treats and enthusiastic praise.
- Focus on building a routine gradually and patiently.

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