

# Welcome Home Puppy



What could be more fun than a new puppy? Choosing a new puppy and welcoming it into your family home can be exciting as well as rewarding. Of course, there are lots of things to think about at this special time.

## Preparing For a New Puppy

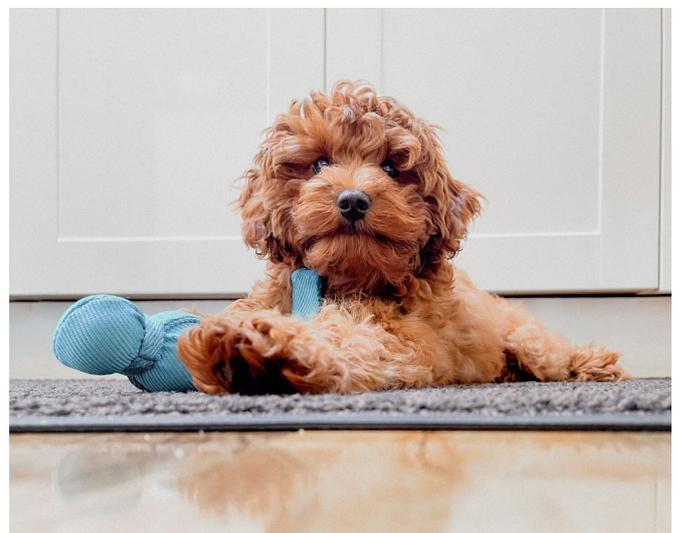
Be pro-active before you bring home a new puppy. Preparing for a new puppy and anticipating his or her needs can help avoid problems later in life and ensure your puppy is happy and well trained.

- Puppy-proof your home before your puppy arrives. For example, keep toxic items and plants out of reach. Remove or cover electrical cords and don't leave small toys or other objects lying around.
- Ensure the whole family agrees on training cues and boundaries and how to act around the puppy, this will help avoid giving mixed messages to the newest family member.
- Make sure children are included and understand how to act around the new puppy.
- Decide which rooms will be accessible to your puppy. You can expand into other rooms as you learn more about your puppy's chewing and toilet habits.
- Your puppy will need a safe, quiet place to call his/her own. Decide where this will be and place a special mat or bed there.
- Find information about your local Vet and dog trainers, consider puppy training and socialization classes as they are important for your puppy's development.

## Checklist

- ☑ Puppy food
- ☑ Bowls for food & water
- ☑ Collar and lead
- ☑ A KONG! (And several other high-quality toys – puppies need variety)
- ☑ ID tag and microchip, ensure your address details and phone number are updated into the records.
- ☑ A pet bed
- ☑ A crate or carrier
- ☑ A pet brush and nail clippers
- ☑ Treats to be given as rewards when training

Time spent training and socializing a new puppy will be rewarded with a happy and well-behaved dog for life.



## Welcome Home

At last, the day has arrived and your new puppy has come home. Remember your puppy is making a transition from a previous home and it's important you take the time to allow your puppy to get used to your home and house rules.

- Bring your puppy home during a weekend or holiday. Do not bring him/her home during busy times as it can be disorienting and frightening.
- The best time to collect your puppy is in the morning so he/she has all day to settle in the new home.
- Allow time for adjustment and be patient, consistent and positive.
- Let your puppy explore. New surroundings are interesting.
- Inconsistency is very confusing for a new puppy. It needs to be clear to the puppy what he/she can and cannot do.
- Wait until your new puppy has had several days to settle in before inviting family and friends over to say hello. Introduce your puppy to visitors in safe controlled situations.
- Don't encourage your pet to get on or into your bed or on couches, especially if you will not be allowing this behaviour when the puppy is an adult as this gives an inconsistent message.
- Make sure your new puppy is registered with the local authority and keep your puppy's vaccination and healthcare records up to date.

You need to consider your pet's needs throughout the different stages of his life. Your pet depends on you for basic needs: food, shelter, warmth, health and, of course, play. In return, your dog will be a happy, healthy and fun companion. Your dog's toy and treat requirements will change during the course of his life. Puppies need smaller, softer toys for their developing teeth, jaws and muscles.

## Puppies Need to Play

Set aside special play times, remember your puppy needs supervision and let your puppy know when it's time to play and when it's not. Also make sure children know how to play with and respect the new puppy too. Play comes in many forms and makes training and bonding fun for both you and your new puppy. Playing gentle games of tug and chase are great ways to burn off physical energy. Prevent your puppy from becoming over excited by stopping these games every few minutes. Other less physical games are perfect for stimulating your puppy: scatter pieces of his food on the kitchen floor. Use a food dispensing toy stuffed with food and treats to act like a food puzzle. When walking or exercising your puppy outside, use this ideal opportunity to play with them. Make teaching them important things fun, such as coming back to you when you call them, sitting at the roadside and leaving certain items. However, don't expect too much from your puppy; learning takes a lot of concentration and your puppy will tire quickly.

## KONG and Your Puppy

You want the very best for your pet and at KONG pets are our passion. We design, develop and manufacture, to the very highest standard, a wide variety of pet toys for dogs of all ages and breeds.

- Visit [KONGcompany.com](http://KONGcompany.com) for information on our full range of toys and treats, lots of hints and tips and to learn more about training your puppy.
- When introducing any new toy always do so under supervision until you are confident your dog can be left safely alone with it.
- For strong chewers, or if your pet destroys a KONG quickly, always buy Extreme KONG at least one size larger than recommended.
- Clean and inspect all toys frequently.
- Any worn and damaged toys must be replaced immediately, remember your dog's safety is your responsibility.
- Only provide KONG Toys sized for the largest and/or most tenacious chewer in multiple dog households.



Educate your pet owners from a distance. You can download a copy of this article from the KONG Article Library on the Provet website [www.provet.com.au](http://www.provet.com.au)



Article by Rachael James on behalf of KONG Company Pty Ltd