

Puppy Checklist

A puppy checklist covering first-year milestones, including vet care, vaccinations, training, and socialization.

Vet care and vaccinations

- ☐ Keep every scheduled vaccination and booster appointment.
- ☐ Follow your vet's deworming and parasite-prevention plan.
- ☐ Discuss spay or neuter timing for your puppy.
- ☐ Confirm microchip registration is up to date.
- ☐ Track weight and growth at each visit.

Ask your veterinarian what is healthy for your breed.

- ☐ Important: This is general information, not veterinary advice. Always follow your veterinarian's schedule for vaccinations and health care.

House training and crate

- ☐ Maintain a consistent potty schedule and reward success.
- ☐ Build positive crate association with short, happy sessions.
- ☐ Gradually increase alone-time to prevent separation anxiety.
- ☐ Use enzyme cleaner and stay patient with accidents.
- ☐ Set clear house rules everyone follows consistently.
- ☐ Establish predictable feeding, potty, and rest routines.

Socialization

- ☐ Introduce new people, sounds, and surfaces positively and gradually.
- ☐ Expose your puppy to gentle handling of paws, ears, and mouth.
- ☐ Arrange safe, supervised meetings with vaccinated dogs.
- ☐ Practice calm car rides and short outings.
- ☐ Reward confidence and never force a fearful puppy.
- ☐ Consider a reputable puppy socialization class.

Basic training

- ☐ Teach name recognition and a reliable recall.
- ☐ Start with sit, down, stay, and leave it using rewards.
- ☐ Practice loose-leash walking in short sessions.
- ☐ Redirect biting and chewing to appropriate toys.
- ☐ Keep training short, positive, and consistent.
- ☐ Reinforce calm behavior and gentle greetings.

Nutrition and growth

- ☐ Feed an age-appropriate puppy food in measured meals.
 - ☐ Transition foods gradually to avoid stomach upset.
 - ☐ Adjust portions as your puppy grows.
- Confirm amounts with your veterinarian.
- ☐ Provide fresh water at all times.
 - ☐ Limit treats and avoid foods toxic to dogs.
 - ☐ Plan the switch to adult food on your vet's timeline.

Grooming and health habits

- ☐ Brush the coat regularly to build tolerance and reduce shedding.
- ☐ Introduce nail trims, ear checks, and tooth care gently.
- ☐ Bathe occasionally with a puppy-safe shampoo.
- ☐ Check skin and coat for fleas, ticks, and irritation.
- ☐ Watch appetite, energy, and stool for any changes.
- ☐ Provide daily exercise suited to your puppy's stage and breed.