



General care

Grooming - Groom regularly with specialist equipment suitable to the breed of dog and the coat type.

Worming - Your puppy must be wormed regularly with a proprietary worming preparation.

Flea control - Regular flea treatments will be needed to prevent fleas and other skin parasites.

Vaccinations - Your puppy must be vaccinated against the infectious canine diseases: distemper, parvovirus, leptospirosis, parainfluenza and infectious hepatitis. Regular boosters will be required. If you intend to take your pet abroad he will need a pet passport. This requires amongst other things vaccination against rabies. Your vet will advise.

Neutering - If you are not going to breed from your dog it is advisable to neuter. Your vet will advise.

Insurance - Puppies should be registered with your vet and insurance against unexpected veterinary costs should be considered.

ID Chip - You should consider having your puppy microchipped. Your vet or other pet professional can advise you on this.



CARING FOR YOUR PUPPY



Shopping List

Food	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Food bowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water bowl	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food mat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basket/bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bedding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brush and comb	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collar and lead	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disc/tag	<input type="checkbox"/>	Worm and flea preparations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor kennel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Book on dog care	<input type="checkbox"/>

This leaflet is produced by the Pet Care Trust, the national charity that promotes the benefits of pet ownership and education. For more information, go to www.petcare.org.uk, or phone 01234 273933.



Remember you must never release your pet into the wild.

Dogs make enjoyable and affectionate pets and they very quickly build up a strong bond with humans.

There is a great variety in sizes of dogs, from the giant Great Dane to the small Chihuahua. There are over 188 pedigree breeds recognised by the Kennel Club. There is also a great variety in size and type in the many crossbreeds available.

Whatever you choose, your new puppy should be at least 8 weeks old and be fully weaned and eating from his own dish. By this age your puppy should have a full set of milk teeth.

Dogs are a long term commitment:

The average life span of a dog is 12-14 years.





Choosing and buying your puppy

When choosing a dog you must consider the adult size of the dog, the size of your home and garden, exercise and grooming requirements. You also need to consider the cost of feeding, health care, professional grooming, holiday care and day care if you are at work all day.

You need to decide between a pedigree puppy and a crossbreed. There are over 188 pedigree breeds recognised by the Kennel Club. When purchasing a pedigree puppy make sure you receive the Kennel Club registration papers and a copy of the pedigree.

A healthy puppy should be:

- Bright and alert.
- Have no signs of discharge from eye, ears, mouth and nose.
- Have a clean anal area.
- Have a glossy coat with no bald patches and not have sores on the skin.
- Should move about easily with no signs of lameness.



Housing

Initially an indoor kennel can double up as a bed but as your puppy grows, provide a bed or basket with suitable bedding for him. There are lots of products available and your pet shop will be happy to advise you.



Feeding and water

When you buy your puppy you should be supplied with a diet sheet. If you decide to change your puppy's diet, do this over a period of time, as sudden changes in diet can cause tummy upsets. Your pet shop will stock a wide range of canned, and dry foods that are balanced for your puppy's growth.

Fresh water should be available at all times.



Handling

Settling in

When you take your puppy home he will need a lot of rest, but do not leave him unattended for long periods of time. It is advisable to confine your puppy to an indoor kennel when left alone.

Toilet training

Each time he wakes up, after meals and at bedtime, take your puppy outside. Wait until he finishes and praise him.

An indoor kennel can assist with toilet training. At first keep the bed to one half and place toilet training pads in the other half in case of accidents, especially at night.

Exercise

Your dog will require daily exercise. Always keep your dog on a lead in public, except in designated areas. Be prepared to clean up after your dog when necessary. Your dog must wear a collar with a fitted tag or disc when in public. The disc must bear the owner's name and address by law.

Socialisation and training

A well trained dog is a happy dog and is unlikely to cause a nuisance to others. A puppy should attend socialization classes as soon as he is old enough, which is usually after vaccination. There are weekly dog training clubs in most areas.

Toys

Your puppy will enjoy playing with toys. There is a wide variety to choose from and your pet shop will be pleased to advise.