



NEW PUPPY?

How to Survive the First 30 Days



Introduction

Ireland is truly a pet-loving nation with [75 per cent of owners](#) indicating that their pets were bought when they were a puppy, creating that caring bond from a very young age.

If you have decided to get yourself a newly born puppy, there's no easy way to describe the first 30 days, other than challenging. Still, it is a vital window for establishing good habits, teaching your puppy basic hygiene, and forging a solid attachment.

Here is a guide on preparing your home, feeding, crate and potty training, being patient and consistent with your new friend, and generally helping you get through the first month of pet care to set you and your puppy up for success.

Prepare Your Home

Getting your home in order is essential to welcome a new puppy into your family. Below are some important considerations and steps to help you all get off on the right paw... foot.:

1. Inform your family

The house and the family must be ready for the puppy's arrival, so call a family meeting to inform them of the new member discuss what is going to change and agree on boundaries. It helps to establish new house rules that accommodate pet care and warn young children that rough play is inappropriate for a new puppy.

If you're the only one in your home, it might be a good idea to let your friends and family know about your new pet and how your life is going to change.

2. Pet-proof your home

Store away all wires or soft objects so they cannot chew on them. New puppies are teething, just like human babies and so you want to ensure they focus on positive chew toys rather than letting them look for other (potentially dangerous) options. For obvious reasons, keep your puppy away from shoes and other small items they could eat and choke on.

You should also keep away any cleaning supplies and food items you think can endanger the puppy. You may or may not know that Chocolate is poisonous to dogs!

Do your homework to figure out if any of your houseplants are dangerous for puppies. Other potential dangers could be lurking in your garden in the way of slug baits or other pest control solutions.





3. Create a safe space for the puppy

Having a puppy in your home is great, but remember that they may need a quiet place to rest and feel safe as they adjust to their new environment. A crate or bed can serve this purpose as long as it is calm and no other pets or children are around. This safe space will provide comfort, reducing their anxiety and stopping them from engaging in harmful activities.

TIP

Consider including their favourite plush toy or blanket.

4. Buy necessary supplies for pet care

- **Pet care food and treats:** Most pet owners spend 40.5% of their pet product budget on food and treats, so prepare for the expense.
- **Food dishes:** It helps to buy heavy dishes that puppies can't knock over easily.

TIP

If your puppy has a squished face you might need to get a shallow dish.

TIP

If you notice your puppy is gulping down their food too fast, look for a slow-eating bowl.

- **Toys:** Puppies' playtime isn't the same without their toys. Toys stimulate your puppy's natural curiosity and help them expend excess energy. You can get your puppy toys, such as hard rubber toys, comforting toys with a heartbeat, and rope toys – that can be good for their teeth.

- **Cleaning supplies:** The puppy will make a mess, so you will do some cleaning.
- **Collar and lead:** You will require a collar and leash for proper training and walking around.
- **Grooming supplies:** These include a brush and comb, which are necessary for maintaining the health of long-haired breeds.
- **Dental:** This might not be the first thing you consider when getting a pet, but it's critical to maintain good oral health beyond just getting dental treats.

TIP

Getting your puppy used to this early on will help reduce the resistance later.

- **Chew items:** They will aid the puppy in easing through the teething process and potentially save your shoes





Feeding

Pet care makes it difficult to figure out what to feed a puppy when there are so many options. According to a survey conducted in 2018 by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention (APOP), 56% of dogs kept as pets are overweight.

You must watch the puppy's diet to maintain healthy body weight. That's why veterinarians prescribe comprehensive, commercial puppy food marked for pups rather than adults.

Puppies' nutritional needs vary; sometimes, your puppy may need special dietary requirements to support its development. You can talk to your puppy's breeder about the type of food and quantity your puppy ate before you brought them home.

Sticking with the same meals at first is a good idea. See your veterinarian for better insight on feeding the puppy a diet that will sustain its health as it matures.

Feeding schedule

A feeding schedule is a necessity in pet care. Because of its habitual nature, setting up a regular feeding schedule will help train your puppy to be consistent about going outside to relieve themselves at specific times. Consequently, it will also make learning to use the 'potty' much quicker and less of a hassle.

How often should you feed your puppy?

Puppies require three measured meals each day, spaced out at roughly the same times. Feed your puppy its first meal early in the morning, second at noon, and third in the evening.

The last meal of the day should be at around 5 pm, giving them plenty of time to digest and go to the “bathroom” before turning in for the night. Feed your puppy according to this basic routine until they are 60 days old, at which point you can switch to feeding your puppy twice a day.

Benefits of regular meal time for puppies

Instead of putting food out all the time, try scheduling regular mealtimes for your pup. That will help prevent obesity, establish a routine, and give them something to look forward to.

TIP

A great training opportunity to establish boundaries, try putting the bowl down and making them sit, or wait to start eating.

It is also essential to build rapport with your puppy. Feeding them treats occasionally will stop them from developing a habit of nipping and biting when you give treats regularly. Just make sure you're not rewarding bad behaviour!





Crate Train Early

Crate training is crucial to a puppy's early development as a well-mannered pet. It will be much simpler to train your new puppy immediately if you get them used to their crate. A well-trained puppy will associate their crate with positive associations, such as safety and comfort, making it a preferred place to rest and relax.

You can put the crate in a room where your family spends most of their time so the puppy won't feel left out. Keeping treats and toys in the crate will help the puppy feel comfortable spending time there.

Never scold or rough-handle your puppy when you put them inside the confinement area since the space should serve as a secure haven for them. In the short term, a crate may be helpful in potty training a puppy.

Moreover, a crate will allow you to observe a puppy for signs that they need to go to the toilet and train them to hold it until you let them visit its potty place.

Benefits of crate training

In pet care, the benefits of crate training a puppy can include the following:

- It gives your puppy somewhere secure to stay when you leave the house, which can reduce separation anxiety.
- Puppies have a natural inclination to avoid soiling in their sleeping place. Thus, crate training is a valuable strategy for toilet training.
- Assuming the crate is transportable, this can simplify trips with your puppy.
- It relieves your puppy's anxious, agitated, or fatigued feelings.
- It is excellent for helping puppies adjust to a new home.

TIP

Make sure you bring your pet with you to the pet store to ensure you get the right size crate. Depending on how big your pet will grow, you will likely need to invest in a second crate when they are closer to full size.

Potty Training

When introducing a puppy into the family, potty training is typically at the top of the list of concerns and a challenge for people who are part of pet care. Puppy potty training should begin immediately because it is an integral element of the training process.

Positive reinforcement, consistent management, close supervision, and frequent walks are all essential to potty training your puppy. Never reprimand your puppy for using the wrong bathroom; employ positive, reward-based training.

Toilet training can take some time; some puppies pick it up in a month, while others may need much more. You should also maintain a routine and be consistent.

Keep an eye out as you'll often catch them red-pawed in the act. Use a firm "No" and then lead them to the right spot to help them get used to it, and always give praise and treats when they use the potty in the right places.

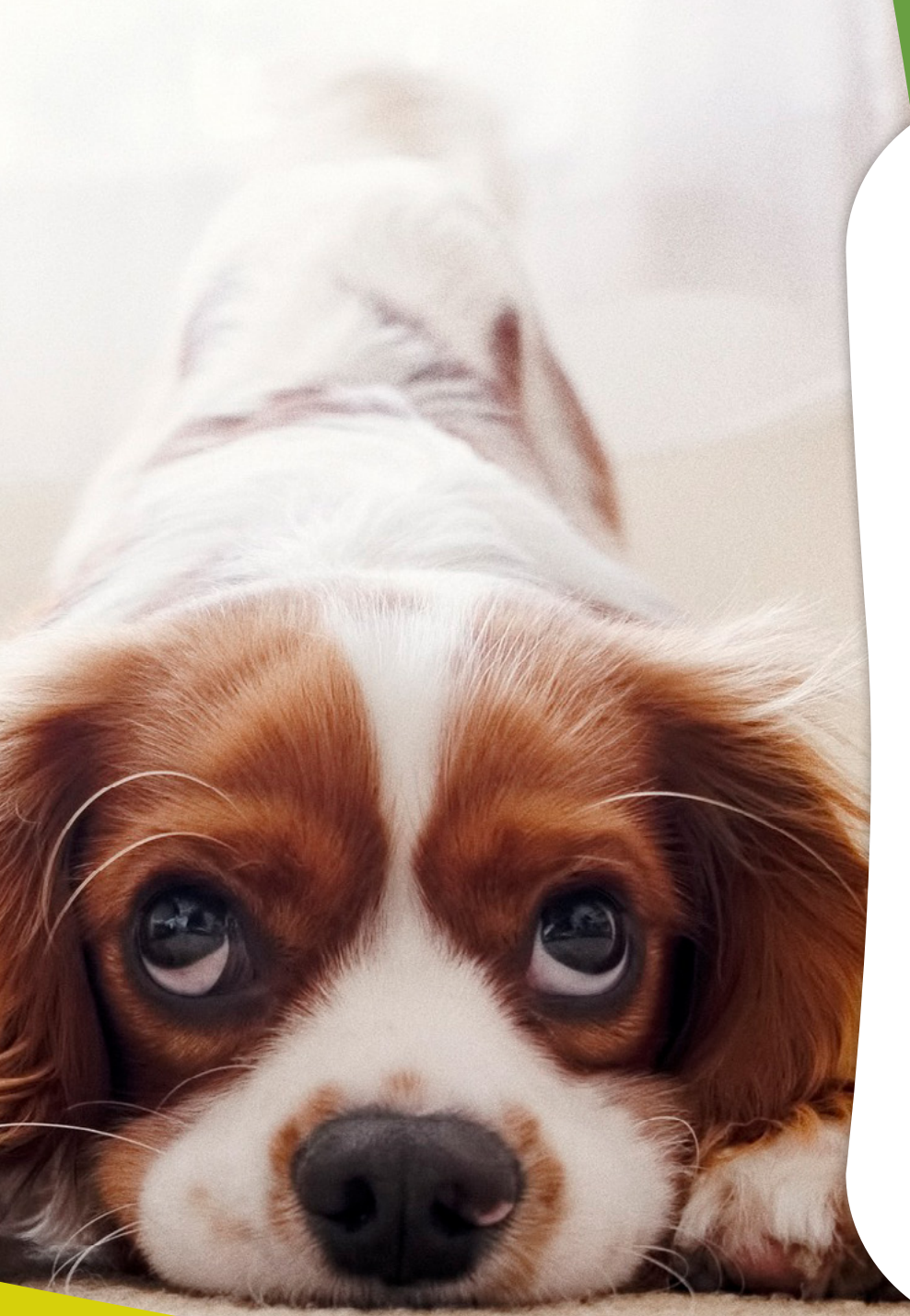
Steps to Help Potty Train Your Puppy

Choose a "bathroom spot" for them. You can pick a spot outside the house or use pee-pads. If it is outside, choose a place easily accessible from the doorway. In addition, puppies living in apartments should locate on natural, easily accessible ground that is out of the path of traffic.

Once you have settled on a spot for your dog to use as a 'potty', be consistent and take them to the same spot each time. Consistency is key when house training a puppy because dogs have a strong sense of smell and can detect their surroundings.

It would be best to choose an area inaccessible to other pets for 'potty' training a puppy until they have received all their vaccines. That should prevent possible disease spread.





If you notice your puppy has an accident, it is best to take them outside and reward them with praise and a treat once they have used the proper spot. Puppies lack the cognitive capacity to associate your wrath with their mistake.

TIP

When your puppy has an accident, don't always scold and punish them by shoving the nose in the pee or poo, as it will not solve the problem.

Pay attention to signs such as circling, sniffing, and licking the groin, whining, abrupt changes in behavior, or scratching the door, which indicates your puppy needs to go.

TIP

The typical frequency for potty breaks for a less than a one-month-old puppy is every 30-60 minutes.

You should plan to take your puppy outside for potty breaks during these expected times:

- After waking up
- During or after playtime
- After meals
- Just before bedtime
- When you want to leave the house
- After naps

Be Patient and Consistent in Pet Care

Puppies won't always get it right and may misunderstand your instructions when you are teaching them. Don't give up, even if your puppy is learning slower than expected. By sticking to the same schedule for feeding, bathroom breaks, sleeping, and playtime, you can help your puppy feel safe and secure, making them more receptive to learning.

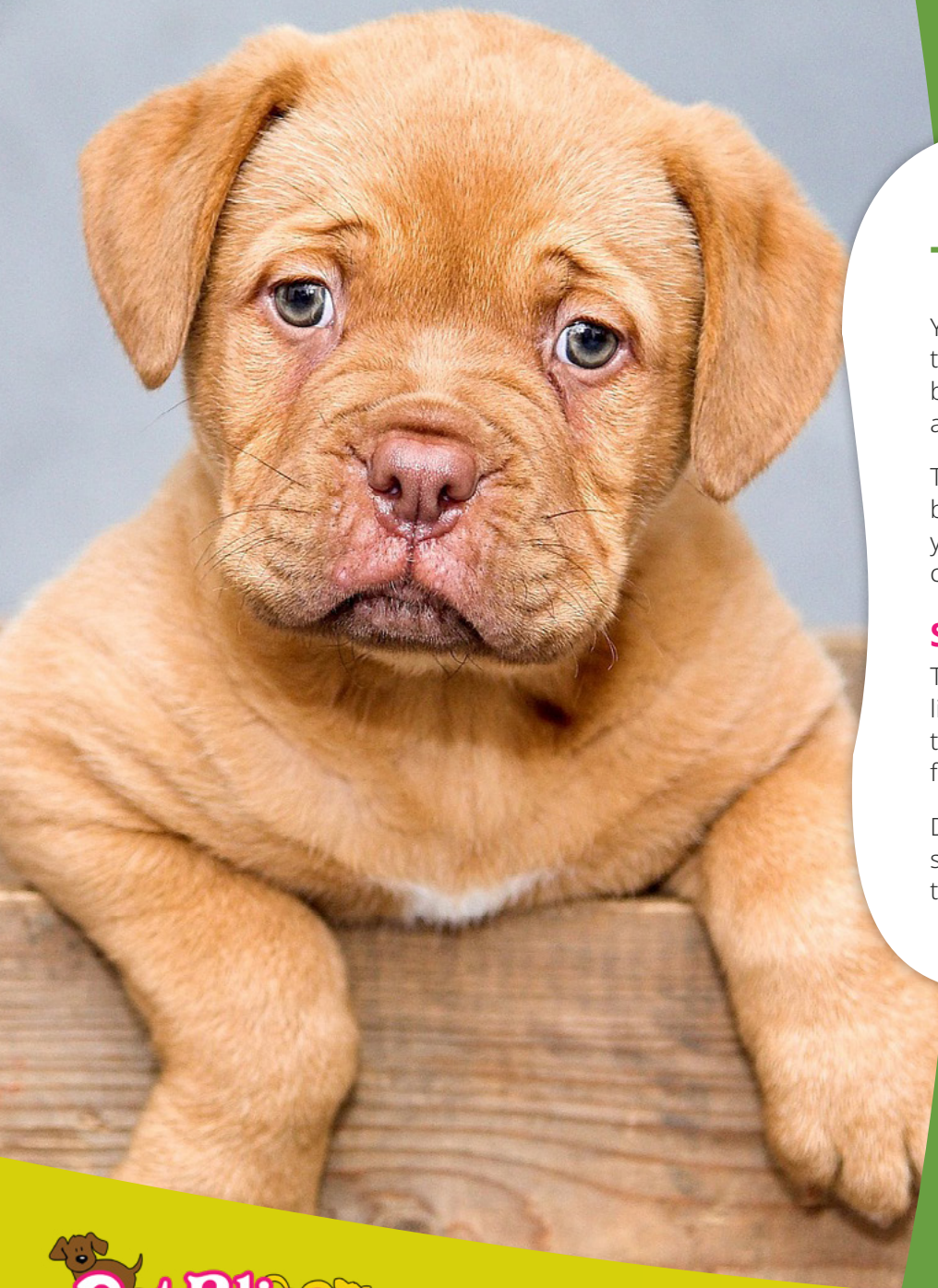
Pet care requires consistency in cues and training. When teaching your puppy basic commands like sit, stay, and come, be consistent with the word and hand gestures you use.

It is also crucial to consistently reward good behavior, even if doing so is inconvenient. For instance, if your puppy is whining at the door because it has to use the potty, drop what you are doing to let it outside and praise it when it returns inside.

Don't forget to fill out your new pet's details with PetBliss to receive special offers for your new pet and tips as he grows and his needs change.

Register Your Pet Today!





Train in Short Bursts

You may have to start teaching your puppy skills from scratch, so prepare to put a lot of time and effort into basic training. When training the puppy, begin with simple commands like “come” and “stay,” and start training them at home.

That will get the puppy used to being around people and other distractions before you take them out for training. When training, no matter how old, you should always apply positive, reward-based methods. Your pup will bond closer to you and learn to enjoy training.

Short training

The average attention span of a normal dog is 1-2 minutes. Because of their limited attention spans, puppies might quickly become exhausted from training sessions that last more than a few minutes and experience training fatigue.

Dedicating yourself to fewer training sessions will set your puppy up for success. The optimal time for each session is one to two minutes. Instead of trying to fit all the training into one session, spread it throughout the day.

Why short bursts are necessary for the pet care process

Short bursts are less strenuous on your puppy's brain and more uncomplicated to incorporate into your routine. It's more practical to train your dog in little bursts of time throughout the day rather than try to devote an entire hour to it.

Puppy training school

After establishing trust with your pet, you can join a puppy training school. Taking your puppy to a training class is a great way to introduce them to socialization as they interact with other puppies, adult dogs, and people in a controlled setting.

They will understand the fundamental pet care commands that will prove crucial to their success later in life. It would help if you enrolled them in classes taught by qualified instructors that employ positive reinforcement techniques.





Final Word

The first 30 days in pet care can be tricky, but they are crucial for training, building a solid trust foundation, and establishing ground rules for your relationship. If you put in the effort now, you set up your puppy for a life of contentment and peace for many years.

TIP

Consider taking some time off work to be home during these first few days to work through some of the helpful tips in this guide.

Check out our [Advice Centre](#) for other great pet tips, or come visit us in store! Our experienced staff are always happy to help.

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