

Puppy Care

A guide to understanding, caring for
and interacting with your puppy



www.nutrience.com

by Dr. James Zarowny, D.V.M.

Table Of Contents

Introduction	1
We're Coming Home	2
Things You Will Definitely Need	3
Feeding	4
Off to Sleep	5
House Training	5
Social interaction	6
Training and Eliminating Annoying Behavior	7
Health Care	9
Grooming	10
Spaying and Neutering	11
First Aid	12
Travelling With Your Puppy	12
Conclusion	13
Which Nutrience Food Should I Choose for my Dog?	14



Every puppy is unique. Puppy ownership is perhaps one of the most rewarding experiences a family can share. Your puppy will be a part of your family for a number of years, bringing you unconditional love and joy on a daily basis. A puppy also brings certain responsibilities, which can be divided amongst family members, including older children.

We hope the information contained in this booklet will help you get off to a good start and provide some guidance along the way. It is, nonetheless, impossible to cover all of the potential questions that will arise as your puppy grows into adulthood. Talk with your veterinarian and your pet store specialist or breeder whenever necessary. Don't hesitate to take advantage of the many interesting books available on the subject of puppy/dog behaviour and ownership.

We're Coming Home

The initial interactions you have with your pup will set the ground rules for the rest of his life. While certain general principles apply, common sense and a willingness to adapt are essential in early dealings with your new pet.

Familiarize yourself with your puppy's breed characteristics. This will help you tailor your approach accordingly. Most good breeders will be more than happy to help out in this regard. Always remain upbeat and affectionate with your puppy and use treats to make any training responses his idea. Aggression will only confuse and alienate a new puppy. You can no more scold a puppy for chewing or soiling than you can scold a one year old for throwing his toys or messing a diaper. Both behaviours are simply laws of nature and you must think in terms of behaviour modification rather than training and discipline. Turn it into a positive experience!



Expose your puppy to as many people and situations as possible once his early vaccines are complete. One possibility is taking along your own treats and have acquaintances give them to your pup as a way to create positive social demeanor. Try and avoid negative interactions with strangers, especially early in the training period. Fear is an even stronger motivation than casual acceptance.

Most pups are anxious to please and interact with their new pack members. You need to be aware of your own dog's responses to his environment, so you can make appropriate changes. All too often, puppies, especially dominant males, misrepresent a mild physical rebuttal as a positive response that encourages the behaviour, rather than suppresses it. After all, if he is responding by chewing hands or jumping up, you must keep in mind how his sibling would have reacted... certainly in kind. Consequently, his "new siblings" may be interacting in a slightly different way. Completely ignore unwanted social interaction and find an immediate alternate form of play that is acceptable.

Things You Will Definatly Need

Bowls:

A good quality ceramic or stainless steel bowl is highly recommended. Plastic bowls may be chewed and mangled by an overzealous puppy. It is quite possible that your puppy will play with his food or water, so a heavy, stable bowl is preferable.

Leash and collar:

Most puppies will object to collars and leashes if they're not trained as young pups. Collars are an absolute must, so identification tags can be worn. There are a wide variety of Hagen collars available on the market, from nylon to leather.

Cage:

No, it is not a prison! A cage is your dog's "bedroom", a place to sleep, a safe haven from overly exuberant children and an adequate travel carrier. It is a place for your pup to escape from you and to rest.

The cage can be wire or enclosed plastic. Wire cages afford more social interaction and are generally less expensive. Plastic cages can double as travel carriers. Do not buy a cage that is too large. It should be long enough to house the dog when in a sphinx position.

Toys:

Specially flavoured nylon chew toys are perhaps the best alternative for durability and safety, but many dogs are not interested. Newer organic based chews made from carrots, corn, spinach etc. are ideal, but don't last very long. They should be kept for special occasions.

Cotton rope toys are excellent, as they are safe and useful. But, rawhides still seem to be the most popular alternative. Monitor your dog's "chew time" and be sure there are no inappropriately sized chunks he might swallow. Some dogs may experience an upset stomach or loose stools from rawhide. In such cases, diminish the frequency with which your puppy can chew on rawhide.



Feeding

NUTRIENCE has an extensive list of high quality puppy products. Canines are meat and fat eaters. NUTRIENCE puppy foods reflect those specific requirements. The quality of the natural ingredients is second to none in the industry. We use chicken meal, hydrolysed chicken and chicken fat as high quality ingredients. Our fixed formulation policies assure optimal performance and stool consistency, a real treat when housetraining a new puppy.

Smaller breeds have higher metabolic rates and should be fed smaller portions more frequently. Additionally, small breed formulas should be nutritionally more concentrated. NUTRIENCE small, medium and large breed formulas are breed specific.

Large and giant breeds generally tend to be better eaters. Scheduled feeding enhances housetraining, from day one. I suggest a twice a day feeding schedule can be started at around five months of age, provided specifics are monitored. Large breed puppy formulas reduce calcium and fat levels to more appropriately relate to growth rates, but "poor eaters" may still do better on medium breed formulas as this ensures adequate intake. Adequate intake is specific for each pup. They should look healthy, have a tucked waist and have their ribs minimally covered with puppy fat. Avoid excess weight. Feed heavy puppies less, regardless of package guidelines. Feed thin puppies more or increase the fat and protein levels of the puppy food. There is no reason large breed puppies, who simply have increased individual requirements, can't benefit from the medium breed formula or even the small breed formula, if required.

Free choice feeding can complicate house training as pups will tend to eat when you are not around and they are bored. This may still be necessary if your puppy is a picky eater or you simply can't be around often enough. As puppies age, frequency of feeding is less important and by twelve weeks, scheduled feeding is acceptable. For most pups, three times a day



is preferable for approximately twenty weeks. After this, body condition and individual specifics should dictate your approach. For best results, consult your veterinarian.

Avoid diet changes and don't confuse your dog's lack of appetite as a sign he "doesn't like the dog food anymore". If he is in good condition, he may simply not need any more food.

Higher quality foods require less volume feeding to accomplish similar nutritional goals. Changing foods and excess tinned foods may simply encourage over eating, with the added risk of diarrhea. Remember we eat to live, not live to eat. Let common sense and your pups overall health and appearance dictate your approach. If you really feel your pup could benefit from eating more, adding a small amount of canned food as a supplement is preferable to changing foods.

Fresh water should always be available, but excessive drinking immediately after eating should be avoided. Allow a small amount and then put out a fresh bowl forty five minutes after a meal. This should help with stomach upsets.



Off To Sleep

Puppies tend to prefer restricted spaces such as a basket or a cage for sleeping. Lead your puppy to his cage with the help of a NUTRIENCE treat and give him a big hug before saying goodnight. Your puppy will quickly become accustomed to his "home" and will go to sleep on his own when the need arises.

House Training

Dietary habits and housetraining go hand in hand. High quality NUTRIENCE foods produce more consistent, predictable excretion patterns. You will quickly learn exactly how long after eating your pup will need access to your chosen training area (preferably outside). Look for tell-tale behaviours ten or so minutes after the puppy eats. Usually they become distracted, sniff the floor, walk in circles, whine and have a rather preoccupied look in their eyes. Immediately encourage them to go outside and avoid any playful gestures. Let nature take its course and lower yourself to your puppy's eye level and heap on the praise. Produce

a special treat (used only in association with housetraining), let him become enthusiastic, then give him the treat.

When an accident occurs, you must keep in mind that we are dealing with babies, so be understanding. Gently admonish your pup by changing the tone of your voice. Produce the treat, but do not give it to him. Take your puppy outside to finish his business and if appropriate, give the treat. It will quickly become his idea to go outside in order to receive praise and get this very special treat (NUTRIENCE dog biscuits and Marrowbones are excellent). Do not encourage alternate treat training until housetraining is well under way. This enhances the impact and subsequently speeds the process.

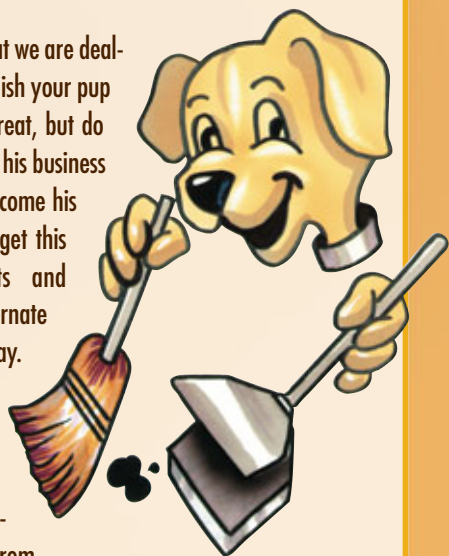
Learn your own pup's patterns of behaviour. Probable times for special attention include immediately after waking (which includes your return from even a short trip), after meals, prior to bed in the evening and after exercise. Urination occurs more frequently in summer when pups need to drink more water.

To enhance training, always have a good quality enzyme based cleaner on hand, such as SOX by Hagen. This product actually eliminates the organic matter in the urine or feces. This is not only sanitary, it also reduces the puppy's urge to return to the same place based on instinctive behaviours. Remember urine tends to "wick" or spread out especially on the underside of the carpet, so apply the counteractive product accordingly. Keep the area covered with a moist towel for a few hours; this keeps the enzymes alive and active. Let dry and vacuum. Physically barricading the pup from a repeat mistake area can also be helpful while you reprogram his behaviour.

Social Interaction

Upon arriving home with your new puppy, expose him to the greatest number of people and try to avoid negative interaction with strangers.

Remember, puppies are canine babies. Often in the excitement of bringing home a new friend, parents allow the children to overdo the early interaction. This can lead to the puppy biting a child in frustration or wearing itself out to the point of risking illness. Control the



playtime and exuberance of both the puppy and the kids, particularly over the first week. Teach children to be gentle and respectful. Show them how to properly pick a puppy up by supporting the chest and rear end with one hand on either location. Never encourage handling around the neck or excess force when hugging.

If appropriate, designate responsibilities for care of the puppy to older children. Pet ownership can be both a learning experience as well as a pleasurable one. Do not allow your expectations of either your children or your pet to take the place of common sense.

If you need to introduce your puppy to a feline, be sure to allow an initial period of exposure where one pet is locked away behind a closed door. Then, when the time is right, introduce the two animals to the same room, making sure your puppy is under control with a leash. If the initial contact seems subdued, you are off to the races. If not, keeping the kitten in a wire cage in the same environment but safely out of reach for a period of time can help. When the time seems right, open the cage, but only when you are around to monitor proceedings.

Most dogs are territorial and thus can get quite upset by the introduction of a new puppy. Each should have their own bowl, cushion, sleep area, etc. Always take care of the oldest first, so as to avoid a confrontation. If a confrontation arises, though, it is often better to let them sort things out on their own, unless the older dog is excessively aggressive. If so, consult your veterinarian.

Training And Eliminating Annoying Behaviour

The initial interactions you have with your puppy will set the ground rules for the rest of his life. While certain general principles apply, common sense and a willingness to adapt are essential in early dealings with your new pet.

We suggest a positive reinforcement technique. This technique involves reward as well as disguised punishment. Coming when they are called involves treats, affectionate scratching of the ears (and other favorite areas), and even a few minutes of playful interaction.

You'll quickly realize that your puppy



responds to certain noises, such as the rattling of keys. The keys can come to mean it's time to go for a walk and your puppy will respond accordingly.

There are several annoying behaviour traits which you should look for and try to alleviate.

Probably heading the list in this category are chewing, digging and excessive barking.

Puppies need to chew. They instinctively gnaw on things to help with the teething process.

Later in life, the behaviour helps to control

the plaque buildup and enhance oral health. It is simply your

job to make sure he understands what to chew. Never give a pup an old shoe or an old piece of clothing with your scent on it. How will they discern the difference with other similar articles? Whenever your pup selects the wrong item, cheerfully replace it with a correct item and utter an encouraging word. Repeat offenses can require sterner voice objections, but be sure to combine your voice reprimand with a replacement toy. Opinions differ as to the best chew alternatives, however they must be accepted by the pup or they are useless.

Large "knuckle bones" can be useful, but those with residual meat should be boiled and cooled before use. Occasionally repeating this procedure is a good idea and adding a beef style flavour to the water adds appeal. Hiding a bit of peanut butter inside the marrow cavity can also enhance enjoyment. Be sure your pup can't splinter off a shard of bone that can be swallowed.

Digging is also a natural behaviour, especially for certain breeds, such as terriers. Preventing this natural behaviour can lead to other destructive actions. If possible, set aside a sandbox type area where you can bury secret treasures. Soon your pup will only dig where you want him to dig. Remember to discuss his tendencies with breeders or pet store employees prior to your initial selection, if this behaviour poses a real concern for you.

Barking is a natural social interaction for dogs. You must determine why your dog is barking. Many pups bark because they are simply unsure of themselves and need the comfort of their friends to get over a delicate situation. Interacting in these situations is acceptable, but do not offer encouragement, unless you want the behaviour to continue. This means, no petting, encouraging ear rubs or voice interaction, which could be misinterpreted as justifying concern. Your physical presence for reassurance and quiet retreat indicates there is



no reason for your pup to continue the process. Some pups, like babies, learn to bark simply for attention. It is important to remember that even negative interaction is considered attention. If you can ignore the behaviour, do so in this case. Never encourage, even unintentionally, an unwanted behaviour in a pup. Excessive whining or barking may obligate social interaction. Moving your pup's bedroom into a more secure area may be enough. If required, bring the cage into your room and gradually, day by day, return it to where you want it to be. Remember your pup is a pack animal and he has left the security of mom/siblings and may need to be weaned away. Try and avoid frightening a pup for wanting to interact. However, be sure to establish your own compromise ground rules.

Health Care

Early visits to your veterinarian are a true benefit to not only your puppy's health but to your own piece of mind. The first visit should be at or around eight weeks of age when an initial vaccine and fecal analysis will be done. The initial visit will allow you to get your specific questions answered and allow your veterinarian to become more familiar with the individual nature of your puppy, so you can better "fine tune" training techniques. Additionally, a vaccine regime, a deworming program, heartworm prevention and flea control should be discussed. Preferably, the initial visit should not involve vaccinations.

This allows for a more pleasant first time experience and more time can be spent getting acquainted. All veterinarians have their own preferences. Most

puppies will exude their natural personalities when it comes to exercising, but all puppies need to vent their energy or it will simply show up elsewhere. Try and select a game most suited to your pup's breeding. Retrievers may like to fetch or swim. Working breeds may enjoy walks in the field or woods, etc. Wherever possible, try to avoid overly frantic play that involves quick stops, starts and turns, especially with large breed puppies. Additionally, most veterinarians encourage avoiding stairs when possible, especially at an early age. All of this being said, do not fret over a puppy being a puppy. Nature has a wonderful way of taking care of its own.



Much of the routine maintenance your pup will require can be made easier if you start early in life. Handle your pup's feet daily and gently wipe them off whenever he comes in from outside. Provide a treat immediately afterwards. This procedure also makes nail trimming a much easier task. Most puppies will learn to wait for the daily wipe if a treat is the reward.

Get in the habit of rubbing your puppy's gums with your finger. It feels good and it lays the groundwork for future dental care. Remember, puppies lose their baby teeth between three and six months of age. In fact, the primary adult canine tooth breaks the gums at almost exactly five months of age; a nice way to age a puppy, if there is any doubt.

Before trimming your puppy's nails, ask your veterinarian or his technician to demonstrate how best to cut his nails. However, it is always a good idea to have some "quick stop" or other first aid remedy handy for accidents. "Taking too much nail" results in a non-serious bleeding episode, but it can be emotionally traumatic. If you have no specific products on hand, a styptic pencil used for shaving cuts can help, but it will sting. Baking soda can be of some help and a soft bar of soap gently drawn into the bleeding nail can often solve the problem.



Grooming

Whether you intend to do most of your own grooming maintenance or utilize the services of a professional groomer, always get your puppy started early. During your first visit to the groomer or on your first shopping excursion to the local pet store, discuss the appropriate grooming aids best suited to your particular breed. Do your best to ensure the initial grooming experience is as pleasant as possible and continue with a consistent routine, one appropriate to your pup's probable requirements.

Long-haired dogs that are allowed to run outside will inevitably pick up burrs and thorns which, if not combed out, will result in matts forming, at the very least. It is a good idea to get in the habit of a "comb out" following these types of outdoor sessions.

Different puppies have different skin types. Discuss shampooing requirements with your veterinarian on your initial visit. Most dogs only require routine shampooing when a par-

ticular need arises. Always select a high quality dog shampoo with properties that best suit your own dog's skin specifics. A lanolin or aloe based product is an excellent maintenance product. Tar and sulphur based shampoos are great for removing dry skin and excess doggy odour and oatmeal and tea tree style formulas are excellent for soothing itchy skin. Always utilize a non-slip rubber mat if you choose to shampoo your pup yourself. Avoid shampoo intended for human use as these products have an incorrect pH balance for a dog. The wrong shampoo and excess shampooing will strip the necessary natural oils in a dog's coat, resulting in dry irritated skin. Specialty creme rinses are very useful in these circumstances. They also make the post bath comb out a lot easier. Be sure to do a thorough brushing and avoid matting once the drying process has begun, whether you air dry or use a gentle blow dryer. Please note, pups are prone to chills, so avoid shampooing on cold days unless you are prepared to keep him or her inside until they are completely dry.



Spaying And Neutering

All dogs should be spayed or neutered in order to help alleviate overpopulation, with euthanasia as a consequence. Spaying or neutering can be performed from six months on. Neutering will ease confrontations between dominant males, marking of their territory with urine and reduce troubles associated with females in heat.



First Aid

Think of your puppy or dog as a child. If the condition would warrant concern in a child, take immediate first aid precautions and call your veterinarian.

Burns, which might stem from spilled hot water, can be treated by toweling off any excesses and applying cold water compresses. Be careful when tending to a puppy who's suffered an electrical burn, as you may be in danger as well. When faced with a puppy suffering from extreme heat (in a car in summer), place him in cold water as quickly as possible.

If your puppy is pawing frantically at its mouth and gagging, he could have a foreign object lodged in his teeth or throat. You'll need to take a quick look and if the dog objects or is frantic, try and bundle him gently but securely in a towel and open the mouth. To do this, place one hand over the puppy's head and eyes and position your fingers at the base of the jaw. Use your other hand to lower the bottom jaw. Have a friend or family member shine a light down his throat for a better look. If feasible, remove any offending agents.

In all emergency cases, take your puppy directly to your veterinarian and have someone call ahead to let them know when you'll be arriving. Unless after hours, your vet will understand and accommodate your emergency.

It is advisable not to medicate at home. Certain products may not be suitable for pets and may cover up symptoms your vet may require to make a correct diagnosis.

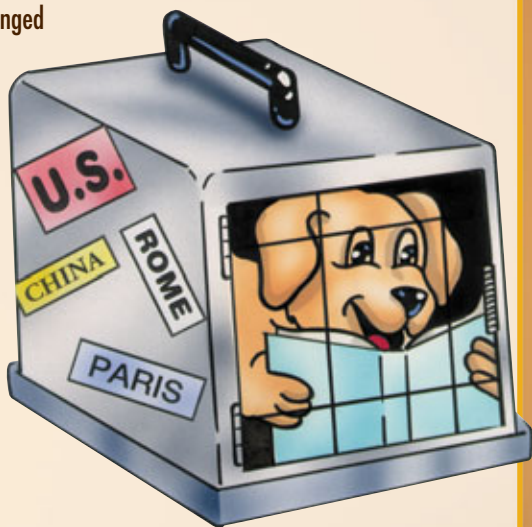
Travelling With Your Puppy

Dog carriers are recommended for transport when travelling by car. If you already own a dog cage for home use, you may find it adequate or you may decide to buy a smaller carrier for short travel. Plastic type travel cages are probably your best alternative. Smaller more portable "tote bag" style carriers are excellent for short trips to the vet, but are more difficult to clean.

Some puppies suffer from stress and/or motion sickness, a concern you should discuss with your veterinarian. Sedation may be the solution. It is not advisable to feed your puppy unless the trip is to be over five or so hours.

Boarding kennels are a reasonable alternative for puppies and dogs. Most require up-to-date vaccines. If ever this is too much of an event, consider "in house dog sitters". Larger communities will have professional bonded dog sitters who will visit your home on a prearranged schedule. This is pricey, but your house has the advantage of providing your puppy with the reassurance of familiar surroundings.

If you plan to travel out of the country, be sure to predetermine any and all special requirements. You will require current vaccine records and a health certificate, at the very least. Both are available through your veterinarian.



Conclusion

If you've made it this far, you are well on your way to a lifetime of fun and frolic. NUTRIENCE would really like to be a part of your pets' nutritional health and well being. We give you our promise that our foods are formulated with the same love and care you are presently feeling for your new puppy. All of us...our formulators, our secretaries, our veterinarians are pet owners too. Our goal is to make the highest quality products on the market today and help your puppy lead a full, healthy, happy life.



Which food should I choose for my dog?

	Age	Condition	Formula
PUPPY	Birth - Weaning	Lactation	Transition Milk Replacement for Puppies
	Weaning	Weaning	Transition Puppy Weaning
	Weaning - 4 months	Beginning of growth	Transition Puppy Step One Small/Medium
			Transition Puppy Step One Large Breed
	1 1/2 – 9 months / Small Breed	Growth	Junior Puppy Small Breed
	1 1/2 – 12 months / Medium Breed		Junior Puppy Medium Breed
2 – 18 months / Large Breed	Junior Puppy Large Breed		
ADULT DOG	9 months to 8 yrs Small & Medium Breed	Maintenance Plus/ Dental Hygiene	Supreme Adult Small Breed
		Maintenance Plus/ Dental Hygiene	Supreme Adult Medium Breed
		Alternative Maintenance	Holistic Adult Small Breed
		Alternative Maintenance	Holistic Adult Medium Breed
		Maintenance	Original Adult Small/Medium Breed
		Skin & Coat	Derma Adult Small/Medium Breed
		Active	Active Adult Small/Medium Breed
		Weight Management	Diet Adult Small/Medium Breed
	1 1/2 to 5-7 yrs Large & Giant Breed	Maintenance Plus/ Dental Hygiene	Supreme Adult Large Breed
		Maintenance Plus/ Dental Hygiene	Supreme Adult Giant Breed
		Alternative Maintenance	Holistic Adult Large Breed
		Alternative Maintenance	Holistic Adult Giant Breed
		Maintenance	Original Adult Large/Giant Breed
		Skin & Coat	Derma Adult Large/Giant Breed
		Active	Active Adult Large/Giant Breed
8 yrs and over/All Breeds	Older/Less Active	Senior Adult Small/Medium Breed	
	Older/Less Active	Senior Adult Large/Giant Breed	