



Tips for Puppies!

- **Puppy proof your house!** Puppies are super mischievous, so keep your pup out of trouble with these tips.
 - Hide electrical cords so your puppy can't chew on them.
 - Put away anything that could be poisonous to your puppy, like cleaning supplies, medications or [human food](#).
 - Make sure there's nothing lying around that your puppy could choke on, like jewelry.
 - Get rid of any [plants that are poisonous to dogs](#).
 - Cover sharp edges that could hurt him or that he could chew on.
 - Puppy proof trash cans.
- **Set up a space for your puppy!** Decide where in your home your puppy will stay when you're not with him so he can't eat anything he shouldn't or have any [potty training](#) accidents. You may even want to block off the area with a gate.
- [Crate training](#) is also a great way to give your puppy his own space to feel safe and comfortable. When picking out a crate for your dog, you should find one that's big enough for him to stand up and turn around in, but it shouldn't be too big. If it's too big, your puppy might go to the bathroom on one side, then lie down on the other, which is a problem for potty training since he won't learn that it's not OK to go potty inside. A wire or plastic crate is also best for a puppy because he's teething and will probably try to chew on his crate.
- **Puppies like to chew!** Provide [appropriate and safe puppy chew toys](#) for him, and if he starts to chew on anything else, redirect him to his chew toy. Here are some [other tips about living with a chewing puppy](#).
- **Research training!** You'll need to start training your puppy right away, if you're unsure where to start, research puppy training classes or online video courses.
- **Begin potty training right away!** Set up a feeding and potty schedule for your puppy. Typically the number of months your puppy is will be the number of hours he can hold his bladder (2 months = 2 hours). Give the puppy an opportunity to pee or poop in your designated potty spot. As soon as your puppy goes to the bathroom, praise him while giving him treats. Repeat this every time the puppy successfully eliminates to reinforce appropriate potty habits. Your puppy will begin to realize that

awesome things happen when he does the act outside. If the puppy goes to the bathroom inside, it means that the human made a mistake, and you should get the puppy outside as soon as you can after that happens. Punishment often makes the situation worse and the puppy may not want to go to the bathroom in that person's presence (outside or inside).

- **Socialization. Socialization. Socialization!** Your goal is to help your puppy to grow up into a confident and friendly adult dog. In general, your puppy is in a critical period of socialization from 8 weeks to approximately 16 weeks old, depending on the breed. Socialization means so much more than what we typically think it does and has an immense impact on future behaviors. It is not about exposing your puppy to as many new things or places that you can find; it is a crucial time when your puppy is learning how to interact with the surrounding world and forming associations with new people, children, other dogs, sounds and their environment. These associations can be positive or negative and, as a pet parent during these key weeks, you have the opportunity to help make those associations positive and fun for your puppy! You can create positive associations with potential stress triggers (such as new people, other dogs or cats, loud noises), by giving your puppy a tasty treat when he is observing or interacting with those things.
- **Be prepared to wake up in the middle of the night!** You probably won't get a restful night's sleep for the first night with your new puppy. In fact, for the first few months at least, you should plan on waking up every few hours or so to take him out to potty. Puppies have super small bladders, so they'll have to go to the bathroom pretty frequently.