

# 1<sup>st</sup> WEEK WITH A NEW PUPPY?

**Sleeping** – Puppies get very upset when you take them away from their Mum/littermates because they feel vulnerable and weak. This often results in some very sleepless nights and early mornings. To make this as easy as possible for both you and the puppy here are some things you can try:

1) Keep the puppy close - Isolating a puppy in the bathroom/laundry or outside is the scariest thing you can do to them. While this seems easy for toileting, you (or your neighbours) won't get much sleep if they whine all night. Instead, if you can keep your puppy in a box/crate/play pen or tethered in your bedroom, not only will your puppy sleep more soundly but they will be able to let you know when they need to toilet (great foundation for toilet training). Once your puppy has settled in, you can then teach your puppy to sleep where you would prefer they slept.

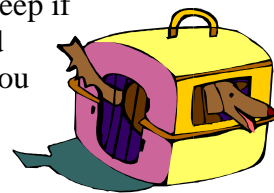
2) Material smelling like mum/litter mates – If you are lucky enough to have access to your puppy's mum or littermates then rub a piece of material (e.g. pillow case, towel) and/or soft toy all over the other dogs. This will help create more familiar smells in an unfamiliar environment.

3) Hot water bottle – The warmth of a heating device can help the puppy feel cozy and secure. Just make sure it is safe for the puppy.

4) Ticking clock – A time honoured trick where the regular sound and vibration of a clock mimics that of a heartbeat. When placed under a cushion or wrapped in a towel, the clock can help a puppy feel like they are with their littermates.

5) Radio – Sometimes just having a little background noise can stop the room from feeling so empty.

6) Chew Treat – Give the puppy a 'dummy'. They can't eat and whine at the same time and chewing is a great stress release. Try things like pig's ears, pig snouts, kangaroo jerky, etc.



**Toileting** – Firstly, puppies generally don't establish full bladder control until at least 12 weeks old. This means that **YOU** need to take your puppy to the toilet as often as required so you can create good habits. To avoid unnecessary accidents, try not to give your puppy unsupervised freedom in the house (i.e. close doors, use baby gates, set up a play pen, crate or tether the puppy) until you are sure they are toilet trained.

Secondly, never ever go mad at your puppy for toileting in the wrong place. All you are teaching them is not to toilet in front of you. Instead, get their attention (“yoo hoo”, “hang on”) without scaring them and get them to where they should be toileting. If they have already finished, clean it up with an enzyme based cleaner (not an ammonia based one) and be more prepared the next time.

**Chewing** – Teething puppies will need to chew on something to help relieve the discomfort of new teeth. Give your puppy plenty of things you are happy for them to chew on so they don't feel the need to find their own things. Some examples include pig's ears/snouts, kangaroo jerky, sheep ears, whizzers, rope toys, teething toys etc. Make sure the item is suitable for your puppy by supervising them the first couple of times they have it.



**Biting/Nipping** – This is normal play behaviour for puppies, however, we need to teach them not to play this way with humans. The general rule of thumb is always use toys to play with your puppy, not body parts. While it is 'fun' to rough the puppy up it is the human's fault that the puppy nips at hands and feet. If your puppy does bite, say “ouch” then fold your arms and ignore your puppy. If your puppy stops, begin playing with your puppy again. Repeat this stop start routine several times before leaving your puppy so that they can learn from the interaction.

**Feeding** – Everyone has their own way of feeding puppies. Ideally you should try to feed your new puppy the same food for the first few days to avoid diarrhea. If the food is suitable you can either stick with it or change to something more suitable once the puppy has settled into their new environment. The only 'milk' puppies need is the stuff they got from their mums. Puppy milk is really just a treat.

**Puppy Preschool** – It's a common misconception that puppies should not leave the house until they are fully vaccinated. It is now understood that there is far more chance of a puppy developing a behavioural issue (such as fear or aggression) by not attending preschool than a puppy getting a disease by attending. Puppy Preschools should be conducted in a safe, hygienic environment (not in a park), number of puppies should be proportional to the space and trainers available, play should be controlled (not free for all, jump all over each other play) and intimidation or checking techniques should not be used. Enroll in a certified course as soon as you can.

