



newpuppy

GUIDE



*Your official guide
to purebred
care & training*





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Yorkshire Terrier

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This page: Yorkshire Terrier/Natalie Siebers for AKC

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TIMELINE

12 to 16 weeks



French Bulldog

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Your pup's senses and motor skills are well developed now. He still needs to sleep a lot, but he's full of energy when he's awake. His bladder and bowel control are continuing to improve.

His adult teeth are still coming in. Since sometimes puppy teeth don't fall out as they should, have your vet check his mouth on the next visit.

BEHAVIOR CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

Your pup is inquisitive and interested in exploring the world around him. Right now his brain is geared toward soaking in everything it can. This coincides with a crucial phase in his development: He is in what is called the critical socialization period. Through 4 months of age is the single most important period influencing

how your dog will behave as an adult. Now is when the foundation is laid for the rest of his life in terms of his attitude toward you, other humans, and other dogs. (See page 10.)

It's extremely important for your pup to have good experiences now, being introduced to all kinds of people and things he'll encounter

during his life.

As his immune system continues to mature (and as he progresses with his recommended vaccinations) start bringing him to a variety of public places and introduce him to other dogs that you know to be healthy. (Note: Be cautious when doing this as not all dogs like other dogs, and a bad interaction can

become dangerous quickly, especially between large dogs and little dogs. Monitor all interactions with other dogs closely.) It's not a substitute for your own efforts to socialize your puppy but a great help is to enroll him in a puppy class. These fun, informal gatherings expose your puppy to a variety of people and other dogs.

TIMELINE

TRAINING TIPS FOR THIS STAGE

Housetraining can begin in earnest. Take your puppy out frequently, and praise him lavishly every time he eliminates outside. Don't let your puppy roam the house unsupervised. "Accidents" are not a puppy's purposeful misbehavior; they're an indication that you're not keeping tabs on him. (See page 12 for more details on housetraining.)

Your puppy is playful and easily distracted right now, but don't get tough in training him. He's still sensitive emotionally and psychologically. Fears can occur easily and inhibit learning. You can start teaching him basic manners.

To nurture the bond with your pup, try hand-feeding him. Feed kibble to him bit by bit. Play a game: Call his name, back away, then give him food when he comes to you.

You can also begin basic grooming. Praise him while you gently brush him, handle his mouth and paws, and trim his nails.

KEEP IN MIND ...

This is the crucial time to lay the foundation for a lifelong loving, positive relationship with your dog. Take the time to have fun with your puppy!

Health and nutrition reminders

Sometime between now and 6 months of age, decrease feedings from four to three a day. A pup should be losing her potbelly and pudginess by 12 weeks. If she is still roly-poly at this age, continue to feed puppy-size portions until body type matures.

.....

Talk to your vet about starting your pup on a heartworm preventative.

Important Takeaways

Take your puppy out very frequently.



Begin teaching basic manners.



Start socializing him.



Keep up with vet visits.

*Dogue de
Bordeaux*



DOGUE DE BORDEAUX: ©CGLOBALP/GETTY IMAGES

TIMELINE



4^{to} 6 months

Ernie, a Shih Tzu

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

This is a period of major growth for your puppy, and his high-spirited bursts of activity likely feature much clumsiness. Combine all this with a still relatively short attention span, and you have one rambunctious canine on your hands!

BEHAVIOR CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

At around 4 months, your puppy will go through an “avoidance period.” During this phase he will probably be hesitant about doing new things and suspicious of new situations and places.

If he tends to be on the shy side, now is a time to ease up and be sure to keep things fun. Never push him or punish him for his anxiety.

If his usual demeanor is especially bold, this might be a time where he simply backs off a little

KEEP IN MIND ...

Your pup is especially prone to anxiety at this age. Calmly explore new situations with him, but don't push him or punish him if he is reluctant.

and looks to you for support; in that case, it can be an opportunity where he's especially receptive to training and you can encourage his responsiveness to you.

TIMELINE

Health and nutrition reminders

Continue feeding your pup three times a day until he's 6 months old. Have your vet explain to you how to recognize a healthy weight for your pup—with a large breed especially, excess weight in puppyhood could predispose him to hip dysplasia.

Ask your veterinarian about flea- and tick-control programs. A flea infestation in your home can be hard to eradicate, and ticks can carry disease.

Inspect your puppy's ears regularly to check that they are clean and free of odor or discharge

Complete your puppy's initial vaccination series.

If you choose to spay or neuter your dog, discuss with your veterinarian the appropriate age to do so. Studies have shown that performing these surgical procedures too early could contribute to potential future health issues. If you choose to become a breeder, take the time to learn as much as you can about your breed, responsible breeding, and your dog's heritage. Only breed if you are committed to putting in the time and effort to gain the extensive knowledge that is required in making responsible breeding decisions.

TRAINING TIPS FOR THIS STAGE

Continue socialization to a wide variety of people, other animals, places, sounds, and sights.

Housetraining may deteriorate over time, especially if you start taking it for granted. Remember when your pup is especially likely to have to go to the bathroom—after eating, drinking, or playing, and upon awakening.

Keep working on teaching him basic manners—to walk agreeably on a leash, come to you when called, and sit or lie down on command—always keeping it fun by using lots of treats and praise. Sessions should still be short, no more than 15 minutes, but you can have numerous sessions throughout the day.

Remember that habits your puppy learns now will persist when he's much bigger. You might not mind him jumping up on you now, but it might be less desirable when his paws hit your chest.

Keep in mind that pups cannot take pressure or harsh treatment. Gentle repetition in short sessions is the key.

Important Takeaways

More socialization! But go easy on a pup who's being reluctant or hesitant.

■
Keep working on basic manners.

■
During this growth spurt—and until he's fully grown—regularly check your pup's collar to see that it's not too tight. You should be able to easily slide three fingers under it.

Yorkshire
Terrier



YORKSHIRE TERRIER: © MATO81/GETTY IMAGES

6 to 9 months



Belgian Tervuren

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

This is another period of major growth, and your pup is probably also starting to feel the effects of in-

creasing hormones in his body. Your raucous adolescent is feeling vigorous and active, so getting enough exercise during this stage is especially important.

Important Takeaways

Provide your pup with plenty of opportunity to exercise.

Keep reinforcing commands and good manners.

Health and nutrition reminders

Although you can reduce the number of feedings to twice a day, keep feeding a quality puppy food during this phase of rapid growth.

Remember to keep on schedule with parasite/heartworm preventative.

If you are going to spay or neuter your dog, discuss with your veterinarian and your breeder the appropriate age to do so. There are data that show performing this procedure too early could contribute to possible future health issues.



Beagles

BEHAVIOR CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

With all those surging hormones, your pup may suddenly seem to ignore you more or challenge your leadership. Especially in males there may be early expressions of aggressive or dominant behavior. Be firm about rules you've established.

This intensity of activity may include a new burst of interest in chewing, so keep providing a variety of safe chew toys at all times.

TRAINING TIPS FOR THIS STAGE

During your puppy's adolescence it's important to continue training basic commands. Going to obedience classes will help, but remember that helping him maintain his good manners at home is up to you. One key point to remember: Your pup will be much easier to live with during this period if he gets enough exercise.

To help reinforce good manners and prevent your teenager

KEEP IN MIND ...
Raising your dog through this energetic "teenage" stage can be a challenge—but keep giving him loving attention and the guidance he needs, and you'll both come through it gracefully!

from getting into destructive mischief, keep your pup with you as much as possible when you're home. You might try having him on a leash with you while you're in the house,

and teach him to lie beside you. It may take him a while to settle down, but with patience he will. You can also keep him near you for short periods in a cozy crate or pen.

BEAGLES: ©LUNAJ/GETTY IMAGES

TIMELINE

*Maisie, a Cardigan
Welsh Corgi, and Jojo, an
English Toy Spaniel*

9 to 12 months



KEEP IN MIND ...

Change in routine can cause training setbacks. If this happens, be calm and firm and insist on good manners.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Although your canine friend will still seem a puppy at heart in some ways, most breeds will attain adult size by 12 months.

(Some large and giant breeds may not quite reach adult size or weight for up to another 6 months.)

Most males will begin to lift their leg to urinate by 12 months.

DAVID WOOD © AKC

TIMELINE

BEHAVIOR CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

Stresses in your pup's routine can cause setbacks or relapses in housetraining and other manners. Go back to reinforcing the basics if necessary, and keep up the praise and positive attitude.

For some dogs, signs of separation anxiety can develop or intensify during this time. To help nip this problem in the bud, avoid making a big deal of your comings and goings. If your dog

seems stressed when you're about to leave him, try helping him adjust with numerous "practice departures," where you pretend to go away but calmly return within a few minutes.

Important Takeaways

Look into the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen programs (see page 28) and think about participating with your pup.

Have fun! Celebrate the rewarding first year you and your canine family member have shared. It's just the beginning of a bond that will continue to grow.

Health and nutrition reminders

Continue feeding your pup twice a day, and keep feeding a puppy formula until he's at least 1 year old. Smaller breeds will make the switch earlier than bigger breeds, who may be on puppy food until they're 14 months old. Err on the side of caution: It's better to be on puppy food a little too long than not long enough.



Remember your veterinarian's tips on how to tell if your canine charge is becoming overweight. If your pup is getting a little too portly, cut back on his portion size a bit. (See page 23.) Check with your vet and make a note ahead in your calendar of when your pup will be due for his annual booster vaccines and parasite check.

TRAINING TIPS FOR THIS STAGE

Keep using praise and periodic treats to reinforce commands and good manners.

Consider preparing your dog for the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy program, followed by the Canine Good Citizen® test. Each is a great goal to aim for as you continue to train and socialize your puppy. The CGC test is offered in many communities and simply requires that your dog demonstrate a few specific aspects of basic good manners in public and around other people. It's a fun accomplishment you'll both be proud of.

TRAINING

6 steps to a Confident Puppy

Border
Collie



Four weeks to four months is a crucial time for socialization. Puppy class is a great way to socialize your puppy while teaching him basic manners and good behavior. Some classes culminate in AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy and Canine Good Citizen testing (see page 27), allowing your dog to earn a title for his efforts!



Border Collie

1 Chewing, barking, whimpering, jumping on people—and being endlessly curious about everything—are normal puppy behaviors. Watch out for abnormal behaviors, including being fearful or easily startled, constant crying or yelping, biting to guard food or toys, and extreme nervousness or destructive behavior. These problems may require professional help.

2 Remember that “out of sight” usually means “into trouble.” Pay attention to what your puppy is doing and how he interacts with his environment. Keep things positive, interesting, and stimulating. Extended periods of boredom can lead to problems.

3 Puppies use their mouths to explore their environments. This can mean playing rough with other puppies, which is often

BORDER COLLIE (TOP): ©WUNDERVISUALS/GETTY IMAGES
BORDER COLLIE (BOTTOM): ©TOMAS MARACEK/GETTY IMAGES

TRAINING

fine. (Dogs let each other know when they've had enough.) Still, monitor your puppy to ensure he isn't becoming aggressive or bullying. See that he has enough toys of his own to keep him busy.

4 Kids are often scared and overexcited around dogs. Help them to encounter yours in a gentle way that gives both the child and dog a happy experience. A puppy's early experiences with children are formative and therefore must be handled with patience and care.

5 Puppies exposed to many people, dogs, places, sounds, and situations gain confidence, happiness, and trust. They should meet people in your home and in unfamiliar places. Let the encounters be diverse: tall and short people, women pushing strollers, teenagers with backpacks, people in wheelchairs, people wearing hats, and so on.



Samoyed

6 Your dog takes his cues from you. When introducing him to a new person or place, be calm and confident, and address the pup in a soothing, authoritative voice. This will reassure him that all is well and help him build confidence as he matures.

What You Should Do

▲ *Let your dog interact with other dogs daily (at the park or in puppy class, for instance), or at least a few times a week, but don't overstimulate him. Make sure he enjoys the experience; otherwise, don't force him into it. Keep his social periods brief at first, so as not to overdo it, and restrict his time around unknown dogs until he's fully vaccinated.*

▲ *To discourage separation anxiety—which often results in puppies engaging in destructive behavior—supply your pup with chew toys to keep him appropriately occupied in your absence. You'll want to make sure that both his teeth and mind are busy.*

▲ *Sometimes dogs need to work off steam in ways you don't have time to provide. Consider signing your dog up at a dog daycare center, if there is one in the neighborhood, or hire a dog walker to take your pup on an extended walk to burn off energy.*

▲ *If your puppy meets another dog on the street or at the dog park who seems aggressive, calmly lead your dog away. Never try to force an interaction that could turn dangerous.*

▲ *At the earliest opportunity, take your puppy for a brief ride in the car. Stop by the vet's office, just for a visit and a treat, so he considers it a positive place to spend time.*

▲ *Because puppies sometimes see kids as equals, they may react to them in unpredictable ways. Put your pup into a "sit" or "down" when meeting toddlers or babies. He should never be permitted to jump on them.*



Houstraining: Step-By-Step

With patience, diligence, and a calm, authoritative manner, you can teach your dog exactly where he should eliminate and where he should not. Be patient: Some dogs "get it" faster than others.

1 The key to success is simple: Timing is everything.

2 Take your puppy outside immediately after eating, playing, or napping (approximately every two hours). Keeping this rigid schedule will prevent him from making mistakes in the house.

3 Some trainers recommend giving your dog a command like "Potty time!" or "Go to the bathroom!" at the moment your pup is correctly doing his business outside.



TIP *Clean up your puppy's mistakes with white vinegar or special cleaning products to get rid of the smell. That way the puppy won't return to the same spot to eliminate.*

Eventually, whenever you say that phrase, the dog will eliminate on cue.

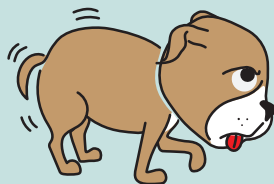
4 A puppy's behavior will let you know that he needs to go outside. If he whines, paces, or runs in a circle, grab the leash and get out the door.

5 Mistakes happen. If you catch your puppy eliminating in the house—and he will—correct him with a firm, gentle "No." Take him for a walk and praise him lavishly when he does his business outside.

Learn their Language

How well do you speak dog? They may not be able to use words, but our canine companions actually communicate loud and clear with body language.

Learn how to read between the lines:

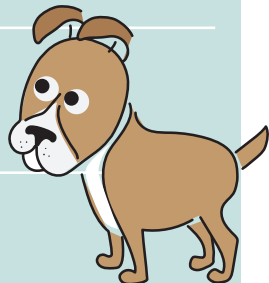


"I'm scared!"

Trembling, crouching down, lowering their heads/bodies, or lying on a side or back in a submissive posture. Fearful dogs might also try to hide under a bench or behind a staff person's legs during a playgroup. In cases of extreme fear, the dog might appear frozen or may urinate or defecate when another dog approaches.

"Hm, what is that?"

Sizing up the situation—Ears forward, mouth closed, head cocked, and slight lean forward



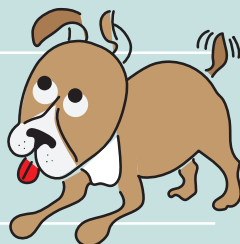
"Pet me, please."

Relaxed, happy dog. Ears up, head up. Mouth slightly open, tongue relaxed, may put his head on you or roll over for a belly rub. This is not submissive showing of the belly. Relaxed facial expression, wagging tail.



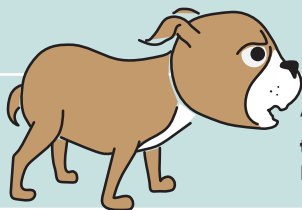
"Let's play!"

Does the play bow where one dog invites another to play. After the play bow, dog may start running to play with ears up.



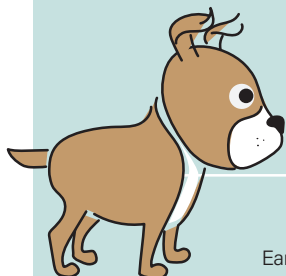
"Stop that, or I'm going to have to defend myself."

Body leans forward, mouth tense, lips forward



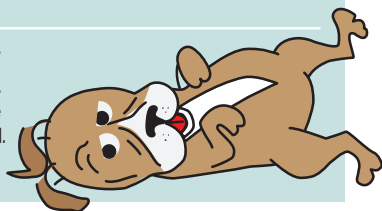
"Something doesn't seem right."

Dog shows alertness by standing upright. Slight forward lean, mouth closed, wide-open eyes, ears forward to listen, tail is usually horizontal (parallel to ground)



"I'm not a threat to you."

Lies on back exposing stomach. Ears flat and back, head turned to side to avoid eye contact, eyes partly closed.



How to crate train your puppy



Crating your dog several times a day is an excellent way to housetrain him. This is because dogs will try not to soil their “home.”

Line the crate with blankets to make it cozy. You can also cover the top of it with a blanket or

purchase specially made crate covers and mat sets to further mimic the “den” atmosphere.

Use the crate for naps, nighttime slumber, and quiet-time breaks for the puppy to “unwind” from family chaos. (Where you place the crate will depend on your space and your dog’s personality.)

Buy a well-ventilated crate, one large enough for him to stand up, lie down, and turn around. If the pup has a lot of growing ahead of him, purchase one with a divider that will let you expand it as he gets bigger.

TIP

If you discover your dog had an accident in the house or in his crate, do not scold him.

Dogs don’t understand delayed consequences and won’t know why you’re mad.

FACT!

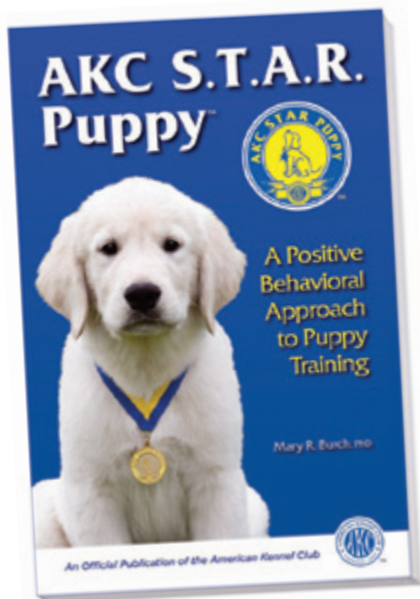
Dogs like crates since they mimic the close quarters of a wolf’s den, so never think that crating your dog is cruel or unusual. It is what the pros do. Here’s how crate training simplifies housetraining, and gives the puppy much needed room of his own.

Never leave a puppy in his crate all day; he needs several bathroom breaks and play and feeding times. Even though he won’t want to soil his sleeping area, if he is in there for extremely long stretches, he just might. (He can’t help it.)

Never use the crate as punishment. It should always be a haven for your pup, not a jail cell.



The **Official Book** of the **AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy[®]** Program



The perfect training manual for instructors, puppy owners and anyone wanting to learn more about puppies and training!

A positive behavioral approach to training.

This manual includes:

- ★ *Stages of development*
- ★ *50 ideas for socialization*
- ★ *Behavior basics*
- ★ *Exercise for puppies*
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GROOMING

Trim Your



Dog's Nails

Ernie, a Shih Tzu

in Just 3 Steps



1 Pick up one paw, and firmly but gently place your thumb on the pad of a toe and your forefinger on top of the toe on the skin above the nail. Push your thumb slightly up and backward on the pad while pushing your forefinger forward. This extends the nail. (Don't squeeze the paw!)



2 Using your other hand, clip the tip only, straight across. Avoid clipping past the curve of the nail, or you risk hitting what is called the quick. A nick there is painful and will cause bleeding. It's harder to see the quick on darker nails, so clip only the hooklike part of the nail that turns down.

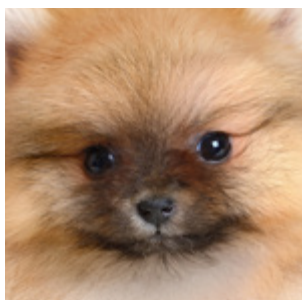
3 Examine the paw pads for foreign objects or injuries. In winter, clean your dog's feet after he has gone outdoors; this removes de-icing chemicals, salt, snow, and ice, which can injure the feet or make your dog sick if he licks his paws.

SHIH TZU & ENGLISH TOY/SPANIEL/DAVID WOO ©AKC

GROOMING

How to Groom Eyes and Ears

Eyes should be cleaned when there is noticeable discharge or when the dog is being bathed. Check for redness or other signs of irritation. Healthy eyes are bright and clear, and the white of the eye is pure white. You can help keep them that way by gently wiping away discharge in the corners with a cotton ball or soft washcloth moistened with warm water. Avoid rubbing the cotton ball directly over the eye.



Pomeranian



Jojo, an English Toy Spaniel

Ears should be cleaned at least once a month, more often if your dog is prone to ear problems. Look inside to check for dirt, scratches, parasites, or discharge. Then give them a good sniff! There shouldn't be any unpleasant odor. Moisten a cotton ball with mineral oil and gently wipe out the ears, going no deeper than the first knuckle on your finger.

Keep ears dry and clean, or your dog may face recurrent ear infections that are difficult to treat. Avoid using drying agents on a regular basis—if there's no problem they can dry out the ear too much, and if the ear is oozing there's a reason for it. Drying it up without treating the underlying cause leads to more ear problems.

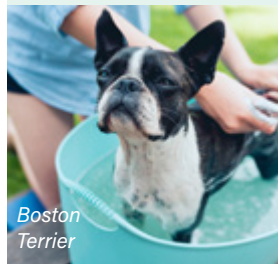
Grooming Tips

1 Fondle his ears and paws when he is relaxed and tired. Dogs are especially sensitive in those areas, so they need to learn that being handled is pleasurable.

2 Establish a weekly routine so the puppy comes to expect grooming at a certain time, preferably before he has eaten and after he has relieved himself.

3 Place him on an elevated, nonskid surface, such as a picnic table or a washer-dryer with a rubber mat on top. Be sure you keep one hand on the pup at all times, and if you have to walk away, put him on the floor.

4 End each grooming session with a soothing massage and a treat.



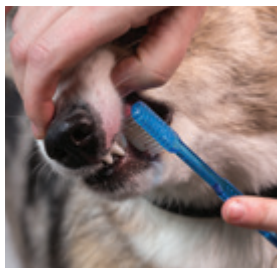
Boston Terrier



The “Tooth” about Canine Teeth

Maisie, a Cardigan Welsh Corgi

Dental care is an aspect of grooming that many people ignore, but caring for your dog's teeth from a young age can pay off in fresh breath and better health. Your puppy's teeth should be cleaned daily if possible. Without cleaning, food and saliva cause a buildup of soft plaque, which hardens into tartar. This contributes to bad breath and periodontal disease, which can cause pain and even organ damage. By brushing your pup's teeth regularly, you can prevent or decrease the need for veterinary cleanings, which usually require anesthetizing the dog.



When purchasing dental-care products, look for ones made specifically for dogs. Toothbrushes should be soft, and toothpaste must be formulated for a dog's system. (Human toothpaste can cause an upset stomach if your pup swallows it.)

Did You Know?

80%

of dogs have dental disease by age 3.

Talk to your vet about your dog's oral hygiene needs, which may include a veterinary diet, supplements, or treats as well as daily brushing.

Signs of Dental Disease

Bad breath
most common sign

Inflamed gums

Dropping food

Loss of weight/
appetite

Visible tartar

Loose teeth

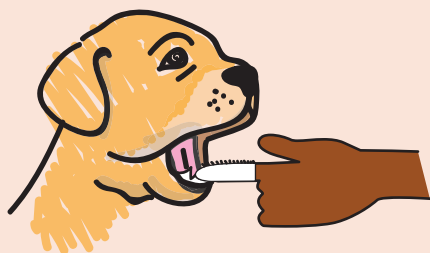


1. Start by teaching your puppy to open his mouth so you can look at his teeth, and praise him when he complies. This will set the foundation for him to feel comfortable when you start brushing his teeth each day.

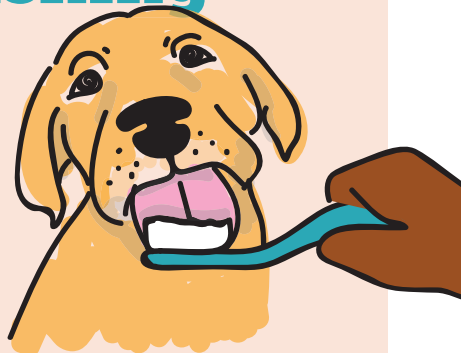


2. Squeeze a little canine toothpaste on your finger and let your puppy lick it off.

Teach Your Dog to Love Brushing



3. When he's used to the toothpaste, start gently scrubbing his teeth with a finger brush or a gauze pad, offering licks of toothpaste as a reward.



4. Introduce him to a toothbrush by allowing him to lick toothpaste off it. Don't start brushing yet.



5. Once he's comfortable with the toothbrush near his face, start brushing slowly, starting at the top front and moving to the sides, followed by the bottom front and then the bottom sides. Finish with praise and a special treat.

Nutrition Tips



Labrador Retriever

How to Feed Your Puppy

DRY VS. WET

Canned food is the most expensive to feed, and most dogs often find it the most

palatable. Be careful of “all-meat” claims. Your dog should have a complete balanced diet.

Dry food comes

with an oral-hygiene advantage. The friction produced during chewing helps to keep the gums and teeth healthy.

CONSISTENCY IS KEY

Make sure everyone gets with the program. Your entire household must be committed to your dog’s feeding regimen. If there’s a soft touch for a handout in your family, your dog will find it and exploit it, thus undoing the good you are trying to do. Keeping a dog trim takes a conscious effort from everyone on your team.



Siberian Husky

LABRADOR RETRIEVER: ©CMANINPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES;
SIBERIAN HUSKY: ©SUSAN CHIANG/GETTY IMAGES

NUTRITION

BIG DOGS VS. LITTLE DOGS

The range of sizes among dog breeds is greater than in any other animal. For example, a 150-pound Newfoundland is 50 times the size of a 3-pound Pomeranian.

To put it in perspective, picture a 150-pound human and then imagine a fully grown person who weighs only 3 pounds!

Large-breed puppies will weigh more than 50 pounds when full-grown. It takes these big guys about 18 to 24 months to reach their adult size. If they grow too quickly, they can develop problems with their joints and bones. Reduced-calorie foods with less calcium help support the proper rate of growth in large-breed puppies.

Adult dogs that weigh less than 20 pounds are considered small-breed dogs. Puppies of these breeds grow quickly and may reach adulthood at 9 months.

Some companies make a mini-size kibble for small-breed puppies because their mouths are so little. And because their tiny stomachs don't hold much, small-breed puppies require high-calorie foods to provide them sufficient nutrition.

Also, small dogs need more calories to maintain



Saint Bernard and Chihuahua

body heat: They produce less heat and radiate more of it from their skin than do large dogs.

But small-breed dogs tend to be more pampered and less active than larger breeds, so owners who feed a high-calorie food formulated for small breeds should be careful not to overfeed.

A number of dog food companies have worked with canine-nutrition scientists to develop special formulas for both large- and small-breed puppies.

GIVE A DOG A BONE? CAREFUL!

As for bones, our best advice is caution. Poultry and pork bones, or cooked bones of any kind, are strictly forbidden. They splinter into shards that can cause choking and serious damage to the dog's mouth, throat, or intestines.

Any bone, in fact, once chewed into small pieces, can block

the intestines and lead to a nasty bout of constipation, can cause lacerations of the mouth and internal organs, or can lodge in the throat with fatal results. It is important to note that bones have little if any nutritional value.

There are other ways to satisfy a dog's craving to chew. Commercially available chew toys

and simulated bones are available for dogs of all sizes.



Read the product information on all chew toys before purchasing.



Do's & Don't

of Feeding Puppies

DO feed at regular times in regular amounts to discourage picky habits.

DON'T leave food down for more than 10 to 20 minutes. Most, but not all, dogs finish meals quickly.

DON'T worry if your puppy occasionally skips a meal or picks at food. It could mean she is ready to eliminate a feeding or that you have given her too much, in which case simply reduce the quantity served.

DO adjust the amount you feed your dog at mealtime if you are using treats while training. Whenever training with treats, keep the portions very small—one treat can be split into multiple pieces.

DON'T feed your pup the moment you get home. This may encourage separation anxiety. Play or grooming is a more positive way to say hello.

DO ask your veterinarian about a prescription diet if your dog has a medical issue, like dental disease, kidney or

heart disease, diabetes, or another serious condition. These foods should never be fed without a prescription.

DON'T give supplements without asking a vet first. Some vitamin or mineral supplements, when used incorrectly (such as extra calcium given to a large-breed dog), may do more harm than good.

DO offer fruits and raw vegetables as snacks to your grown dog. Small portions of carrot or apple chunks are healthful low-calorie treats most dogs love. Avoid onions, garlic, grapes/raisins, and any fruit with pits or rinds. When in doubt, ask your vet.



NUTRITION

DON'T make a major change in your dog's diet without first consulting with your veterinarian and, when possible, the breeder. Once the formula is chosen, stick with it. Sudden changes in food may cause digestion problems.

DO make fresh water available at all times. During the summer months, consider setting up multiple indoor/outdoor water stations. To avoid a buildup of bacteria, wash the water bowl daily. (Note: Stainless-steel bowls are ideal, as they can be washed in a dishwasher.)



Chart Your Puppy's Condition

A puppy will be roly-poly until about 9 months, at which point he should be losing his baby fat and growing into his lean adult size. At this point, it's important to make sure he's staying at a healthy weight. A young dog carrying too much weight has an increased risk of orthopedic problems, due to stress on immature joints. Use this chart to help determine if your dog needs to lose or gain weight, and discuss it with your veterinarian.



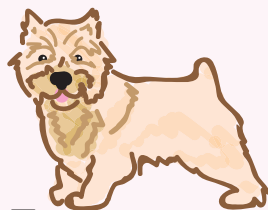
1 too thin

(ribs apparent, abdomen severely tucked)



2 somewhat thin

(ribs show or have very little fat covering them)

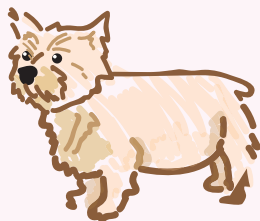


3 just right

(ribs can be felt, not seen; abdomen has a small tuck)

4 somewhat overweight

(ribs are padded; belly visible)



5 obese

(ribs cannot be felt; belly hangs; sides protrude when viewing from top)



Cause for Concern

Certain things can signify that a health problem is brewing. Call your vet within 24 hours if you notice any of the following symptoms.

GENERAL:

- sudden listlessness, loss of interest in favorite activities
- uncharacteristic house soiling
- limping
- no interest in food for more than 8 hours
- continued weight loss

DIGESTIVE/URINARY:

- repeated vomiting
- blood in vomit
- persistent diarrhea (more than 24 hours)
- lack of bowel movement for 48 hours
- worms or blood visible in stool
- increase in thirst and urination
- blood in urine
- inability or straining to urinate

EYES:

- cloudy eye
- eye held closed or squinting
- swelling of lids or surrounding tissue

- sudden, profuse tearing or discharge
- redness in white of the eye
- vision impairment

EARS:

- shaking head
- drainage or foul odor
- swelling of ear flap
- hearing impairment (does not readily respond to name, commands)

MOUTH/RESPIRATORY:

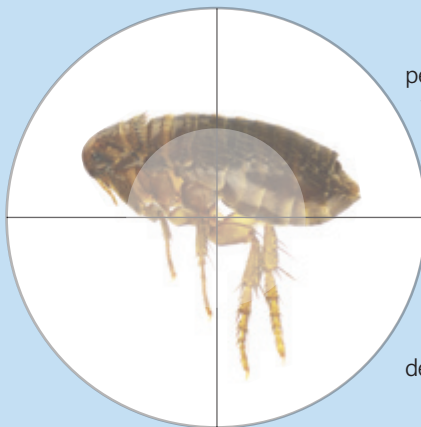
- broken tooth
- pawing at mouth
- foul odor
- persistent coughing or wheezing
- excessive drooling

SKIN:

- severe itching
- skin that is inflamed or oozing
- areas of hair loss
- a sore that won't heal
- a new lump
- changes in size or color of a current lump

Parasite Prevention

Fleas and ticks can be irritating to both you and your dog, but they can be downright dangerous, too. The risks involved vary depending on where you live and how often your dog is exposed to these



pests. To protect dogs from the discomfort and illness caused by fleas and ticks, it's important to not only rid pets of the pests, but to also treat a pet's environment to prevent or reduce the incidence of reinfestation.

Fleas

Common household fleas don't usually transmit diseases to pets and people. While there are more than 200 species of fleas in the U.S., the main troublemaker for pets is the cat flea. Happy to feed on anyone in the household—cat, dog, or human—these wingless insects will most likely choose a pet whose fur provides warm camouflage for their breeding ground.

Following are tips on keeping your home flea-free:

- Fleas are most often found in areas where pets rest or sleep, so be especially vigilant in those spots.
- Vacuuming frequently will eliminate most fleas from the home, especially in spring and summer, when the flea season is in high gear.
- Since fleas can thrive in vacuum bags and escape back into your home, change bags frequently, disposing of them by first sealing them in plastic bags and then placing them into a covered trash bin.
- Putting pillows into a warm dryer for 10 to 15 minutes on the air-fluff cycle will help keep them fresh and free of fleas.

- Be sure to wash your dog's bedding at least once a week in hot, soapy water.
- When bringing new or used items such as carpets or upholstered furniture into the home, first have them professionally cleaned.
- Steam cleaning or shampooing rugs and furniture kills and removes flea eggs and larvae.



Bulldog

FLEA: ©COSMLN/GETTY IMAGES; BULLDOG: ©PEOPLEIMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

HEALTH



Labrador Retrievers

Ticks

Ticks pose greater risk, annually infecting pets and thousands of people with illnesses such as Lyme disease.

The United States has about 200 tick species. Habitats include woods, beach grass, lawns, forests, and even urban areas. If your dog is outside regularly, check him thoroughly for ticks and ask your vet about getting the Lyme disease vaccine.

Ticks may carry various infectious organisms that can transmit diseases to cats and dogs. Some warning signs include: lethargy, appetite loss, weakness, pale gums, high fever, muscle aches, lameness, itching pain, swollen joints, fever, poor appetite, and vomiting. Signs of tick paralysis, a serious, life-threatening condition, include gradual paralysis, seen first as an unsteady gait from uncoordinated back legs.

If you suspect a tick-borne disease, see the veterinarian right away. With early diagnosis, antibiotics generally work.

How to Remove a Tick

Use fine-point tweezers, grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible, and pull gently. This will prevent the tick's mouth from breaking off and remaining embedded in the skin. Make sure you've cleaned your hands, the bite

site, and the tweezers with disinfectant. You may want to wear latex gloves. Never remove a tick with your fingers, as the squeezing further injects infectious material.

You can also buy products designed specifically for tick removal. Speak to your veterinarian for recommendations.

Heartworm

Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. These worms lodge in the right side of the heart and the pulmonary arteries, though they can travel through the rest of the body. A new infection often causes no symptoms, though dogs in later stages of the disease may cough, become lethargic, lose their appetite, or have difficulty breathing. Infected dogs may tire after mild exercise. Heartworm disease is serious but treatable if caught early. It is also entirely preventable with regular medication. Talk to your vet about the best time to start giving your dog the medication, and ask about testing him for heartworm at your regular veterinary appointments.



ABOUT AKC



As your puppy grows, let your relationship with AKC grow as well. Following are many ways to get involved and meet other dog lovers.

Set a Goal

New puppy owners can get their dog off to a successful start with the AKC's S.T.A.R. Puppy Program. An acronym for socialization, training, activity, and responsibility, it is designed to promote good behavior and a

stronger canine–human bond. Once a puppy (up to 1 year old) completes a six-week training class taught by an AKC-approved evaluator, owners are eligible to enroll in the program and receive a medal,

a certificate, access to AKC training resources, and more.

The AKC Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) program is a 10-step test that rewards responsible pet ownership and dogs who possess good

manners at home and in their community. Many owners choose CGC training as the first step on the road to a well-behaved dog because it lays the foundation for other AKC activities, including advanced CGC.



Your rambunctious puppy has energy to spare. Channel that youthful spirit into earning ribbons and titles through more than 20 exciting dog sports. Whether your dog is navigating a weave pole in agility, soaring high in Diving Dogs, or demonstrating his grace and poise in obedience, he'll be working toward an even more important goal—building an unbreakable bond with you. Most of these AKC titling events are open to purebred and mixed-breed dogs alike, and information for each can be found at akc.org/sports.

Watch and Learn
Get your daily dose of everything dog by tuning in to AKC.TV, a digital network. Visit akc.tv for details.



Make It Official
Are you part of our pack? If you haven't yet, be sure to register your puppy (akc.org/register) with the American Kennel Club and reach an nationwide network of experts on purebred health, nutrition, training, and more. You'll also have the option to add AKC pet insurance and a subscription to our flagship lifestyle publication, *AKC Family Dog*, and have access to our many sports and events.

 Did you know? You don't have to have a purebred to be part of the AKC family. Mixed-breed dogs are equally celebrated and supported through the AKC's Canine Partners program. Go to akc.org and search "Canine Partners."

Stay Connected
Follow AKC on social media:

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BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG / ISABELLE FRANCAIS FOR AKC



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Newly redesigned, the bimonthly **AKC Family Dog** is a lifestyle magazine loaded with everything you need to help your puppy reach his full potential, including:

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