

What to expect when you're expecting... a PUPPY!

You've decided to adopt a new puppy, to bring you joy and friendship for many years to come...how exciting! But if this is your first puppy, you might be asking yourself, how should I prepare for my puppy's arrival to his/her forever home? We thought we would summarize some common questions we receive regarding adoption of our pups.

FAQs...

- What vaccines should the vet give my puppy?
- How much and how often should I feed my puppy?
- What is the best puppy food?
- How much exercise does my puppy need?
- Should I use a crate?
- Will my puppy chew everything?
- [Should I register my puppy on AKC?](#)

Each heading below has a clickable link to an AKC article on the topic.

[Puppy Health](#)

The moment you bring your puppy home, your #1 responsibility is to keep him/her healthy. From good nutrition to proper sleep habits, get all the tips you need for ensuring he'll have a long, happy life. We recommend not taking puppies to community dog parks until they are at least 1 year old, due to the risk of contracting the deadly [PARVO illness](#). [Vaccine schedules](#) are a matter of personal preference regarding types and frequency, and you should consult your trusted veterinarian for their recommendation.

We ask that you take your puppy to your trusted veterinarian for a wellness exam within the first 10 days after taking him/her home, and again at the age of 12 weeks for a checkup and their second round of vaccines. We provide a health guarantee for our pups, that depends upon a visit to your vet within the first 10 days after gotcha day.

[Puppy Food](#)

We recommend following the advice of your trusted veterinarian when it comes to puppy food brands and quantity per day for your puppy. Once they are weaned, we feed our puppies Purina Pro Plan Puppy dry food and our adult dogs get Purina One dry dog food. We follow the directions on the package as far as quantity and frequency of food. This can vary by brand and by size of the puppy. Typically, we offer food two to three times per day to our puppies and two times per day for our adult dogs. Be aware that while they are growing, the puppies can eat more than an adult dog. Again, follow the advice of your vet on this topic.

[Exercise](#)

Exercise is very important for pups to ensure healthy bone and muscle development. However, it is possible to give a pup too much exercise, especially in the larger breeds. Your puppy's exercise needs will change as he/she grows. When your puppy is very young, veterinarians recommend keeping exercise limited to short walks and multiple play sessions throughout the day, with plenty of time for

naps. Older puppies will require more exercise. A six-month-old dog might be capable of taking longer walks or even short jogs (if your vet helps you determine he's in good overall health and up for it), for example, but long hikes over rough terrain or strenuous agility classes are still potentially dangerous. The link in the heading provides a good article from the AKC about this topic...suggested reading to prevent too little or too much exercise while your puppy is growing.

[Using Dog Crates](#)

We recommend using a dog crate for training your puppy starting the first day you bring him/her home. Crate training is very useful for successful house training, as well as keeping your puppy safe when you are not home or not able to spend time playing with them. We provide a crate without a door for our pups while they are with us, before they go to their forever homes. It is an enclosed travel crate that feels very secure to them. This helps the pups become acclimated to using a crate, before they are adopted. Dogs are by nature den animals, and so they feel very secure in a crate with a cover such as a blanket or sheet.

We use [crates](#) to house break our pups and to keep them safe when we leave home for a period of time. Consider using an old blanket or some type of bedding for the bottom of the crate. Pups will sleep in the crates, and typically will not pee or poop in them and so this is an effective way of house training them. If you have a large crate, they normally have a divider which we use when the pups are smaller. This confines their area in the crate, reducing the chance of accidents while in their crates. And if you're feeling guilty about keeping the puppy in a crate over night or while you work...remember that it's not how much time they spend in a crate, but making the time spent outside of their crate good quality play time with you.

[Chewing](#)

Puppies will chew as their teeth develop. This is natural and necessary for healthy gums and teeth. Pups will chew wooden chair legs, kids' toys, Christmas tree ornaments...you get the idea. Pups will swallow anything and everything, which can lead to bowel obstructions. As with any baby, human, dog, etc...we keep all small objects off the floor and out of reach of our pups. If you aren't able to watch over your pup for a period of time, it's best to keep them in their crate or a confined safe area.

We have found the best way to keep the puppies safe while satisfying their need to chew has been to offer them multiple puppy-safe options. For example, when Marlee was a pup, she chewed our son's Thomas the Train wooden toys and so we had to provide a basket for her with puppy-safe chew toys, including: Kong brand stuffed animals; Nyla teething rings, rope toys; and squeaker toys...all of these items were specifically made for puppies. Over time, your puppy will let you know what their favorite chew toys are. Just ensure that none of the items are so small that the puppy can swallow them.

[AKC Registration](#)

Whether you should register your puppy with the American Kennel Club (AKC), is a matter of personal preference. We register our dogs with AKC to avoid any potential cross-breeding since the dog's lines are traced by the AKC. Your puppy is currently registered with the AKC as a member of [Dunlap Family Goldens](#) registered litter. If you want to register your pup with the AKC, we provide you with the paperwork and information to do so.