

# Puppy care guide



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**\$300**  
worth of voucher  
savings inside!

\*T&Cs apply



 **Petdirect**

# More than a pet supply store. We're pet parents too.

We're 100% Kiwi-owned and operated, built by people who get what it means to welcome a new puppy into the family. That's why everything we do, from the brands we choose to the advice we give, is designed to give your puppy the best start possible.

## Free expert consultation

Book a free 15-min call with our customer care team. We're here to help.

## Earn Airpoints Dollars™

Treats for them and for you. Earn Airpoints Dollars every time you shop.

## Fast delivery NZ-wide

Free shipping on orders over \$79. Click & collect available at our expanding store network.

## Autodeliver & save

Up to 25% off your first order, 15% ongoing. Never run out of essentials.

## Pet Perks

Sign up for free and save up to 15% on food & flea treatments every day.

## Exclusive brands

Coco & Cooper, Pup & Purr — boutique quality you won't find anywhere else.

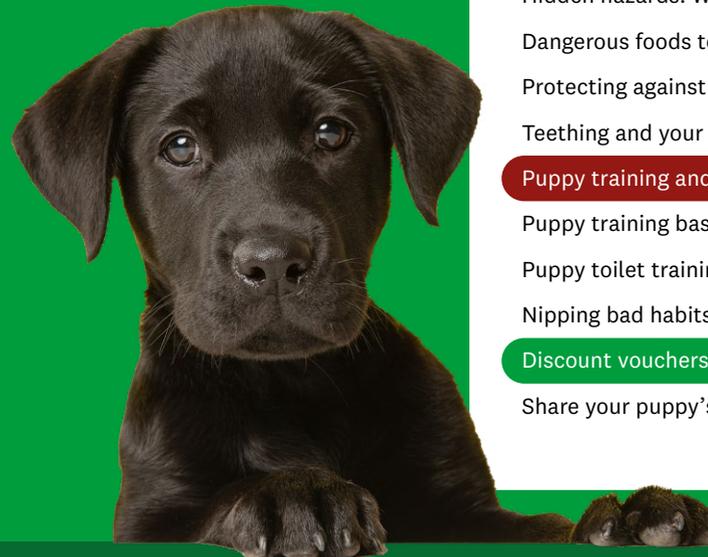
## We'll be here with you each step of the way

We get how much of a big step puppy parenthood can be. From their first night home to their first walk around the block, we're with you both every step of the way.

**Because at Petdirect, we get pet.**

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# Welcome to puppyhood!



**Bringing a lovable little ball of energy into your home is a joy like no other - and there are so many more magic moments to come.**

Whether you've just got your puppy, or you're doing your all-important research beforehand, this guide gives you all the essentials. You'll be able to give your puppy the best start in life and the right care as they grow.



**Welcoming your new puppy home**

# Important questions to ask yourself



**Before your life is full of happy little yaps and heart-melting cuddles, it's essential to make sure your new puppy and your home are a good match.** A little time spent now will pay off for everyone.

## Room to move

How much space do you have and what kind of dog will it suit? Think about outdoor areas, fences and space to play. If you're renting, speak to your landlord.

## Big dog or little dog

Dogs come in miniature, massive and every size in between, right up to 60kg. Pick a breed you can feed, exercise and comfortably home.

## Got the energy?

From a short stroll to a serious run, dogs have very different exercise needs. Make sure you've got the energy and time to match.

## How much grooming

Some breeds need regular brushing, or even professional grooming. It's essential for their health, so think about how much time and money it will cost.

## Home alone

Without the right training, puppies can develop separation anxiety, which is stressful for everyone. Can you give your puppy enough attention and company?

## Consider the costs

In addition to food, there are flea and worm treatments, insurance, grooming and vet bills out of the blue. Make sure you can afford the commitment.

## Choose responsibly

Only get a puppy from a responsible breeder or rescuer. Make sure they're reputable and can give you information about the puppy's health and parents.



# Which breed is right for you?



There are many different dog breeds with different traits and needs. Knowing what you're looking for and doing your research is essential. Finding the right match and a loving home will shape the dog you raise as much as its genetics.

## Purebred dogs

If you have a specific breed, temperament, energy level or type of dog in mind, a purebred puppy could be ideal. It's also easier to research the breed and get a better idea of what they need and how they grow.

### A reputable purebred dealer should:

- Provide registration papers from a recognised association, like Dogs NZ
- Provide genetic screening for health conditions specific to their breed
- Keep a complete health record, with vaccinations and vet care
- Allow you to meet the puppy, its parents and where it was raised
- Talk to you about whether the breed is suitable for you.

*Puppy tip!* Only buy from a reputable breeder.

## Mixed breed dogs

There is huge variety in the physical types and temperaments of mixed breed dogs. They can be every bit as loving and full of character as a purebred dog and often come without the inherited genetic health conditions.

Responsible breeders, rescue shelters or adoption centres will usually arrange a first vet check before your puppy comes home and allow you and the puppy to meet each other. Mixed breed puppies don't have the same paperwork as a purebred, but you will need to keep records of:

- First vet check notes and previous health history
- Microchipping details
- Vaccination history and schedule of upcoming injections
- History and schedule of parasite treatment for fleas, ticks and worms.

*Puppy tip!* Keep health and vaccination records - you'll need them for vet visits, insurance, grooming, breeding, boarding and air travel.

Scan here to explore popular dog breeds and find the right fit for you.

[petd.nz/pg-dog-breeds](https://petd.nz/pg-dog-breeds)



# Your pawprint to puppy development

As your puppy grows to become a well-rounded dog, these are the milestones that will make you a proud pet parent.



## Newborn to 6 weeks: The first steps

Pups at this stage rely solely on their mother until they're 3 or 4 weeks old. Their eyes and ears open and they start to walk and bark. Their milk teeth will start erupting and by 7 weeks, they start to eat firm foods and begin to feed three times daily.

## 8 to 10 weeks: Welcome home!

Puppies arrive at their new home! At this stage, they'll start their toilet training and lead training. You'll also need puppy-specific food enriched with DHA for brain development and vision, as well as premium ingredients to help them grow strong. This is also the time to ensure they are up to date with vaccinations and parasite prevention.



## 2 to 5 months: Exploring the world

Socialisation is important at this age once they have completed their vaccinations. Your puppy will start to step out into the world and they will be more responsive to training. Their permanent teeth will appear and continue to grow, so expect plenty of chewing. From five months they can transition down to two feeds per day.



## 6 to 12 months: Growing up

Your puppy's skeletal growth slows down as they reach adolescence. Between 6-12 months most puppies will reach sexual maturity. This is the best time to discuss with your vet when would be the best window to get your puppy desexed.



## Adult stage: The prime of life!

Depending on the size and breed, your puppy will become an adult as young as 10 months or as old as 24 months. They've finished most of their growing and developing, but still need regular checkups and parasite prevention to stay healthy. Once your puppy reaches adulthood, you will need to transition them to a premium adult food.

### You will need:

- **Adult dog food**  
Transition to our range of superior nutrition brands
- **New harness/collar and bed**  
Sized specifically for their adult growth
- **Dental care essentials** To keep those permanent teeth sparkling.



# Helping your puppy settle into their new home

Bringing your puppy home is a wonderful moment for you, but it's a bit overwhelming for them. Here's how to make them feel safe, secure and ready to explore their new home.

## Start small and quiet

First, choose a quiet spot in your home away from people passing by. Or, set up a special puppy zone with a playpen or gates. Next, puppy-proof any area they have access to. Close toilet lids, tuck away cords, pick up shoes and small objects. See pages 29 to 30 for more details about hazards. Make their special space cosy with soft blankets and a comfy bed.

## Make sure their space contains:

- A soft, cosy, supportive bed, or crate with bedding
- Fresh food and water
- Chew toys and calm toys.

*Puppy tip! If you're using puppy pads, keep them away from food and bedding.*



## The first few nights

At night, your new puppy needs peace and quiet. Children will have to resist the urge to cuddle and play when your puppy is sleepy. Make sure they use quiet voices, soft hands and respect your puppy's space.

### Here's how to make bedtime work for everyone:

#### Tire them out

Use chase toys, puzzle feeders and play to burn off energy before bed.

#### Stick to a routine

Take them to the toilet before bed and keep things calm in the evening. Be ready and patient for the occasional overnight wake-up.

## Set clear sleep rules

If you want your puppy to sleep in their own space, start from day one. Letting them sleep on your bed is comforting, but it can form a hard habit to change later.

## Ease separation anxiety

Keep their sleeping area close to yours at first. If they get upset, soothe them with a calm voice and guide them back to bed.

## Let your pup set the pace

Every puppy has their own way. Some are bold explorers, others take time.



# Everything your puppy needs in their first weeks.

## Pawfect Beginnings Puppy Starter Kit



Save over \$190+ on RRP!

Scan to shop now:



[petd.nz/pg-puppy-starter-pack](https://petd.nz/pg-puppy-starter-pack)



# The only crate they'll ever need.

From tiny paws to full-grown zoomies, the Pup & Purr Double Door Crate grows with your puppy.



## Smart design

Use the adjustable divider to create a cosy den that expands as they grow. Perfect for stress-free toilet training.



## Double the access

Front and side doors give you total flexibility in any room.



## Life-proof

Features a slide-out tray for "oops" moments and floor-protecting rubber feet.

Scan to shop the  
Pup & Purr Double  
Door Crate:



[petd.nz/pg-crate](https://petd.nz/pg-crate)

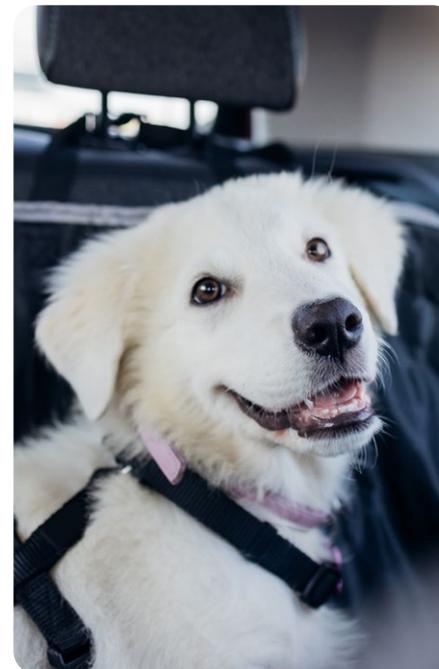
## Puppy car safety

To make car rides an enjoyable and safe experience for everyone, start early and always use the right restraint.

### The first car ride home

Make your puppy safe with an appropriately sized travel crate or a booster seat. To keep them calm, add a soft blanket and a familiar toy. Don't forget to take breaks on longer trips.

*Puppy tip!* Check and adjust their harness regularly as they grow.



### Travel safety checklist

- Always use a travel crate or harness to secure your puppy
- When getting out, attach the lead before you open the door to stop them running away
- Bring a collapsible bowl, water from their home supply and familiar items for comfort
- On long trips, take regular toilet and leg-stretch breaks
- The backseat is always safer
- Never leave your puppy alone in a car, it gets hot faster than you think.



Shop dog travel essentials!  
[petd.nz/pg-travel-supplies](https://petd.nz/pg-travel-supplies)



# All the fun. Exceptional value.

Gear up for puppyhood with the M-PETS essential range.



Welcoming a puppy is a big adventure,  
but it shouldn't come with a big price tag.

Discover great value essentials by M-PETS.  
From high-energy play toys to cosy  
comforts and home must-haves, we have  
everything you need, all in one place.

Scan to shop now:



[petd.nz/pg-value-range](https://petd.nz/pg-value-range)

## New puppy checklist



Here are the essentials for a happy, healthy puppy. Make sure everything you buy or use is approved for puppies.

### Feeding

- High quality puppy food
- Food & water bowls

### Training

- High reward treats
- Training clicker
- Treat pouch

### Toilet training

- Poop bags
- Puppy pads
- Enzymatic clean-up spray

### Bedding

- Soft, comfortable bed
- Crate or kennel
- Blanket
- Comfort toy

### Parasite prevention treatment

- Flea, tick & worming treatment

### Travel

- Harness and lead
- Travel crate
- Collar and ID tag

### Home and play

- Chew toys
- Interactive toys
- Play pen
- Fenced yard

### Grooming and wear

- Brush, comb and nail clippers
- Dog toothpaste and toothbrush
- Dog shampoo/wipes

### Important extras

#### Microchipping and registration

New Zealand law requires all dogs to be microchipped and registered with your local council. Usually done by your vet, this tiny chip under the skin helps to ensure a quick reunion if your puppy ever goes missing.

#### Pet insurance

Consider taking out a policy early to help cover unexpected vet bills and give you peace of mind.

#### Need help getting set up?

Book a free call with our customer care expert. Scan here or go to:  
[petd.nz/pg-book-consultation](https://petd.nz/pg-book-consultation)





“ Royal Canin Puppy & Kitten ranges provide the best start to life ”

Dr Genevieve Botha  
VETERINARINA, BVSc



Feed your puppy's unique needs  
with ROYAL CANIN® precise nutrition



Puppy nutrition

# Feeding your new puppy

## The essentials of puppy nutrition

Your puppy's first year will be a time of growth and many important milestones. That's why their nutrition has to be:

### Complete and balanced

Rich in protein, fats, vitamins and minerals.

### Higher in energy

Their rapid growth and energetic play means puppies need a higher energy food.

### Formulated for puppies

Their bone, joint and brain development needs the right levels of calcium, DHA and other key nutrients.

## Stick to the same food at first

Puppies have sensitive stomachs and a sudden change in their food can cause diarrhoea. It's best to feed your puppy the same food for the first week they are with you.

## Wet, dry or a mix?

**Wet food, dry food or a mixture of both all have their advantages.**

### Dry food (kibble)

The harder, crunchy texture of dry food helps support dental health.

### Wet food (cans or pouches)

The higher moisture content assists with hydration, while the stronger aroma can tempt fussy eaters.

### Mixed feeding (wet and dry)

Combines the benefits of wet and dry and can help prevent picky eating in later life.

## How to transition your puppy to a new food

Follow the guide below and if there are no negative effects by the end of the week, your pup will have successfully transitioned to their new food.



# Create your pet's profile

Tell us about your new friend and unlock personalised recommendations, to offers, tailored product recommendations, customised support and more.

**Murphy** ↖  
Golden Retriever

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| ♀ Gender | Female    |
| 📅 Age    | 10 months |
| 📊 Weight | 25kg      |

Scan here to create a profile or visit:  
[petd.nz/pg-puppy-profile](https://petd.nz/pg-puppy-profile)



# Freeze-dried nutrition, nothing but the best.

Crafted with New Zealand wholefood ingredients for whole-body health.

# K9 Feline Natural™



# The right nutrition for your dog at every life stage

Support your dog's health at every life stage with the right nutrition. The best time to switch from puppy through to senior diets depends on your dog's size. Use the guide below to find the right food for them.

Check my weight and age

|   |   | <b>Puppy food</b>  | <b>Adult food</b>       | <b>Senior food</b> |
|---|---|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|    | <b>Small breeds</b><br>Up to 10kg when fully grown  | Up to 10 months    | 10 months to 8 years    | 8+ years           |
|    | <b>Medium breeds</b><br>11 to 25kg when fully grown | Up to 12 months    | 12 months to 7 years    | 7+ years           |
|  | <b>Large breeds</b><br>26 to 44kg when fully grown  | Up to 15-18 months | 15-18 months to 6 years | 6+ years           |
|  | <b>Giant breeds</b><br>Over 45kg when fully grown   | Up to 18-24 months | 18-24 months to 5 years | 5+ years           |

# ACANA™

## Love at FIRST BITE



**Craveable recipes to nourish your puppy's healthy development.**

Your growing puppy needs protein and fat from animal sources to support their rapid development. ACANA™ Puppy Recipes are brimming with fresh chicken, eggs and wild-caught fish, delivering peak nourishment to support healthy growth.



# 70%\*

**QUALITY ANIMAL INGREDIENTS**

\* Approximate and derived from the unprocessed state of the ingredients.



**NO GRAIN INGREDIENTS\*\***

\*\* Produced in a facility that also processes grains



# The smart way to feed, hydrate & watch over your pup

You've upgraded your home, now it's time to upgrade your puppy's routine. Discover the latest tech designed to keep your pup happy, healthy, and connected.



## Electronic feeders

Mealtime, automated. Take the guesswork out of nutrition. Schedule exact portions at regular intervals to maintain the perfect diet, even when you're busy. *Pictured: PETKIT Yumshare Camera Dual-Hopper Smart Feeder*



## Water fountains

Pure hydration. Ditch the stagnant bowl for a continuous flow of fresh, filtered water. Encourages better drinking habits for a healthier, more active puppy. *Pictured: PETKIT Eversweet Solo SE Water Fountain*



## HD pet cameras

Stay connected, anywhere. Gain peace of mind with crystal-clear HD video and real-time alerts. Whether it's a quick check-in during lunch or using two-way audio to say "hello," you'll never miss a moment of your puppy's day. *Pictured: Petcube Cam*



## Smart doors

VIP access only. Secure your home with a smart door that recognises your puppy's unique collar SmartKey, keeping unwanted visitors out and your pet safe. *Pictured: PetSafe Electronic Smart Pet Door*



Scan to shop now



[petd.nz/pg-dog-tech](http://petd.nz/pg-dog-tech)



MAKE EACH STEP

# MEGA

Life Stage Formulas



Also available for adult & senior dogs



## 100% New Zealand Chicken

MEGA Chicken Puppy is made with New Zealand chicken, free from growth hormones and antibiotics, offering your puppy the highest-quality protein for optimal health.



## Strong Bones

Formulated with the ideal balance of calcium and phosphorous to support healthy bone development in growing puppies.



## Perfect Kibble Size

Specially designed kibble that helps support your puppy's dental health by promoting natural chewing and cleaning.



NexGard®

#1 SELLING PET PARASITICIDE BRAND IN THE WORLD

Colin and his Mum – Dame Lisa Carrington  
New Zealand's most decorated Olympian

# COLIN'S PROTECTED. LISA'S HAPPY.

Lisa's happy knowing Colin is well protected with NEXGARD SPECTRA, the most complete parasite protection in a single dose.

RECOMMENDED BY VETS\*\*



\*Vetnosis 2024 sales. \*\*NZ Vet U&A Study, April 2023. Data on file. See product label for full claim details and directions for use. Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health New Zealand Limited, Level 2, 3 Te Kahu Way, Mt. Wellington, Auckland, 1060 | NEXGARD SPECTRA® and NEXGARD® are registered trade marks of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health France, used under license. Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 | Nos. A011184, A011852 and A011040 | ©Copyright 2024 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health New Zealand Limited. All rights reserved. NZ-PET-0043-2025



Puppy health

# Vet care and costs

Some costs you can plan for, like scheduled vaccinations and check-ups. Other costs appear out of the blue.

Your puppy's inquisitive nature means mishaps can happen, resulting in a trip to your vet or after-hours animal hospital. Vet care in New Zealand isn't government-funded, so you need to prepare for sudden, and sometimes large costs.

## Pet insurance eases the burden

The day you get your puppy is the ideal time to insure them. Even young pups can get into trouble. Before you sign up, check for any breed exclusions.

### The benefits of pet insurance:

- Financial help with sudden, or large vet bills
- Peace of mind in a stressful moment
- Lets you focus on your puppy's health, not the cost.

## The benefits of planning ahead

Emergencies aside, even the expenses you know are coming can soon mount up. Pet insurance, wellness plans or even a savings account can all help manage costs and give you one less thing to worry about.

## Vet health checks

Making regular vet visits is highly recommended to ensure your puppy is in good health, growing properly and to catch potential problems early. The more your vet knows about your puppy, the better, so tell them about any changes in behaviour, appetite or energy levels.

## Visit the vet within the first week

The best time for your puppy's first vet visit is within a week of coming home. This will confirm they're healthy and let you set up their vaccination and parasite protection plans.



# Puppy's first vet visit checklist

Your puppy's first vet visit is an important moment for their ongoing health.



## Make sure you have all these items with you:

- All records from the breeder, adoption or rescue centre your puppy came from
- List of any questions you have for the vet
- Notes on what food and treats you give your puppy and the amounts
- Any medications provided before adoption
- Leash and collar or harness
- Chew toy to distract your puppy
- Small treats to reward good behaviour
- Dog carrier or crate lined with a towel that smells like home.



## Tips for a stress-free vet visit

The first vet visit - and the journey there - could be stressful for your puppy. Here's how to make it easier:

### Take them on short, calm car trips beforehand

Bring treats to make travel feel less scary

### Practice gentle handling at home

Touch their paws, ears and mouth to familiarise them with the vet examination

### Drop by the vet clinic for casual visits

This helps it become a familiar, friendly place.

# Vaccinations at a glance

Puppies are considered fully protected about 10 days after their final vaccination.

Until then, only socialise your puppy with healthy, vaccinated dogs in low-risk, controlled environments. No dog parks until they're fully vaccinated.

## Follow this timeline for the ideal vaccination regime:

### 6-8 weeks

First vaccination

### 10-12 weeks

Booster vaccination (vaccines are given 3-4 weeks apart, and they may need another booster depending on when they started)

### 16 weeks

Final vaccination

### Ongoing

Some vet practices will do a booster at 6 months old or when they reach 1 year old and then annually.

## Understanding desexing

There are many benefits to desexing, including health, behaviour and responsible ownership. Ask your vet the right time to desex your pup, based on their breed, age and any other factors.

## How desexing helps:

- Prevents unwanted or unplanned pregnancies
- Reduces the risk of certain cancers and infections
- Reduces marking, roaming and dominance in males
- Avoids bleeding and unwanted male attention in females
- Males often show calmer behaviour.

## Busting common desexing myths:

### "Females need one litter first."

- ⊗ **False.** Early desexing can lower the risk of mammary cancer. For large breeds, your vet might recommend a different timeline.

### "Desexing changes their personality"

- ⊗ **False.** Your dog will still be their happy, playful self, just with fewer hormone-fuelled behaviours.

# BlackHawk®

Every ingredient matters



# Choose the right puppy nutrition for optimal development

Our Black Hawk® Puppy Original range is available by breed size, providing puppies with the right nutrition for optimal development.

SMALL

MEDIUM

LARGE



Supports digestive health

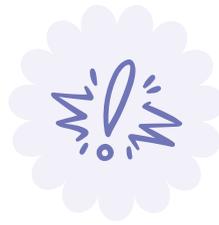


Complete and balanced nutrition



# PUPPY

# Hidden hazards: What's unsafe for puppies



Before your puppy comes to live with you, check your home, garden, shed and garage thoroughly for common things that are poisonous, and even fatal for puppies. Remember, puppies explore with their mouth, so you need to find these hazards before they do.

## Plants to avoid

Many common plants are harmful to puppies if eaten or even chewed. Check your garden and indoor plants for:

- ⊖ Lilies, which are highly toxic to dogs
- ⊖ Tulips, especially bulbs
- ⊖ Daffodils
- ⊖ Azalea and rhododendron
- ⊖ Oleander
- ⊖ Foxglove
- ⊖ Tomato plants, including green parts and unripe fruit
- ⊖ Karaka berries.

For more information, or if you're not sure, check with your vet or the NZ Animal Poisons website: [poisons.co.nz](http://poisons.co.nz)

## Chemicals and cleaning products

- ⊖ Bleach
- ⊖ Toilet cleaners
- ⊖ Floor disinfectants
- ⊖ Laundry detergents, dishwasher pods.

To avoid paw to mouth transfer of cleaning chemicals, let washed floors dry completely before your puppy walks on them.

To a puppy, gardens, garages and sheds are full of interesting smells, corners to explore and places to dig. Keep them locked while your puppy is learning and offer them a toy to divert their attention.

### Always keep these hazards out of their reach:

**Rat poison and slug bait** Even small amounts are extremely toxic

**Antifreeze/ Coolant** It has a sweet smell that attracts dogs

**Fertiliser and compost** They can contain mould and harmful bacteria

**Sharp tools or nails** Puppies can injure their noses or paws on anything sharp.

# Dangerous foods to avoid



Many foods that are safe for humans can be toxic for puppies and dogs - even in small amounts. Never give these foods to your puppy, even if they beg.

## The most dangerous foods:

### Chocolate

The theobromine and caffeine in chocolate is toxic to your puppy's heart and nervous system

### Onions and garlic

Whether raw, powdered or cooked, these will damage red blood cells

### Grapes and raisins

These can cause kidney failure

### Xylitol (artificial sweetener)

Many foods contain Xylitol: baked goods, lollies and sweets, chewing gum and some peanut butter. It can cause seizures and liver failure.

## Other dangerous foods

- Alcohol
- Coffee and tea
- Avocado
- Macadamia nuts
- Cooked bones. These can splinter when chewed and cause internal injuries.

## Introducing new foods

First, check with your vet if you're not sure whether a new food is appropriate. Then, introduce new foods slowly and monitor your puppy for signs of stomach distress or allergies.

## In case of emergency

If your puppy eats something toxic or is vomiting, drooling, lethargic, having seizures or diarrhoea:

- **Contact your vet immediately**
- **Call your nearest after-hours animal hospital**
- **Call Animal Poisons Hotline on 0800 869 738**



# Tough protection for active kiwi puppies

Elanco™

Drontal™ Tasty Bone is a trusted, broad spectrum allwormer, which supports the active lifestyles of kiwi puppies and dogs. It is also licensed to control the shedding of *Giardia*\* cysts.

Made with 100% pork liver meal, its bone-shaped tablet delivers a real meat flavour dogs love, making deworming simple for owners.

Safe for puppies over 2 weeks of age weighing 2 kg or more.

Available now. Talk to us to find out more.



# Drontal™

Tasty Bone Allwormer for Dogs



\*Only Drontal™ for dogs controls the shedding of *Giardia* cysts. Treatment for *Giardia* infestation should be done under veterinary supervision. Read product label for full instructions. Drontal, Elanco and the diagonal bar logo are trademarks of Elanco or its affiliates. Drontal™ Tasty Bone for Dogs is registered under the ACVM Act 1997, Nos. A011225, A011600. [www.mypetandanelanco.com/nz](http://www.mypetandanelanco.com/nz) | 0800 446 121. PM-NZ-25-0279

## Protecting against parasites



Despite their small size, parasites cause significant harm to puppies and can even spread to humans. Fortunately, parasites are simple to prevent. It's also much easier than treating an infection.

### Fleas: more than just an itch

Fleas can cause intense itching, skin infections and even anaemia, or lack of red blood cells, in puppies. They also spread tapeworms. Because fleas multiply quickly, preventing them is far easier than treating an infestation. Here's how to prevent fleas:

- Use a flea treatment suitable for your puppy's age and weight. Follow a regular schedule with this treatment
- Vacuum and wash bedding often to remove flea eggs from your home
- Make sure you treat all pets in the house, because fleas spread fast.

*Puppy tip!* Regular flea treatments will stop infestations before they start.

### Dealing with ticks

Found in warm coastal areas, long grass, bush and farmland. There are many tick treatment products available.

### Intestinal worms: a hidden threat

Worms can live in your puppy's gut with little to no signs. They are often picked up from soil, faeces or other animals. Some species of worm can spread to humans. Here's how to prevent worms:

- Give your puppy a worm treatment every 2 weeks until they are 3 months old
- At 3 months, give the treatment every month until they are 6 months old
- After 6 months, continue a regular worming schedule every 3 months.

### Busting common parasite myths:

**"Parasites are only a problem in warm weather."**

- ✗ False. Fleas survive indoors in winter and worms are a threat all year round. Consistent prevention is key.

**"I can't see any worms, so my puppy is parasite-free."**

- ✗ False. Most worms live in the intestines and their eggs or larvae are too tiny to see. Your puppy could still be carrying parasites. Routine deworming treatment is essential.



# Teething and your puppy



Teething is a normal part of every puppy's development. Here's what to look for, how to help care for them and when to visit your vet:

## Normal signs of teething:

- Extra chewing
- Mild drooling or gum bleeding
- Pawing at their mouth
- Grumpiness or less interest in food.

## How to ease sore gums:

- Offer a puppy-safe chew toy
- Chill their toys first, or offer chilled carrot sticks
- Soften their hard food (kibble) in warm water before feeding.

## The right dental care

Looking after your puppy's teeth is important throughout their life, not just during teething. To start good habits and to prevent bad breath, gum disease and future dental issues, follow these steps:

- Brush your puppy's teeth every day with pet-safe toothpaste only - never human toothpaste
- Let your puppy taste the toothpaste first
- Gently brush a few teeth at a time
- Keep brushing sessions short and positive with a treat at the end
- Dental treats, water additives and regular vet checks help with long-term health
- Chews and textured toys can reduce plaque, but brushing is still essential
- Avoid hard bones, which can damage teeth.

## When to visit the vet

- If you see double rows of teeth
- If gums are red or inflamed
- If there's ongoing pain and trouble eating.



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**Puppy training and behaviour**



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## IT'S GENTLE ON TEETH,

promotes healthy chewing.

## FILL WITH TREATS

for extra interactive fun!

## Puppy training basics

Proper training is one of the most important things you can do for your puppy. The habits you create and the bond you form through training will help your puppy become a well-behaved and confident companion for life.

### Use positive reinforcement

Reward with treats, praise or play when your puppy shows signs of learning.

### Be consistent

This is key to making sure your puppy understands your signals and knows how to respond. Practice often, a little at a time, and make sure everyone in the house uses the same cues and commands.

### Socialise early

Once your puppy is fully vaccinated, they're ready to meet new people, properly vaccinated animals and visit busy areas. Until then, only visit the pet shop or other shops with no animals, and keep them off the ground.

### Think real-life skills

From greeting guests politely to settling at home or travelling safely in the car, training for everyday events makes life smoother.

### Prevent problems early

Just like people, puppies develop bad habits which are much easier to break sooner rather than later. Start your training early to tackle mouthing, jumping or over-excitement.



# Puppy toilet training



Toilet training is one of the first big lessons your puppy will learn. Like many other lessons, starting early is key and a little patience may be required.



## Create a routine

A consistent routine helps with all aspects of training and toilet training is no exception. Young puppies have limited bladder control and may need to go every one to two hours, so take them to the same toilet spot regularly throughout the day, especially at these important times:

- As soon as they wake up
- After eating or drinking
- After playing
- After being in their crate
- Before bed.

## Watch for signs

Sniffing, circling or pacing often means your puppy needs to go. Take them out straight away to avoid accidents.

## Use praise, not punishment

Reward your puppy with calm praise or a treat when they go in the right place. Avoid scolding, which can confuse your pup and not actually modify their behaviour.

## Clean up properly

When accidents happen use an enzymatic cleaner, which removes the smell and the impulse to use that spot again.

## Consistency pays off

Every puppy learns at their own pace. Stay patient, stick to the routine and reward positive progress.

# Toilet training must-haves

Mastering the art of toilet training is all about having the right tools on hand. To help your puppy learn the ropes and keep your home fresh, we've rounded up the absolute essentials for every new pet parent.



## Puppy training pads

High-absorbency layers to lock in moisture and neutralise odours instantly. *Pictured: M-PETS Carbon Puppy Training Pads*



## Puppy potty training spray

A clever scent-based tool to help your pup find the right spot every time. *Pictured: Nature's Miracle Advanced Platinum Puppy Potty Training Spray*



## Stain & odour remover

Professional-strength enzymes to lift messes and refresh your carpets. *Pictured: Nature's Miracle Advance Stain & Odour Eliminator Spray*



## Poo bags

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## Waste scoop

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# Nipping bad habits in the bud

The best time to stop unwanted habits is as soon as you see them developing. Puppies learn quickly, which helps you stop behaviours you wouldn't want to see in an adult dog.

## Keep an eye out for these habits:

- Chewing on furniture or shoes
- Jumping up on people
- Nipping or biting during play
- Barking to get attention
- Pulling on the lead.

## Why bad habits start

Most unwanted behaviours start when puppies become bored, don't have boundaries or don't know what you expect from them. Structure, plenty of play and gentle guidance will make them feel secure and settled.



# A quick guide to stopping bad habits:

## Chewing or mouthing

Redirect your puppy to a safe toy and pause their play-time if chewing or mouthing persist.

## Jumping up

Ignore their jumping. Instead, reward 'four paws on the ground' or sitting.

## Lead pulling

Use a front-clip harness. Stop walking when they pull the lead tight.

## Overexcitement

Keep play time short, add calm breaks and reward relaxing on their bed.

## Alone time

Start with very short absences. Keep your arrivals and departures low-key. Keep your pup occupied while you're out with interactive enrichment like a food-stuffed toy.

## Management and consistency

Practice quiet crate training when you're at home. Ensure everyone uses the same cues and commands.

## When to get help

Sometimes, bad habits persist or worsen. If so, talk to your vet or a force-free trainer such as Petdirect Puppy School.



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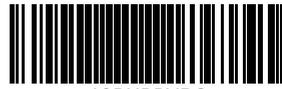
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