



**P & K Pets
Info Sheet #14**

19 Magill Rd

Stepney

SA 5069

P: 08 8362 2375

F: 08 8362 2942

info@pkpets.com.au

www.pkpets.com.au

PUPPY CARE



INFORMATION



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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations and thank you for choosing a P & K Pets Puppy. Your puppy has been carefully selected to ensure it is healthy and free from disease or ailments. While at P & K Pets, your puppy has been vaccinated, wormed and flea treated. Your puppy comes with a free vet check and also a limited warranty.

Vaccination will need to be repeated after about 4 weeks, and can be done with your vet check up, or when appropriate.

Worming and flea treatments will need to be maintained throughout your dog's life. There is no permanent prevention for fleas and worms. Please talk to us, or your vet for advice.

THE FIRST NIGHT

Your puppy has been placed into a strange environment away from litter mates or other known carers. Therefore it is natural for the puppy to feel scared and stressed, and may take several days to settle. Give your puppy lots of love and understanding, and remember they will learn what they are taught from a very young age. You will need time and patience to help your puppy adjust to his/her new home.



Place your puppy in a warm, safe and secure place. Give the puppy bedding, toys and water in this location. Although difficult when you have a new and cute puppy, don't give in to the puppy when it cries at night. By doing so you are telling the puppy that when it cries, you will come in and reward them with attention. Whether it be positive or negative, it will be some attention just the same.



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FEEDING

Giving your puppy a well balanced diet is essential. Premium puppy preparations give puppies all the necessary ingredients that they need. There is no need to add calcium or other supplements to any premium puppy foods. Read the information carefully on the food you purchase and make sure you are feeding the correct amount of food in relation to your puppy's size and weight. Your P & K Pets puppy will come with some of their existing diet to ensure they get the correct nutrition. If you plan to change to another brand or diet, you can gradually mix the new diet with the current one until it runs out. This enables your puppy's stomach to adjust to different food, and should be done whenever you change from one brand to another. Sudden changes in diet may cause diarrhoea, and lead to dehydration. If diarrhoea lasts for more than 24hours, please seek veterinary advice.

Feeding schedule: (approx)

6 to 12 weeks:	Divide their recommended amount into 4-5 small feeds throughout the day
3 to 6 months:	Do the same but reduce to 3 feeds per day
6 to 8 months:	2 feeds per day
8 Months on:	1 feed per day

Water should ALWAYS be available and fresh! This includes everywhere your puppy goes, inside, outside, on walks, in the car or visiting others.





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TRAINING

Training your puppy is very important and this can start as soon as you get home. Set the rules immediately if the puppy is to sleep on the floor. Provide them with their bed and get them used to going to that place. Do not let the puppy sleep on your bed or the lounge unless you intend following through and allowing this behaviour when an adult. This also applies to jumping up, a good habit to avoid if you have children. Again do not feed scraps from the table or any other bad behaviour that you do not wish later on in life.

At this young age, it should be easy to imprint the behaviour you desire later on with nothing more than a loud stern voice and hand signals when they do the 'wrong thing'. Later on in life your dog will not be as timid and hence won't be as accepting to changes in its behaviour. Smacking your dog is NOT an acceptable practice, positive reinforcement training is widely accepted. This means rewarding your dog for good behaviour, and ignoring them when they are bad. Any form of attention, including a smack, can cause them to repeat the behaviour to receive more attention, regardless of if the attention was good or bad. They will respond well to training with nothing more than praise or treats when they do the 'right thing'.

It's highly recommended that you attend puppy pre-school classes followed by obedience lessons later on. Establish a leadership within your household with your family members at the top. Keep training sessions short and always end the session on a good note. Always reward your puppy for good behaviour.

GROOMING

All puppies should be groomed daily whether they are long or short haired. Grooming your puppy daily makes handling easier and it is a good way to check your puppy for any abnormalities or problems. A dog's coat moults depending on the amount of daylight hours that it is exposed to. An indoor dog will moult continuously throughout the year as it is exposed to simulated light indoors. A dog that lives outside will generally moult twice a year when the number of daylight hours change.



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In South Australia this is around the start and finish of daylight saving. Some grooming tools that are required for your puppy are a slicker brush or grooming rake, rubber grooming block and a wide tooth comb.

Bathing every 4 weeks is adequate, but depends on how dirty they get, and if they are an indoors pet. Please remember to use a pet shampoo. Human shampoos or wool washes contain a different Ph level and can cause irritation to your puppies skin.

SOCIALIZATION

Socialising puppies is a vital part of their upbringing and the benefits of owning a well socialised dog are great. The critical period for socialising puppies is between 6-18 weeks of age. This is the time that you need to expose your puppy to as many environmental factors as possible. These can include children, car rides, other animals, swimming, vacuum cleaners, stairs, loud noises and so on. Older puppies and adults also benefit greatly from socialisation, but can have complex problems if they haven't been introduced from a young age.



Handling puppies is also very important. Keep sessions short, no longer than 5-10 minutes at a time. Pups have very short attention spans and become bored very easily. Concentrate on handling the ears, mouth, teeth, around the eyes, feet and rear end of your puppy, (give them attention all over and don't just concentrate on their head) this can aid veterinary examinations when the pup is older and helps eliminate stressful handling in case of an emergency.

Puppy pre-school gives puppies an excellent start in learning social interactive skills and it will teach you some very important pet care techniques.

BEHAVIOR (What to expect)

Chewing: Give your puppy their own toys. Do not leave items laying around that you do not want chewed. Puppies do not know the difference between their squeaky toy and your new shoes. Give the puppy a variety of toys and change them around to prevent boredom. If they learn to chew an old boot, they are sure to chew your new shoes later on, the scent will be the same (your feet).



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Barking: Puppies will bark when bored. To initiate play, or to alert the world to something or someone new in their home. Training and alleviating boredom is important to combat this. Barking dogs are a nuisance to the community and it is your role as a responsible pet owner to prevent this from becoming a problem. Again, your classes can help.

Mouthing: Puppies will mouth when they are teething and as a form of testing their boundaries within their pack, this must be discouraged as while it may be cute when he or she is a puppy, it is not quite so cute when an adult dog is doing it. Once again, provide the pup with toys to chew on.

Toileting: It is your responsibility to toilet train your puppy. Take the pup outside after they have had a meal or have woken up. When you see your pup toileting in the correct place give a verbal command (e.g. "toilet") and reward the puppy. Never reprimand your puppy for toileting inside if you find the evidence well after the event. Puppies have very short memories and do not have bladder control until they are 12 weeks of age. If you catch them in the act, quickly take them to the correct spot and praise them when they are done.

Digging: Digging is another consequence of boredom. Once again, provide the puppy with toys to alleviate the boredom. Also, you can provide your puppy with a digging pit (e.g. a part of the garden you are able to sacrifice). Encourage the puppy to dig there by placing their toys or dry food just below the surface of the sand. Discourage them from digging elsewhere. Digging and chewing are natural behaviours. It is impossible to stop these, much like asking a puppy not to wag his tail. However you can modify their behaviour and provide alternatives.

LEGALITIES

Puppies must be registered by law. This can be done after three months of age with your local council. They will need to remain registered for the rest of their life, and you need to inform the council if your details or address change. If you have your dog de-sexed, there is normally a discount that applies to their registration.

You must keep your pet under effective control at all times, this includes the noise your dog may generate. It is also against the law for your dog to defecate on property that is not owned by you, this includes all parks, paths, roads and beaches etc. Hefty fines apply depending on the council location you are in.

Enjoy Your New Puppy!