



# FIRST STEPS ON 4 PAWS!

A GUIDE FOR PUPPY OWNERS

## FIRST NEEDS

It is best to start your preparations a few weeks before your new four-legged family member moves into your home.

The first basic requirement is a suitable place to sleep. In pet shops you can find dog beds, cushions and baskets in many varieties and sizes. The important thing is that your dog can stretch out comfortably in or on them.

Suitable bowls for feed and water are also important acquisitions. Products made of stainless steel or ceramic have proven their worth as they are easy to clean and hardly

ever slip. When choosing the right feed, stick to what the breeder or a former owner recommend at the beginning. Later you can gradually change to other types of feed or other feeding times. By the way: there are foldable bowls that fit into any bag when you go on tour.

You can also start other preparations early. For example, get information on a suitable liability insurance for pet owners, find out how to register for dog tax and look around for a puppy group that meets your needs.

**Puppy Set**  
Fleece blanket,  
towel and 2  
plush toys



**Cushion  
Buddy**



**Bed Lian**



**Cushion  
Stars**



**Stainless  
Steel Bowl**



**Ceramic  
Bowl**



**Dog Basket**

**Homesickness:** During the first nights, your puppy will probably miss its mother and siblings. Place its sleeping place next to your bed. Being close to you as the new person it can trust will be good for the little puppy and will create a bond between you. In addition to that, a blanket or a toy from the original dog family will bring a bit of comfort for the puppy into the new home.





## SAFETY

Make your home puppy-safe before your little friend moves in. Puppies are very inquisitive and your little one will try to climb everywhere and chew lots of things. It is best to place your favourite things out of reach for a few weeks. Power cables and other sources of danger should be kept out of the puppy's reach, too.

The bitter-tasting chew-stop spray can help to reduce the drive to chew things. In the long run, however, there is no way past a clear 'no' at the right time.

Stairs can be secured with a barrier. Think about whether certain rooms, e.g. kitchen or children's room should be dog-free zones right from the start. Barriers are the right way to ensure this.



Chew Stop



Dog Barrier

Home Kennel



Mobile Kennel



## RETREAT OPTION

If you have to leave your puppy alone for a few minutes, a home kennel or mobile kennel is helpful. However, you need to acquaint the puppy slowly and in small steps to staying in a closed kennel on its own.

To make the kennel a place where the puppy likes to be, you need a cuddly blanket, a water bowl and a tasty chewing bone. The dog needs to learn that this is a place for retreat when it needs a break.

During short periods of rest, you can start to close the door of the kennel for a moment from time to time. Open the door again when the puppy still feels relaxed and happy. The kennel should never be an unloved prison.

Prolong the time that the puppy stays in the kennel on its own step by step. That way you can do short jobs quickly and calmly while your puppy is safe in the kennel.



## HOUSE TRAINING

One of the most important requirements for a harmonious co-existence with a puppy is house training it. For this training, you need a place where your dog is allowed to pee and poo and that you can reach almost instantly. This can be a garden or the grass verge outside your door. If nothing of the kind is available, you can use a puppy toilet in your home.

The basic rule is: Take your puppy there after sleeping, feeding and playing, and wait patiently until it has relieved itself. Do not forget to praise the little guy for this. That way, your puppy learns in a much better way than if you punish it for peeing or pooing in places where this is not wanted.

Should things go wrong, a urine stain remover comes in handy. Stains and smells are removed biologically and vanish completely.



Puppy Toilet  
Puppy Loo



Sanitary Pads  
for Puppies  
Nappy Clean Home



Urine Stain  
Remover



Fur Care  
Glove



## FUR CARE

Especially during the seasonal changes of coat in spring and in autumn, it pays off to regularly use brush and comb. This not only makes your four-legged friend feel better, it also means that significantly less dead hairs spread to the surroundings.

For long, short, smooth or coarse hair – specialist shops offer a wide range of care products. It is best to seek advice there on which products are the most suitable for your dog's type of coat.

You can practise a care routine for later with a soft brush or a massage glove. Be very gentle and stay patient if your puppy is excited. You can calm the puppy with a bit of liver pâté or another tube snack.

The rule for bathing is: as rarely as possible, as often as necessary and only with a mild shampoo for puppies. Do not forget to dry the puppy thoroughly as puppies get cold more easily than fully-grown dogs. Again, the rule is: start slowly and gently. In cold weather, a pullover or a coat protects your puppy from getting cold, a warming blanket is also useful.

**Tip:** Train the puppy to show teeth and ears at the same time. That will come in handy at the next visit to the vet.



Puppy  
Shampoo



## PLAY

Your puppy will be very enthusiastic if you play together at eye level. Particularly at the beginning, there is nothing more important than extensive playing. Take time for this, for it gives you the chance to get to know each other and strengthen the bond between you. In addition, it is useful to train future behaviour in games.

A small rule is particularly important at this point: If the dog's teeth get into contact with your skin, interrupt the game. This allows your dog to develop a reliable bite inhibition, and it will treat humans equally carefully in the future.

Individual behaviour in games also depends on the breed. A Retriever, originally trained for fetching, will be more careful than e.g. a Terrier, whose nature is to hunt. The right puppy toy should be robust but not too

hard. Particularly suitable materials are TPR and natural rubber as well as ropes made of cotton.

You can do without squeakers or similar things. These sounds are much too exciting for most puppies. Make sure the toy is large enough, so that the puppy cannot swallow it. Do not leave your puppy unattended with a toy. As soon as the puppy starts to destroy the toy, take it away and offer a chewing bone instead. At the end of each game, the toys are tidied away. That way, the toys remain special and the excitement lasts longer.

Storage Basket



Tugger



Ring



Play Rope



Chewing Bone with Chicken



Chewing Rolls



Chewing Shoes

Chewing rolls and chewing bones are available in many more tasty options!



Boneguard®

## KNIBBLING & CHEWING

Chewing is a natural instinct. Therefore dogs should be offered options to do this from a young age on. Chewing shoes and thin chewing rolls are particularly suitable for young puppies. Start by choosing pure rawhide products to get the dog used to these chewing objects. Later you can treat the dog to more elaborate products. For example, chewing items with dried chicken are very popular with dogs.

Young dogs between 4 and 6 months love to chew thicker chewing bones during the phase of the second dentition. To avoid larger pieces being swallowed, the snacks can be attached to Boneguard®. This keeps the bone and the surroundings clean as well.



# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education is necessary, for it sets the rules for your future life together. At least equally important, however, is a bond full of trust between you and your dog. Therefore, refrain from punishment if possible. There are sufficient educational approaches that do without it.

You need to understand that a puppy wants to repeat behaviour that has been rewarded. For you this means that you reward your puppy with feed or a game as soon as it does something right. Suitable bags help you to have treats and toys ready at any time. Small trainer snacks are particularly good rewards. Tasty pastes that can be licked from a tube are an even more intense reward.

Dog schools or a dog sports club will support you in educating your dog. Training with a Clicker is one option to achieve learning success with positive confirma-

tion alone. This scientifically based learning method does not work with punishment. A Soft Clicker with an extra soft sound is particularly suitable for puppies.

Dog Activity Strategy Games provide exciting alternatives and offer your little friend the first challenges in memory sport and dexterity training. There are many different options where to hide treats that the dog has to get by pulling, pushing or lifting some part of the game. To avoid frustration, make it as easy as possible for your puppy at the start and only increase the level of difficulty slowly.



Tube Guard



Tube Snacks



Trainer Snacks



MOT®-Fun



Snack-Bags



Soft Clicker



The Dog Activity product range includes various other strategy games with various levels of difficulty.

Gamble Box





# BEHAVIOUR ON THE LEASH

A relaxed walk together with your puppy cannot be taken for granted. Therefore, practise walking on a loose leash right from the start. Begin with small training rounds, in which you never allow the leash to become tight. If your dog begins to pull, stop walking. Your puppy should not get into the habit of pulling on the leash to get ahead.

Harnesses have various advantages compared to collars. For example, they protect the sensitive neck, e.g. if a flexi® or a tracking leash is used. Care should be taken with large breeds. Later on they might have more power in a harness than you.

Keep in mind that your puppy grows very quickly. The harness should be generously adjustable in size. Collars as well as har-

nesses need to be fitted to the growth of the dog regularly.

During the puppy age and in the dog school, you cannot go wrong with a 1 metre leash. Later you can allow your dog a larger radius with an adjustable leash. The various adjustment options are particularly handy, as they allow the use as a shoulder leash for example.



Puppy Soft Harness with Leash

Comfort Soft Leash

Comfort Soft Adjustable Leash

Comfort Soft Collar

Comfort Soft Harness

Premium Collar

Premium Leash

Premium Harness

The Premium product range of leashes, collars and harnesses is available in various sizes and lots of fresh colours!



## ON TOUR

Your puppy is particularly inquisitive and willing to learn up to its 16<sup>th</sup> week. Use this time to explore as many things as possible together. It would be ideal if, already in this early embossing phase, your dog could have positive experiences with everything he should be able to cope later.

Try to find the right amount of new experiences, for too many new impressions will overstress the little one at first. A general rule: a five-minute walk per month of age. Give your puppy time to explore everything at its own pace. For example, a front bag or a buggy are ideal for short periods of rest. You should always have dog dirt bags with you and for longer tours a water bottle and a bowl.

For transporting the puppy in a car, you will need a suitable box, a car grid or car harness. A dog that has not been attached can be thrown forward unchecked in case of an accident and this is extremely dangerous for the dog as well as everyone in the car. In the legal sense, the dog is a form of cargo that needs to be secured adequately.

With large breeds, it is important to be gentle on the joints during growth. So, for example, jumps from a car should be avoided. If you often go by car, it can be advisable to buy a ramp.

Car Harness  
Dog Comfort



Buggy



Bottle  
with Bowl



Transportbox



Front Bag



Friends  
on Tour

Dog Dirt Bags



## CHECK LISTS

### TO DO

- ☐ GET PET OWNER LIABILITY INSURANCE
- ☐ REGISTER FOR DOG TAX IF NECESSARY
- ☐ FIRST EXAMINATION AT THE VETERINARIAN  
(POTENTIAL VACCINATIONS, TREATMENT FOR WORMS)
- ☐ JOIN AN OBEDIENCE SCHOOL AND/OR A DOG SPORTS CLUB
- ☐ MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE FOR PUPPIES

### FIRST EQUIPMENT

- ☐ PUPPY FEED (CONSULT BREEDER)
- ☐ FEED BOWL
- ☐ WATER BOWL (ONE FOR ON TOUR AS WELL)
- ☐ HARNESS AND/OR COLLAR
- ☐ LEASH (BEST HAVE A SPARE ONE)
- ☐ TRANSPORT BOX, CAR HARNESS AND/OR CAR GRID
- ☐ SLEEPING PLACE (BASKET, CUSHION OR BED)
- ☐ FUR CARE GLOVE OR BRUSH
- ☐ RAWHIDE CHEWING ITEMS
- ☐ TOYS



# A PUPPY LITTER OF YOUR OWN

Your dog is expecting puppies? Then this will be a particularly exciting time for you. For a good start into their lives, the little ones need love, patience and relaxed surroundings for their mother.

Puppy collars in various colours help to keep the offspring apart. Wearing a collar also becomes a matter of course for the little ones. The Snap'n'Easy fasteners open in case of a pull so that no puppy can get caught in something or hurt itself.

When puppies are all fed from a big bowl, they need to assert themselves and this is not a bad thing. Quite the opposite, competition among siblings furthers the dogs' learning ability later on. The raised centre of the bowl prevents the puppies from standing in the bowl with all four paws



Puppy Bowl



Collar Set

