

# DOGTALK PUPPY COURSE

PUPPYCOURSE THEORY



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## Start the Puppy Course

### WELCOME LITTLE PUPPY!

*Congratulations on your new housemate! An exciting and especially fun time will start – exciting, because sometimes it takes quite some getting used to, but especially fun, because there is nothing funnier than a young dog who starts to discover the world around him.*

*We understand that this can raise many questions, so please do not hesitate to ask. This can be done via e-mail:*

*[info@dogtalk-cursussen.nl](mailto:info@dogtalk-cursussen.nl)*

*We look forward to seeing you at the first lesson!*

*Sincerely,  
Team Dogtalk*

## Puppy supplies

### Lets go shopping

Sometimes a new puppy at home can be quite overwhelming, what will you need and what not? We have a list for you of things that are useful to have at home.

- A water bowl
- A food bowl
- Dog food; you often get some from the breeder
- Treats / snacks
- A chew bone
- A crate
- A bed
- A leash (preferably 1.8 m long)
- A collar and / or a harness that fits well
- A few toys
- Combs and brushes if necessary



# Welcome puppy: this is your new home!

## "Getting used to the new environment"

After a number of visits to the puppy and its litter, the time has come for you to take him/her home. That is exciting for both you and the puppy. Suddenly he will be picked up by people it only saw a couple of times and will leave its familiar environment and litter. The puppy will get a collar and/or a harness on, and will be put on the leash. The breeder will also often give you a puppy pack before you step into the car to go home.

It is often a long journey that is very exciting and tiring. Some pups can therefore become slightly nauseous. Make sure that when you take the puppy home you not only need a collar/harness and a leash, you should also have a blanket with you. Sometimes a box can also come in handy, then you can place it on your lap and put the puppy and the blanket in it. It is always very tempting to put the puppy itself on your lap, but since the puppy does not know you or the surroundings, it will be difficult for him to feel comfortable and fall asleep.

Please do not forget to also bring a towel, the puppy may pee, drool or vomit. Do not forget, it is very exciting time for him!

When you arrive home everything is ready for the new puppy; a comfy bed, crate, blankets, toys, new dog bowls etc. But please do not forget that your house is new to him and therefore often very exciting! Try and give the pup the time to investigate, do not force him to do anything and support him.

It can be a good idea to limit the space a bit so that he can slowly get used to it. Take small steps and have a lot of patience!

It takes about 6 weeks for a dog to feel at home and get accustomed to its new environment. Rest and regularity are the magic formula!

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## Crate training

It may be a good idea to train the puppy to use a crate. It is not necessary, though! A crate can come in handy with toilet training, to sleep through the night, to get some rest, to prevent destructive behaviour and in case you have visitors that are not used to dogs. It is also fine if you prefer not to use a crate and instead prefer a dog bed and blanket. The bed and the blanket should also feel like a safe place. If the dog is in the crate or on the bed or blanket children should not come near him. You should let him sleep, this is his safe place!

Put the crate in a quiet spot, make it a safe and secure spot by, for example, covering it with a lightweight blanket or sheet. Then leave the door open and if the pup goes to it himself you should reward him. You can also make the crate more interesting by giving him some treats in it, or by giving him his food in it. The puppy will then associate the crate with food and treats and he will find out it is a safe place to sleep also. That is the moment the puppy will start going to the crate himself, and you can close the door every now and then.

Build this up slowly! Because the crate or bed has to become and remain a safe and secure place. The dog should never be put there as a form of punishment!



## Vaccinations

A puppy is welcome to join the puppy course starting at 7 weeks old. If the puppy has been vaccinated according to the Dutch vaccine schedule this is a safe thing to do. We will explain later why this is a good age to start training. You do not have to wait until they are 12 weeks old, that would just be a waste of time. The pup learns things very easily when it is young and of course you want to make the most out of it.

Please try to avoid the dog walking fields, there is often a lot of dog poop and that can be a source of contamination.

## Attention Trust Cooperation

# Toilet training

Most questions that are asked us by new puppy owners are about toilet training the puppy. Toilet training a puppy requires patience and regularity. Almost all puppies will be fully toilet trained within 6 months, even if you do not do train this.

But of course you can considerably speed up the process through training!

How does it work? Every 1,5 to 2 hours you should take the puppy outside. You can simply use a timer to remind you. Lift the puppy up and carry it to the spot where you want the puppy to go pee now, and later as an adult dog. If the pup can later hold it in for a while, you can walk to that spot. You should stay on that spot until the pup has peed, so do not walk around. This will distract the pup too much, this is toilet training your pup, not going for a walk. Praise the puppy enthusiastically and reward him with a treat if he pees. You can also link it to a command; if the puppy pees, you should say "go pee". So you can later let the dog go pee if you say those words.

Immediately after playing, sleeping and eating, you should lift the puppy to the regular poo and pee spot and wait patiently. Yes, it is not always very fun in winter or when it is raining, but a house trained dog is very fun. In the beginning you will see that the puppy will still occasionally have a little "accident" in the house. Please realize that the puppy is not to blame and do not get angry or punish him. It is possible that the puppy will secretly poop or pee in a corner of the house because they want to prevent the angry reaction they might get.

Some dogs find the cleaning ritual after an accident very fun. They can chase the mop around or try to steal the toilet paper. If this happens, please clean up the accident when the puppy is not around, otherwise they might start to see that the pooping/peeing as an invitation for a fun game. They are clever little things!

If you look very closely at your puppy you can often see that their body language tells you they have to poop or pee. They often turn around and round, stroll around a little aimless or sniff something extensively. If you recognize that body language you can bring the puppy outside in time.

*"Would you like to share your cute puppy pictures on our Facebook page?"*



## First puppyclass

It is almost time for the first lesson! To start the lesson relaxed please:

- Leave on time, so you will not arrive there in a hurry.
- It is possible that the puppy finds it exciting – which is fine – to be in a new environment and with other dogs. Give the pup some the time to discover everything and he will calm down so you can start the training.
- Try to give the puppy some rest the rest of the day after the training because he will be tired. And it is not a good idea to go do a lot of other exciting things.

What should you take with you?

- Your puppy of course
- A regular leash, preferably 1.8 m long (no retractable leashes)
- A collar and / or a harness that fits well
- A blanket the dog can lie down on
- 2 toys with which you can do a tug-of-war game
- A lot of small treats

