

Welcoming your new puppy



Congratulations! You have recently acquired a new puppy and are now looking forward to many happy years together. You can help your puppy grow into a confident, happy, well mannered dog by treating your puppy in the right way right from the start.

Young animals really need their sleep- provide your puppy with a warm, comfortable bed in a quiet, draught free area of the house. If your puppy is sleeping, let him be until he wakes naturally.

Puppies enjoy short periods of play and excitement, but tire easily and can become overexcited and snappy if play is too boisterous or goes on for too long. Make sure young children do not over-tire your puppy, and allow cool-down periods in between sessions of play.

Socialisation

Socialisation is the process by which young puppies learn about the world around them and how to take it in their stride. From 3-14 weeks old, puppies should be fearless and inquisitive about everything around them, and this time is vital to accustom your puppy to everything that life with you has to offer.

This includes:

- Travelling in the car
- Being left alone for short periods
- Meeting other people of all shapes, sizes and ages
- Meeting other dogs
- Coping with household noises such as vacuum cleaners, washing machines, televisions, traffic noise and unexpected loud noises
- Being handled by different people, including ears, mouth, tail and paws
- Anything else that your puppy may have to deal with in your daily life



Try to introduce new things to your puppy in a positive way – give praise and treats if the puppy copes well and appears happy and confident. If your puppy looks worried or frightened, try not to fuss them too much as this encourages them to repeat the nervous behaviour in future. Instead, behave calmly, speak reassuringly and try again at another time.

Good Citizen Awards

Your local dog-training group may run Kennel Club Good Citizen Award Schemes. Bronze, Silver and Gold awards are available for dogs who show good manners, socialisation and basic training in a variety of situations. Riverside can provide a list of local dog training classes to contact.

