

Fact Sheet

CARING FOR YOUR PUPPY

Welcoming a new puppy into your home, whether it's your first or an addition to your family, is a very exciting time! Knowing how to care for your new puppy is important because you want to give them the best start in life.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE BRINGING PUPPY HOME

In your puppy's first 8 weeks of life, your breeder should have:

- ensured your puppy had their first vaccination at 6 to 8 weeks of age
- started toilet training
- started socialising them by introducing them to new situations and people.

Be prepared for your puppy's arrival at home by:

- creating a space to play and buying toys to keep him/her occupied
- providing a safe space (a crate, a hiding place and/

or a cosy bed) in a quiet, warm area in your home for your puppy to sleep and/or rest undisturbed

- keeping a blanket and/or soft toy from your puppy's first home so they have something familiar and comfortable to snuggle with
- remove anything poisonous or that you don't want them to chew
- signing up for puppy classes – these can be hard to get into, so put your name down as soon as possible.

If you haven't done these things, we recommend that you do, as soon as you can.

THINGS TO DO AFTER BRINGING PUPPY HOME

The next 8 to 12 weeks of your puppy's life is an important time, it is what they learn and experience now that shapes their future behaviour.

While your puppy isn't fully vaccinated yet, it is important to continue socialising him/her through positive experiences like:

- introducing them to other pets who are healthy and fully vaccinated
- carrying them around outside to introduce them to people, sights and sounds
- gradually introduce them to experiences, like driving in the car, grooming, being handled and having their ears and eyes checked
- begin to leave them alone for short periods to prevent separation-related behaviour
- establish a consistent routine and rules, rewarding good behaviour and ignoring bad behaviour
- feed them the same puppy food as they had before and keep the same routine with small, regular meals

HAVE A PET EMERGENCY

Contact your local vet or visit the RSPCA
<https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/disaster-and-alerts/>.

NEED HELP WITH PET DESEXING?

Contact the Animal Welfare League NSW
<https://www.awlnsw.com.au/find-us/>.



STEP 1

Ensure your puppy has had his/her first vaccination. This should be given between 6 and 8 weeks of age. Make sure you have prepared for your puppy's arrival (a safe space, bedding, toys, play area, etc).



STEP 2

Weeks 8 to 12 of your puppy's life is an important time, it is what they learn and experience now that shapes their future behaviour. Establish his/her routine, reward good behaviour, ignoring bad behaviour.



STEP 3

At 12 to 14 weeks, your puppy can have his/her second round of vaccinations. Whilst at the vet ask about worming, flea treatment and desexing. Do not have your puppy desexed before 6 mths.



STEP 4

At 16 to 18 weeks your puppy can have his/her final vaccination. After this you can socialise you puppy freely. Don't forget as an adult dog, your puppy will need booster vaccines every 12 months.



- continuing toilet training by rewarding them when they go outside.

VACCINATIONS & DESEXING

PUPPY VACCINATION SCHEDULE

6 to 8 weeks	First vaccination
12 to 14 weeks	Second vaccination
16 to 18 weeks	Third vaccination

While you're at the vet, ask about worming, flea treatment and desexing.

HOMES NORTH PET AGREEMENT

If you have a pet, you need to let Homes North know in writing and sign a Homes North Pet

Agreement. Homes North knows how important your pet is to you, and like you, we want to make sure they are well cared for. The Pet Agreement acknowledges you have a pet, you agree to look after your home and the pet appropriately, and if there is an emergency, Homes North is aware that you have a pet at home.

Don't for to microchip and register your puppy with your local Council.

NEED TO CONTACT HOMES NORTH?

Armidale
(02) 6772 5133

Glen Innes
(02) 6732 3652

Gunnedah
(02) 6742 0363

Inverell
(02) 6722 5137

Moree
(02) 6752 4440

Tamworth
(02) 6766 6897

Coledale
(02) 6765 8879

www.homesnorth.org