

Is this the right pet for me?

Dogs and humans have a very special bond. But before you choose a puppy, think about your lifestyle and how much time you have to spend with your canine friend. A dog needs company, training, veterinary care and regular exercise and will be part of your life for many years. If you decide that a dog is your ideal companion, think carefully about the various breeds and crossbreeds of dog, which can have marked differences in personalities as well as looks. Talk to other dog owners and breeders and find out about the temperament, activity level and special requirements of different types of dogs. Think Adoption First™ and consider adopting a homeless dog from your local animal welfare shelter. Ask our team for location details of the nearest dog shelter.

Recommended for...

- People with time to spend with their canine Best Friend.
- Singles, couples and families with children.

Lifespan.

10-14 years or more.

Medications.

- Heartworm prevention.
- Intestinal worm treatment.
- Flea control.

Feeding.

Growing puppies have specific requirements, so feed a high quality puppy food that is palatable, easy to eat and supplies complete and balanced nutrition. Follow the manufacturer's feeding guide on the packaging. If you want to change your puppy's diet, wait until it has settled in, and then introduce the new diet gradually over a period of five days.

How much and how often you feed your puppy will depend on its age, breed and individual characteristics, but until they are about four months old, puppies need three or four meals per day. From six months of age, two meals a day should be enough. Try not to over feed your puppy as this can lead to serious problems later on. Don't feed your puppy chocolate or onions and avoid dairy products. Giving special dental chews, rawhides, dog chews or raw meaty bones on a regular basis will help keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy. Keep your puppy's food and water bowls clean and separate from the family's dishes. Cool, fresh water should always be available.

New puppy checklist.

Here's a list of the essentials you'll need for your new puppy. Please ask any of the Best Friends team to help you with your selections.

Essential equipment.

- A roomy kennel and warm, soft washable bedding for outdoors.
- 2 unbreakable bowls for food and water.
- A supply of the puppy's current food.
- A light collar and lead.
- Identification tag for name and phone number.
- A training crate for indoors.
- A dog brush & nail clippers.
- Dog shampoo.
- A pooper scooper.

Your puppy will also love:

A great selection of toys to chew, fetch, hide, chase and catch.

BestFriends[™]
The best in pet care

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www.bestfriendspets.com.au

Caring for your Puppy.



Our Vet[™]
OPEN 7 DAYS

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The best in pet care

Caring for your puppy.

Bringing your puppy home.

Going to a new home can be a stressful time for your puppy so provide a "den" (a small, comfortable and secure area) while it settles into its new household. This can be a training crate or for large puppies, a safe, confined space, such as a laundry, with a doggy barrier.

Choose a name before your puppy arrives and use it while playing with, patting, feeding or grooming your puppy. When you first get home, put your puppy straight into its den to let it calm down. You can quietly sit with your new puppy to start the bonding process. It won't be long before it is feeling refreshed, ready for a play, some food and it's first toilet training lesson. Feeding your puppy in its den makes toilet training easier, as it is less likely to soil this area.

If your puppy is to sleep outside, it will need a roomy, draught-proof kennel, with warm bedding that's easily washed. Put the kennel in a sheltered spot, not too far from the back door as dogs love to be part of the action.



Kids car.

Never allow children to tease your puppy or handle it roughly and remember dogs and young children should always be supervised, especially when food is around. Remind them, that just like a young child, a puppy needs plenty of rest, but in between times they can enjoy its natural playfulness. Children should be taught to always wash their hands after playing with the puppy.

Toilet training.

Begin house training your puppy from the moment you bring it home. Choose a suitable place outside, not in a busy thoroughfare. Throughout the day, take your puppy out of its den directly to this spot, particularly after naps or meals, first thing in the morning and just before you retire for the night. Watch for cues that your puppy wants to go out such as circling, whining or standing anxiously at the door.

Never punish your puppy if accidents occur and give plenty of lavish praise when it does the right thing. If you see your puppy make the occasional mistake inside, pick the puppy up and put it outside.

Training.

Puppy pre-school classes are designed to help you and your puppy with early training and socialisation - find out more from Best Friends Pet SuperCentre staff. You'll learn a lot from these classes and so will your puppy.

Grooming.

Whether your pup has a long or short coat, start grooming it at an early age so your puppy gets used to being handled. Gentle brushing will help keep your puppy's coat clean and free of loose hair and provides an opportunity to spot any skin or health problems. Sharp nails can be trimmed with dog nail clippers. Ask our grooming team to show you how. If your dog has a long coat, regular grooming and trimming may be required. You may wish to have your dog expertly groomed at a professional salon, like those in-store at Best Friends.

Exercise.

Going for walks, playing fetch and outdoor games are favourite activities for puppies. Most puppies need at least 20 minutes of outdoor play each day. Although puppies love to go out on walks, they may tire quickly and need to take a rest along the way. Playing in the yard and a gentle walk to the end of the street and back is more than enough exercise for a young puppy. You should also regularly walk your puppy on a lead to help train and socialise it.

Identification.

Microchip identification is compulsory for registration of dogs in Victoria. Check with your local government for requirement in other states. A tiny microchip is placed under the skin, which works in a similar way to a bar code, and allows your puppy to be traced back to you should it become lost.

Travelling with your puppy.

When travelling by car, a special restraint harness should be used. In station wagons a safety barrier between the passenger area and the rear luggage compartment is ideal for the safe transportation of big dogs. Smaller dogs should be placed in a travel cage, which has plenty of newspaper in the bottom and a small water container attached to it. Never leave a dog in a closed, stationary car - even in cool weather, as the interior of a car can become extremely hot!

If you are going on a long car trip with your puppy, exercise it beforehand and have comfort stops at least every 2 hours. Pack food and water bowls, a leash, its usual food, together with a few of your puppy's favourite toys.

Health.

Whether your puppy needs microchipping, a vaccination, desexing operation, or anything else, go to the Our Vet™ counter in store and talk to the Team. Our Vet™ can also advise you about dental health, coat care, the amount of exercise your puppy needs, or any other issues that concern you.

Your puppy will have received its first vaccination to protect it from potentially fatal diseases. Until your puppy has completed its course of vaccinations, avoid mixing with other dogs or walking in public areas. Keep your puppy's

vaccination record in a safe place and note when the next vaccination is due.

Parasite Control: All puppies need to be wormed regularly to remove parasitic worms which live in the intestine and given regular heartworm prevention medication. Ask at the Our Vet™ counter about the best worming and heartworm prevention products for your puppy.

Fleas and ticks are common external parasites that cause skin irritation and other more serious problems in dogs, especially during the warmer months. The Our Vet™ team can give you specific advice on the most suitable approach for controlling external parasites on your puppy.

Desexing: Dogs are generally healthier and more sociable pets if desexed, so your puppy - male or female - should be desexed from 4 months of age.

Emergency Treatment: If your puppy develops diarrhoea which persists for more than 24 hours, or becomes severe, or has any other health problems please contact the team at Our Vet in store, or your nearest veterinarian.

Lost dog.

Make sure your puppy always wears a collar with an ID tag containing your name and telephone number and a registration tag if required by your local government. If your dog is lost, contact your local pound, council, RSPCA and veterinary clinics, as lost or injured animals are often brought to these centres.

Responsible pet ownership.

In most areas of Australia you are required by law to register your dog. In some cases there are restrictions on the number and types of pets you are allowed to keep. Check with your local government for further information on your rights and responsibilities both to your pet and to your neighbours.



Best Friends recommends the following premium dog foods for your Best Friend.

Join our VIP Club and you'll receive 10% off!

