

# THINKING ABOUT GETTING A PUPPY?

A NICE AND CONCISE GUIDE

FROM CONTEMPLATION TO THE FIRST WEEKS AT HOME



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Please note: we use the word puppy, pup, him, and he, to represent the puppy you will be bringing home

## **Table of Contents**

Introduction

Chapter 1: Are you ready and prepared for having a puppy in your life?

Chapter 2: The health and psychological benefits of having a dog in your life

Chapter 3: What kind of dog is the right one for you?

Chapter 4: Where to find a puppy

Chapter 5: At what age should you get a puppy?

Chapter 6: Preparations for your new family member

Chapter 7: Puppy proof your home

Chapter 8: Bringing home your pup – The ride home

Chapter 9: Crate Training, yes or no?

Chapter 10: His first bath

Chapter 11: Housebreaking

Chapter 12: First commands

Conclusion

About the Author

## Introduction

So, how long have you been thinking of how nice it would be to have a dog for a pet? I guess, what is stopping you is that feeling of uncertainty as to your readiness to have a puppy in your life. Then, you may also be at a loss on the needed preparation. These are all normal phases that every dog owner had overcome.

With that in mind, I decided to write this book with the hope that it can enlighten all prospective dog owners know what to expect when having a dog in their lives. Indeed, there are health and psychological benefits that come along with it. And all these I will share are from my experiences in the many years of having a dog for a pet.

Before anything else, though, you need to decide on what kind of dog is the right for you. You also have to find out where to find a puppy. Then, you should decide at what age the puppy should be when you get him. Preparing for a pet dog, in reality, is quite similar to making preparations for the coming of a new family member.

Just as you prepare your nursery and all for the coming of a new child, must you also puppy proof your home before bringing home your pup. You also need to learn what crate training is all about. Then, there, too, is your deciding if you should have that for your puppy.

You need to learn how to give your dog his first bath, do the housebreaking, and teach him his first command. These are all essential things for all who plans to share their life with a puppy.

Yes, it may be a bit challenging, but certainly rewarding. Finally, this book goes with my ardent prayer that you can experience the same joy and meaning that pet dogs have added in my life.

## Chapter 1: Are you ready and prepared for having a puppy in your life?



This question could be quite easy for you to answer as you may have had dogs or pets your entire life. You may already have a lot of experience or simply love dogs.

But maybe, you have not had one for a longer time or the life circumstances have changed. Then, you may have changed. Perhaps it is your first dog or you just need to reconsider a few facts before getting your new pup, as follows:

1. Are you willing to get up at night, go out for long walks, and playtime six times a day?
2. Are you willing to teach your puppy all the basic commands in a coherent and centered way?
3. Are you aware of the time and money you need to spend on your new family member?
4. Are you aware that your house or flat will not look any more like those shown in an elegant living magazine?

5. And the same change may happen to your clothing, shoes, and car, besides YOU have to be willing to adjust for at least the first six months?
6. Are you aware that most dogs do always shed and everywhere?
7. Are you aware that you may have to reconsider your holiday to be in a dog-friendly destination?
8. Are you aware that your schedule will depend on your dog's needs?
9. Have you and your family had allergy tests?
10. Do you live in a house or a flat where dogs are allowed?
11. Do you realize that your dog is going to live from 10 to 16 years?  
Hence, this requires that you understand the commitment it takes to take care of him.

The point is, PLEASE, do not make a spontaneous decision. Reflect on it together with the rest of the family. And do not delegate your responsibility in making these choices.

## **Chapter 2: The health and psychological benefits of having a dog in your life**

We all know or have heard that a dog gives you unconditional love, right? And yes, they are loving, loyal, devoted to you, cuddle masters, and dependable.

But that is not all ...

1. You will get healthier through walking, running, and merely being outside in nature more often.
2. You will socialize and make more friends, and probably, will be more active on all social media.

3. Your blood pressure will go down, as well as, your stress level.
4. Your Oxytocin level, the attachment hormone, will rise through touching, petting, and cuddling with your dog. This is because this hormone is responsible for social bonding in humans and works the same way with dogs.
5. Dogs also have a tranquillizing effect on children and their anxiety level.
6. Generally, dogs develop an increase in empathy, self-esteem, social competences, care taking, and responsibility in adults and children.
7. Dogs teach you to become more mindful.
8. They also help you to become more aware of the here and now.

## **Chapter 3: What kind of dog is the right one for you?**



### **A small dog or a bigger dog?**

So, you and your family have decided to get yourself a fur friend...a dog. Which breed or type is best for you? Small, big, male, female, long hair, short hair, no hair? Let us take a brief look.

Finally, you decided that you want a family dog. All dogs can be family dogs, but do you want to take him with you everywhere? To work, in a car? By bus or train to shopping centers, parents, and relatives?

Then, I would suggest you consider a small-to-medium dog as big dogs erroneously are perceived with suspicion and fear. I am talking about Huskies, Shepherds, Pit bulls, Rottweilers, Great Danes, Ridge backs, Boxers, Dobermans, and so on.

### **Big dogs have:**

More expenses, need more exercise, shed more, the Vet costs more, and toys. Also, they always need more space to roam and play. On the train, you need a ticket, and in an airplane, your furry friend must be in the baggage area, which is much more expensive.

Plus, your dog may suffer from being traumatized if not sedated. And sedation is always with risk. The funny thing is, big breeds do not realize that they are so big! Instead, they think they are lap dogs. ☺

Hunting and Sport Dogs tend to chew on everything when they are young, like the Beagles in the medium category.

Retrievers may drive you nuts for throwing to them sticks, balls, or anything to retrieve for you. They just love it. Most of them also love the water, the lakes, your bathroom, and shower.

If you have kids under 10 years of age, babies, or elderly persons in your home, I would absolutely opt for a medium one.

The best big Family dogs in my opinions are Golden retrievers, Labrador retrievers, all Doodle mixes, and Boxers. Why? Well, they are playful, intelligent, patient, funny, and just adorable.



## **Small and medium dogs**

Anything under the knee height I would consider a medium dog. Everything under the calf-height, I would consider a small dog. Small is the opposite of what is written above about big dogs:

1. ALL costs are much less, except the race. The smaller the dog, the more they seem to cost these days.
2. You can take them almost everywhere, even in your backpack, if suited.
3. You can wash and dry them in a sink in just 10 minutes.
4. Which also means that you have more chances of being able to take him with you everywhere.

### **And also:**

1. Small dogs live longer.
2. But seem to have more breeding problems.
3. Tend to be more barkers.
4. Often, they are more challenging to train.
5. As they are not aware of their size either, so they often bark at bigger dogs risking a fight or a bite; so unless he is a perfectly obedient pup, you should keep him on a leash.
6. If you live in the mountains, woods, or countryside, please be aware of hawks, buzzards, or owls that may chase or even attack your little puppy.
7. When you have young kids, he may not be an ideal companion for rough play times.

So, evaluate all the pros and cons before you choose to have a dog for you or your family.

## **Male or Female: What is best for you?**

1. Males, especially the smaller ones, tend to be more stubborn. Females are less stubborn, but the race is a significant factor that determines in part the stubbornness in your dog.
2. Females go in heat 1-2 times a year, so do not underestimate that you have to watch over her for at least 2 -3 weeks.
3. Females tend to be a little calmer and seem to wander off less than males.
4. Males mark all their territories regularly and may leave a penetrating odor.
5. Males tend to be more energetic, and many owners choose to neuter them.
6. Males seem to take more time to mature, but are more affectionate.
7. It appears that females are a bit less dependent and need a little less attention.

## **Chapter 4: Where to find a puppy?**



Once you and your family have decided to get a puppy, then it is time to find him. There are various options you may want to consider.

### **Your local kennel**

These days, there are a lot of dogs in kennels coming from owners who gave them away, maybe left them on a highway, the owner has passed away, or for many other reasons.

If you have decided to get your lucky puppy from your local kennel, you should be aware of a few things. In this way, you are sure that it is the right place to choose your pup.

When you visit the kennel, take a good look at the condition of the dog's environment. Is it tidy, neat, clean, fresh water without much pee, and poops around? Is the space sufficient and not too crowded for your new fur friend?

Often kennel owners do not welcome a full kennel visit, which may be a good sign. This is because, if you have been to other kennels that day, your hands, clothing, or shoes may carry diseases. And for that same reason, some of them will not let you handle the pups.

Imagine what a stressful situation it might be for all the present dogs, barking, whining, and maybe even hoping to be the lucky one elected. The best is obviously to call the Kennel first about any pre-information and an appointment. After all, a Kennel is not a zoo.

If it is going to be your first dog, I would opt for a puppy. If you are an experienced dog owner, you may choose a grown dog. Just keep in mind that long time kenneled dogs of over four years of age at times experience difficulties in adjusting to a new home and family. Sometimes, the kennel gives you the option to return the dog, but I think, it is a better idea to evaluate your decision beforehand.

## **At a dog breeder**

You decided to get a registered purebred fur friend, you now need to evaluate the breeders. Often, it is not that easy to find a particular race or newborn pups. For that reason, you should search at least four to six months in advance for your chosen breed.

### **There are many advantages to choosing a purebred dog:**

1. You will most likely be able to see the parents; and that gives you an idea of how big, furry, and good-looking he or she is likely to become. Keep in mind that the mother may not be in the best shape due to birthing and raising her pups.
2. Inform yourself about all the characteristics and marks your chosen breed should and not should have.
3. Also, get documented about if your future dog is allowed in your county or needs some special permission. In many places in Europe, Rottweiler, Pit bulls, and many other dog breeds, are often imposed upon by rules in keeping them.
4. Make yourself a checklist of all the papers and documents that the owner should have done like pedigree, vaccination, dewormed, microchip, registration, receipt of payment, and so on.
5. If you have decided to get the puppy by your chosen breeder, remember to bring along an old t-shirt for the dog to be able to sniff on until you pick him up to take him home.
6. When a breeder wants to sell you a puppy before he is eight weeks old, I would spend some effort checking him out before buying a pup from him.
7. In case you have to cross a border to bring him home, be aware of the laws, as you have to declare him at the border when you have to stop. Do not cross the border without stopping.

Otherwise, when you go to a border control office later to declare your dog, they may decide to put him in quarantine for 14 days or more.

Also, the dog must have had an anti-Rabies shot; otherwise, he cannot enter the country. So please keep yourself well-informed before you go and pick him up.

8. The prices are going to be extremely high for a cute well-cared-for puppy with a pedigree. That is the only negative side about getting a purebred puppy.
9. If you are thinking about getting a puppy from a backyard breeder or from another State or country, you should be very informed as some of these may be puppy mills.

As stated by Wikipedia, a puppy mill, also known as a puppy farm, is a commercial dog breeding facility characterized by quick breeding and poor condition.

### **A private person who cannot keep their dog anymore**

In this case, I would say that it could be the right choice if you are a very experienced dog owner or you already know the dog's personality, his disposition, and habits, besides the dog being used to having children around him.

It will be traumatic for the dog, but maybe, the circumstances are so adverse that he will be better off with you. Just do not make any decisions until you and your family have thought about it out very well.

## Chapter 5: At what age should you get a puppy?



I guess almost everyone knows the answer, but not all know the reasons. The age to get a puppy is at least eight weeks. Some people give away the pups at about six weeks, which is not a good idea.

The puppy needs to socialize, have had some solid food, have been wormed, chipped, vaccinated, and needs food at least four times a day. He may not survive and could be too young for house-training. But if the puppy you have chosen happens to be older than eight weeks, it is the best.

Housebreaking and house training will be much easier. Another advice is to get your pup in the springtime. It will be a much more positive experience than in wintertime for you, your family, and the dog.

## Chapter 6: Preparations for your new family member



Make a list of things to buy that are necessary for your new family member before his arrival.

**Bedding:** You can use a simple box with a pillow or blanket, if not a perfect sleeping oasis. The important thing is that your puppy is not put to bed in a place with drafts. You can use a single one or more over the house. I would advise you to keep in mind that your puppy will grow, and he will likely choose his favored spots by himself.

**Toys:** You do want to buy sets of toys for him because he needs to chew and bite on something for the first six months or more until he is over his teething time. There are lots of them on Amazon, so feel free to check out the links on my website.

**Dog tag, collar, leash, and tracking device:** Please get him a dog tag with your phone number on it and his name. Also, a collar and a leash, besides a little tracking device, if you wish.

**Bathing and grooming supplies:** If your pup has not been bathed yet, wait a few days. In the later part of this book, there will also be a little guide about bathing and grooming. You may want to have a little grooming kit ready for him to keep his fur nice, shiny, clean and healthy.

**Clothing:** Now, if you get your little champ in the wintertime, he is going to need some clothing to stay warm. Do not buy too much, though, as he will grow.

**Water and food bowls:** The same is true with the water and the food bowls. He will grow, and along with that, is his appetite.

## **Chapter 7: Puppy proof your home**





Before bringing home your puppy you MUST “puppy proof” your home. You actually need to do some brainstorming about what could be dangerous for him to explore, destroy, chew, swallow, sniff, lick, or eat. There are a lot of things in your home that could even poison or kill your little pup.

They are like babies. They do not know yet what is dangerous or not, so it really matters that you use the prevention and avoid technique that includes never letting him out of sight!

Every time he is about to explore something what could be dangerous, say “No,” and take him or the object away, if not offering him an alternative, like a toy, to distract him.

### **Electrical wires**

As you know, puppies have a NEED to chew and explore; and that may include all the wires and even sockets to lick in your home. So, keep away all electrical cords, loading stations, chargers, cellphone earplugs, and cover the sockets with opposite plugs in order to avoid accidental shocks, mouth burns, or even death to your puppy.

### **Shoes, bags, and clothing**

All puppies seem to love shoes. They find them so nice, chewy, and smelly! So, you really cannot blame them getting attracted to these things. With that said, leave out eventually only the “fast to go potty” shoes by the entrance or best in front of the door. All other shoes should be kept away.

Also, do not give him shoes to play with just because they are old or broken. Puppies do not know the difference between old or torn up sneakers and your expensive designer shoes.

What is more, all of us have gym bags, purses, and school backpacks filled with nice smelly items that calls the attention of puppies. Hence, yes, keep them away, preferably in a closet or up on a higher table.

They often contain items like wallets with money, credit cards, IDs, cell phones, charging cables, glasses, and snacks that could be very dangerous to puppies and expensive for you to replace.

Finally, the same goes for clothing. Your jackets, clothing, hats, caps, scarves, and your laundry should ALL be kept out of reach of your puppy until he has learned enough to understand.

### **Low tables and shelves**

These days, we all seem to have nice low living room, bedside tables. Those are of big exploring interest to your champ. Keep everything you think may be harmful to him, things he may destroy like remote controls, cellphones, wallets, pens, chewing gum (Xylitol is very toxic to them), or TV snacks just away from him.

Every time he gets attracted to something on it, say “No.” Maybe, offering him an alternative from his chewing toys or simply distract him can be a better thing to do. If you have bookshelves or other shelves, free them completely in the lower area.

Books and newspapers are of big interest to pups, which they love to tear in a million pieces. Also, watch out if he likes that toilet paper roll that often seems to be a favored play buddy to puppies.

### **Trashcans and food**

Trashcans are one of the biggest interests of puppies for all the different smells they have, which he may not have smelled yet in his life. So, keep them in a well locked or hidden place. Keep the lid always closed. Take away all food and make sure they are beyond his reach. Your counter and tables should be free of food at all times.

### **Poisons**

If you live in a house in the countryside and have a garden, check if you have rat poison or rodent traps. Insect baits, fertilizers, or other things

around that could be toxic or dangerous to your puppy; so, please remove them.

He could also swallow foreign objects that could suffocate him. Thus, take a good look around and prevent any possible accidents or poisoning that may happen to your puppy.

## **Medications**

If you take medicines, it is probable that you keep them within reach. Just watch out that they are ALL out of reach of your pup. Also, be aware that if you use toilet cleaners or toilet rim blocks, always keep the toilet lid down, and as much as possible, not to use rims. It is highly advisable, too, to close your toilet bowl after use or cleaning as your puppy may drink or lick the toilet water. And every time your pup gets curious about that toilet water, take him away from it and say “no.”

## **Curtains and cords**

Sometimes, puppies behave like kittens in a way that everything that moves or has strings has to be chased. This may be your case if you have long curtains or cords. Just gather or tie them in a knot and place them high enough that your puppy cannot reach them.

If he chews or eats pieces of them, he could choke on a string or worse. Also, be careful with those doorway separators with strings to back off flies. Take them off until your puppy has grown and learned a bit more.

## **Doors, closets, and stairs**

When you bring home your pup, you should not let him have the run of the house, except when you ALWAYS have your eye on him. Close the doors to the rooms and let him enter only under your supervision.

If you have a separate laundry room, keep it always closed and store the laundry detergent in a safe, unreachable place. Close all closets, cabinets,

and drawers. Sometimes, you need some safety gadgets like the ones for toddlers or those found on Amazon or your local pet stores.

Meanwhile, if you have stairs in your home, you may opt for baby or dog protection. If your pup falls down the stairs, he could hurt himself. Puppies may also be afraid of going up and down the stairs.

If you have a stairway that has an open space between one and the next stair, they may only see a big deep hole to fall in to. Remember to try to understand why your pup is afraid of something.

An example of that are the grids outside, rolling stairways, elevators, and all things your pup may perceive as frightening because he does not know all that yet. Whatever you do, do NOT pull or force him to go over it.

Instead, take him in your arm and support him to ensure he never loses his trust in you. He will learn with the coming months, but for now, remember that he is only a little pup.

## **Plants**

Check all the positions of your plants. Are they located on the floor or in any position where the pup can get to them, run them over, or eat the leaves? Also, there are a lot of poisonous house and garden plants, like some palms, which could be very dangerous for your little fur friend. If you have garden or houseplants, please check each one of them to protect your new family member and prevent the worst scenarios.

## Chapter 8: Bringing home your pup – The ride home



Once upon a time, there was a dog lover who, after a lengthy evaluation, brought home a puppy from the county kennel. The puppy was so cute, loving, tail wagging, and did not get sick in the car.

At home, he was behaving correctly, meaning, no accidents on the floor; no chewing of shoes, carpets, furniture, or other things; and, no crying when put to sleep. And that is the end of the fairy tale of the ride home...

It is never going to happen this way. Yes, he will most probably get sick in the car. And knowing this, you may prevent it or be at least be prepared for it.

When you pick up your pup, make sure he has not eaten for at least three hours before you pick him up. Check with your Vet if it could be OK for your pup to give him a motion sickness pill.

If not, you can try to provide him with a few tablespoons of ginger tea. To make the drive home less traumatic, it's advisable to put him in a crate on the back seat instead of holding him in your arms.

Your puppy looking outside may cause motion sickness, and it's simply dangerous for the driver and the puppy. In fact, in some places, it is even against the law. Make sure he has wholly relieved himself and has been kept awake.

Make many stops, preferably every two hours or less, because a pup has a small bladder. When the puppy begins to pant or whine, get to a potty place right away. Begin, from the very first moment on, to call your puppy by his or her name.

And lavish your pup with praise, and make a big fuss about him or her having done his or her business. The name should be short and not more than two syllables, like Buddy, Bella or Lady. Make sure you have water with you and offer it to him at every stop.

It is advisable to take along a blanket that smells like his mom, so he will not feel so disoriented or lost. If you have the chance to see him before his second month or at the “choosing pup day” bring him a worn shirt or blanket from you and your family.

Also, get the same brand dog food he ate at the kennel, for at least the first few weeks. After that, you can begin to mix another kibble to it gradually. Avoid open windows or direct sun. Do not overwhelm your dog by wanting him to meet the expanded family or visitors.

Let him get used to his environment. The same goes for wanting him to be with you everywhere outside. In the beginning, avoid shopping malls and crowded places with a lot of people.

When you do take him for exploring and play time outside, choose the immediate surroundings around his house or territory. He needs to sniff a lot around to get familiar with it, which will be all new and exciting for him.

So, let him do it by not forcing him to walk where you want. Instead, lead him gently and slowly to where you want him to go, but give him time. Soon, you can gradually expand the area for him to explore.

## Chapter 9: Crate Training, yes or no?

If you have a crate, make it comfortable for him and let him get used to its presence. Do not force him into it. In my opinion, however, you do not need a crate if you or somebody in your home is always there to watch your pup.

It may be a good idea if you need to let your fur ball at home for about two hours. This way, he cannot have the free run of the home, will most likely not relieve himself in it, and not have the chance to chew or destroy your personal belongings or household items.

Some of you will opt for a crate, though. When you already have one and are not sure yet that you will use it permanently in the house or not, get one that you can use also as a transport cage in your car.

Another good solution could be a dog box cage, like the ones you use for an airplane journey. In the beginning, you may borrow it from a neighbor or get the right grown-size immediately.

If you do that, make sure to put confining blankets or boxes into it in order to make it snugly and cozy for him, he will like it much more that way and feel protected inside.

This cage should be steadily planted on the ground, maybe even with an anti-slide mat underneath it. Your puppy is, most likely, going to be afraid of it; so, place all things that the puppy likes, such as toys, for him inside it. What works also is to put a tasty treat into it.

Whatever you do, DON'T force him into it. He will cry many nights of fear and missing his old family. He may feel alone. With time, he probably will like it once he associates it to pleasure time.

Many dog owners use it to avoid nightly accidents since dogs do not want to make the immediate surroundings of their habitat dirty. Then again, would

you like to be confined in a small place where you cannot get out to relieve yourself all night?

And remember that his bladder is tiny and muscle control comes quickly, but not immediately. Remember that your puppy will miss his brothers and sisters. Above all, he will miss his mom. That will manifest in his whining every once in a while, even during the day for about three to five days.

In case you have nearby neighbors or live in a condominium, it may be a good idea to hang a “we are getting a puppy” news adviser at the entrance or inform them personally about the new family member and the possible night cries.

## **Chapter 10: His first bath**



If your dog has not been bathed by the owner where you got him, you will soon realize that your little pup smells quite a bit. His fur may also be all sticking together or just filthy. Before you begin bathing your pup, you should prepare everything and have all you need nearby.



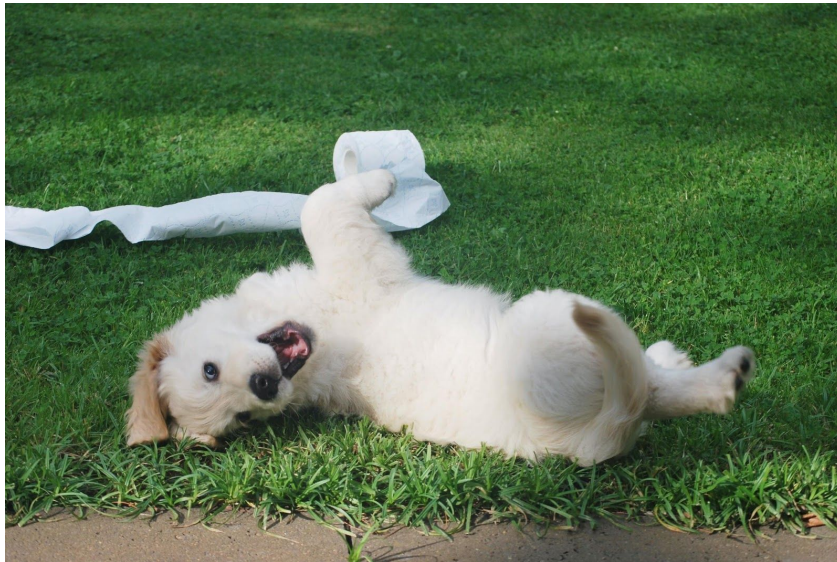
1. Get your dog shampoo ready. Make sure to dilute it since most shampoos, including the ones for humans, are way too aggressive. So, dilute it half-and-half.
2. Use a little container, maybe from yogurt, to wash your dog with because, in the beginning, your pup may be afraid of the shower.
3. Place an anti-slipping mat in the tub to make him feel safe. In the tub, he will slip everywhere without it, which may make him feel afraid.
4. You should have a dog towel within reach.
5. Close the bathroom door; otherwise, he may escape and run all over the house.
6. If your dog puts up a tantrum out of fear because of the noise of the shower, speak gently to him. Try to calm him down and give him time to do so. If he is still too scared, fill two buckets, and take the water from there with your little container.
7. Begin from his back, let him get more confident, praise him, and do not make him feel nervous by shouting at him.
8. Avoid washing his head in the beginning. Only do this when he already had more baths or you are certain that he enjoys water. Avoid using shampoo in his face. Instead, rub his face with the wet towel afterwards and also clean his ears with it.
9. The blow-dryer may be a big issue in the beginning. So, if he is too scared, just rub him dry as good as possible and cover him with the dog towel. There are very good dog towels on the market, which are even cut in a different way and are super absorbent.

You can also find them on Amazon at decent prices, besides all other things you may need for your pet puppy. Meanwhile, expect him to run all over the house in ecstatic joy, jumping, running, and barking for a while after his bath.

Do not bathe your dog too often, though, because his skin is different from ours and it may lead to eczema. If he rolled himself happily all over in a dead animal like a bird, in poop, or had an encounter with a skunk, I guess you will have to give him a bath.

They behave like that because it is due to their hunting instinct. It is the dog's way of hiding his smell from the prey or confuse preys by rolling in their smell. If he is just full of mud or dirt, you can wash him without the shampoo.

## **Chapter 11: Housebreaking**



If you are one of the lucky persons who are self-employed or can afford to be always at home, then I guarantee you that you will have the best-behaved puppy among all. If you follow this method, your dog will be house-trained in 10 to 15 days.

So, every time he has eaten, woke up, played, and EVERY two hours after the last relief, he should be taken for a walk to do his business. Praise him like he is the best pup on this earth, and then take him back inside to avoid the association of going out to play.

Yes, it is very strenuous to get up and go out every two hours at night-time, especially in wintertime or rainy weather. Still, do your best to keep on to it. Prepare everything to get dressed in a minute and get moon boots or slippers to hop into.

But do not let your puppy have time to walk around. If you have a family member that could hold him while you get dressed, that would be ideal. It is also difficult to always have an eye on your pup, but it is a sacrifice for two to three weeks that will save you a lot of frustration or even anger. You need to be constant and disciplined about watching over him. He should not be left unsupervised at any time.

In the very beginning, your pup doesn't know that he is not supposed to relieve himself freely in the house. So, don't get upset with him if you catch him freeing himself happily. Just say a sharp "NO," pick him up, go out to his favored potty place, and say "here."

Wait a few minutes as he may need to do the whole business. Do not play now, just wait, and if he does pee or poop again, praise him exaggerating on what a good boy or girl he has been.

Remember that your puppy will be extremely eager to please you when he hears that approval sound in your voice. So, he will be repeating it to get more praise from you. If he continues to relieve himself in the home, it is your fault.

Another option to housebreaking your pup is to paper train him. It takes much longer, but it works. It may be a solution if you need to leave him alone for some time or for other good reasons. Keep in mind that you still have to take him out.

Paper training is not a definite solution except if you choose a very small dog since he can even be trained to a litter box like cats with the same training tactics as for outdoor training. It is up to you.

Lay out the rooms where he is allowed to roam with thick plastic if you have carpets or delicate floors. Then, cover it all with newspapers. When you figured out or see that he has some favorite places where he likes to do his business, you can gradually make the whole area smaller. And every time he begins to relieve himself out of the paper zone, pick him up and put him on the paper saying, “good boyyy.”

## **Chapter 12: First commands**



In the beginning, do not overwhelm the dog with training commands. In the first two weeks, just let your pup get used to you and your family.

### **The first command should be his name**

Every time you address him with a command, say his name as soon as he reacts you say, “goood boyyy.” It is essential to always use the same words or commands by you and the whole family; otherwise, it may confuse him, and he may not know what you want him to do. Praise him continually with “goood booooy” or good and his name, like “good Buddy.”

## **The next command is “No.”**

Just say it, not scream it. There is no need to scream at your dog because his ears are much more sensitive than ours. Simply say, “No” sharply and concisely. If he is chewing your favorite shoes, put the shoes in a safe place until the puppy has learned that you do not want him to chew it.

Then, give your pup an alternative to chew on. The teething process takes time and ends around the age of eight months. So, give him enough toys and chewies to avoid these accidents. Keep these commands for about a month before adding other ones, but at one at a time. Remember to use only short commands and not whole sentences of one thing you want him to do.

Do not leave him unsupervised and use the PREVENTION and AVOID technique. Avoid your pup’s stealing food by not leaving any around. Or, when you notice that your puppy is tempted to take something from your coffee table ... say, calmly and decisive: “Buddy, NO!” And if he stops after a few seconds, say, “goood boyyy.”



## Conclusion

So there you have it! By now, you understand that having a puppy for a pet is not all games and fun. Just as you would like a baby in your family, make sure that you truly wish for a dog to be a part of your life and that of your family.

And just as all couples want to become good parents to their children, all dog owners should also seek to become a loving, patient, and kind friend to their pet dog. Despite requiring lots of time, commitment, and money, dog ownership remains an extremely gratifying relationship.

Moreover, falling for your pet puppy is so easy. And sharing your life with a puppy can give you much happiness, companionship, and a bigger chance of being the best version of yourself. Finally, thank you for getting a copy of this book.

I pray this will help you in your journey to becoming one of those people I know who have reaped the gifts of having a puppy for a pet. If there are

other things you wish me to write about, feel free to send me a message on my website.

## About the Author



*E. Brigitte Scheffler, a resident of 6026 Rain (LU) Switzerland, is the founder of the Happy dog Anandi website. It is a platform created in celebration of her life with her favorite pet dog, Anandi.*

*Other than being an experienced dog owner, she has a Dr. Bachelor's degree in behavior Psychology, a chosen profession that combines her love for humanity and dogs.*

*She firmly believes that dogs and people share almost the same basic needs far more than anyone can ever imagine. Also, she is a Reiki and massage practitioner who discovered that Reiki and massages offers benefits, not just for humans, but for dogs, as well.*

*In gratitude for the chance to have several dogs in her life that taught her a lot about herself and even made her a better human being, she decided to write this book to help others to make the right choices in choosing a puppy and the first steps how to care for him in a responsible way.*

*Her ardent wish is to spread the knowledge she gained through her experience with dogs that it may inspire others to have a more meaningful relationship with their pet dogs.*

