



Gem State Precious Cavaliers

Puppy “Go Home” Packet

When You First Bring Your Puppy Home

1. Limit your puppy's access to your home. Giving them full access to your home will overwhelm them, as they are used to a small space. Too many new smells, people, and new places at once can be very stressful for a young pup. After they get settled and used to being away from their siblings and mom, you can start introducing them to other parts of the house under supervision.
2. Choose where you want your puppy to go potty. Start by taking him to the outside area where you want him to go. When he does go, use a command that you'll stick to, like “go potty,” and reward him with a special treat and praise.
3. Meet the whole fam. Try to take it slow, as this can be a lot for them if each family member can meet them one-on-one; that is best. Be sure to supervise young children and teach them to be GENTLE and KIND to your new puppy. Try not to let them pick them up, as that can cause accidental drops. Let them come on their laps.
4. Keep the stress and excitement LOW. Let them get comfortable in their new home before inviting friends over to meet them. We recommend keeping the house completely calm and stress-free for 3 to 7 days.
5. Introducing other family pets. Puppies are still developing their communication skills and don't understand the rules that adult dogs set. As long as an adult dog's behavior is appropriate when correcting a puppy, it's okay if she growls a little. If the elder dog becomes agitated, separate the puppy or redirect it.
6. Don't introduce new dogs you don't know yet. Wait until your new puppy has its vaccines before introducing them to new dogs.
7. Training your pup starts NOW! Your puppy needs to know the rules of the house right off the bat. If you don't want them on furniture, don't ever leave them on it! Praise good behavior. Set your rules ahead of time and stick to them, for example: Where do you want the puppy to sleep? Is the puppy allowed on the furniture? Can the puppy have food scraps from the table?



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Start Your Routine Day 1

1. Mealtimes. Put your puppy on a regular feeding schedule. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner work great.
2. Potty breaks. Every time your puppy eats, drinks, wakes up, plays, or sniffs around the room, most young puppies must eliminate at least every 45 minutes when awake and around 2 hours at night. It's a good idea to take them out every 30 minutes for the first few weeks. Pick the puppy up and carry him to the designated potty area. Never punish him for going potty in the house. When he eliminates outside, reward him immediately.
3. Play. Your puppy needs playtime and interaction with its owner/family. Keep it not super strenuous when they are young. Playing with a few toys, mental stimulation with puzzles, and running in the yard are great.

Surviving the First Night

1. The nighttime bursts of energy. Puppies often have a burst of energy at night. Before bed, make sure they have some playtime with you to help them get nice and tired. Make sure they go out right before you go to bed
2. Put the crate in your bedroom. They will be comforted by being near you. Make sure you leave their toy and blanket that smells like mom and siblings to comfort them
3. Set a bedtime for your puppy. Having a set routine will help the most with house training. Take him to his crate and help him settle down for the night – giving him a small treat when he goes in willingly.
4. Nighttime potty breaks. At this young age, they won't be able to hold it all night. Some may whine to let you know they need to go, but either way, you don't want them going in their crate. Take them out to pee, then put them back in the crate.



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New Puppy Care

1. Your puppy now depends on you for everything – food, water, exercise, training, good health, and hygiene. Please remember that all puppies are different, and you should consult your veterinarian and trainer about your pup's specific needs.
2. It is exciting to bring your new puppy home and into your life and heart. I know you will be eager to show him or her off and play with them right away, but remember to give your puppy some time to adjust!
3. Your puppy is undergoing a lot of change, and they need lots of rest while they adjust. Adding more stress during this transition is detrimental to both their mental and physical health.
4. Puppies do not know English. The best way to train a dog is to reward them for a behavior you want. Praise the pup with a pat, a treat, or verbal praise (keep it short and simple, though). For example, don't say “Sit...sit...sit...sit...SIT” and expect a response. Get your puppy to perform the behavior (sit), then reward. You add the word and maybe even a hand signal later.
5. **Puppy Chewing:** Puppies have needle-sharp teeth! Some tricks to help you avoid becoming a pincushion include keeping chew bones and toys close by! Do not ever let them chew on you. All it takes is one family member who allows this behavior, and the toddler could become a chew toy, too.
6. Keep your rules and boundaries consistent. If your puppy chews on you, offer an acceptable item for them to chew on. If they persist, then take yourself away from them (get up and leave or turn your back to them). They will not want to lose you! Another tip that works for most puppies is to make a quick, sharp puppy “cry” noise. This is how they let other littermates know it hurts! I recommend the Benebone puppy bones.



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New Puppy Care (continued)

7. **Jumping** is another problem young puppies may struggle with. Their excitement and overwhelming love for people can make it extremely difficult; however, do not start allowing this behavior. Do not reward, pet, or praise a puppy that jumps on you. Ignore them, turn your back, or walk away! A calm, sitting puppy is ready for praise and love! Teach calm, self-controlled behaviors now; it will pay off as they get larger and stronger!
8. **Feeding:** When your puppy comes home, we will have reduced the feeding schedule to three meals a day. As your puppy ages, you can transition to a twice-a-day feeding schedule if you prefer. So, how much should you feed your new puppy? Please follow the guidelines on the specific kibble you feed that correspond to your puppy’s weight and age!
9. **Obedience Training:** Please start training your puppy immediately. They are smart, eager to learn, and want to please! Dogs are pack animals and look to you for leadership and guidance when they join your pack. You will be amazed at how much they can learn starting at 8 weeks old.
10. It’s very exciting and rewarding when your pup learns something new! Start with sit, down, stay, kennel, and go potty. I also highly recommend enrolling your puppy in a puppy kindergarten class. They get to socialize, start learning self-control, and begin basic obedience tasks. Follow through with “puppy homework” you’re given to continue building your relationship with your pup and help them learn through repetition. Please don’t stop at puppy kindergarten. Upon graduation, enroll your pup in basic obedience class as well.
11. **Veterinarian Care:** Vaccination records are included in the packet. However, your vet will advise you on what is best for your pet’s proper care. Please spay or neuter your pup at approximately 7–12 months old. The health benefits are overwhelming, and the implications of an unplanned pregnancy can be devastating.



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New Puppy Care (continued)

12. **Parasites:** Unfortunately, parasites in puppies are extremely common. It's estimated that 95% of puppies have parasites. We do our best to keep our puppies parasite-free. They were dewormed at 2 and 4 weeks. However, not all parasites respond to deworming, and excessive stress during “go-home” can “awaken” parasites that were previously dormant. It is worthwhile to have another fecal test performed by your veterinarian at their first vaccination.
13. **Love & Patience:** You have made the important decision to let a puppy into your heart and home. We sincerely thank you for trusting us to give your puppy the best start possible. Enjoy the complete innocence of a puppy, their ability to stop and smell the flowers (and maybe even taste them), their curiosity, which is contagious, and their playful humor. Please don't hesitate to call, text, or email me if you have any questions, and of course, please send lots of updates and pictures!

Why Crate Training Is Vital for Your Puppy

- Crate training is great for everyday life for dogs who might need a break from a bustling household or a familiar place to rest. Crates help dogs learn to self-soothe or manage their anxiety during situations that distress them, such as fireworks, thunderstorms, or construction. Their crate becomes their safe space in all situations.
- Crating prevents puppies from tearing up your home while you are away and keeps them safe from getting into anything harmful or hurting themselves.
- If your dog ever needs to stay overnight at the vet's or fly on an airplane, he will be far less stressed while confined if he has already been crate-trained.
- Crates are great for house training. Dogs and puppies don't like to use the bathroom where they sleep, so a properly sized crate is very useful for teaching them bladder and bowel control.



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Crate Training 101

While crates can be used to manage behavior, they should never be used for punishment. For example, try not to put them straight in their kennel after they get into the trash or counter-surf. Then they will associate their kennel as a place they go when they are in trouble.

- Don't leave your dog in the crate too long. A dog who's crated all day and night doesn't get enough exercise or human interaction and can become depressed or anxious.
- Puppies under 6 months of age shouldn't stay in a crate for more than three or four hours at a time. They can't control their bladders or bowels for that long.
- The crate should always have a comfortable bed, and the door left open when you're home so your dog can enter it when they need a safe space. This is also an indication that your dog needs some quiet time. Teach children and guests to leave your pup alone if he or she goes into their crate.
- Create positive associations with the crate using treats and games.
Be patient — crate training can take six months of consistent training.



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Training your Puppy to LOVE their Crate

Since your puppy has already been introduced to a kennel at such a young age, it should be relatively easy to train them to love their safe space.

- Place the crate in an area of your house where the family spends a lot of time, such as the family room. Put a soft blanket or bed in the crate.
- Encourage your dog to enter the crate by dropping some small food treats nearby, then just inside the door, and finally, all the way inside the crate. If they refuse to go all the way in at first, that's OK; don't force them to enter.
- Continue tossing treats into the crate until your dog calmly walks all the way in to get the food. If they aren't interested in treats, try tossing their favorite toy in the crate. This step may take a few minutes or several days.

After introducing your dog to the crate in your home, begin feeding them their regular meals there. This will create a pleasant association with the crate.

- Once your dog is standing comfortably in the crate to eat their meal, you can close the door while they're eating. The first time you do this, open the door as soon as they finish their meal.
- With each successive feeding, leave the door closed a few minutes longer until they're staying in the crate for 10 minutes or so after eating.



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Puppy Socialization Scavenger Hunt

Try to reach all these goals to have a well-socialized and confident puppy. Aim to have your puppy meet 100 different men, women, and children by 16 weeks of age.

PEOPLE	SOUNDS	PLACES	HANDLING	OTHER ANIMALS
Young Adults	Thunderstorms	Veterinarians	Touching Ears	Friendly Big Dogs
Middle-Aged	Rain	Friend's Homes	Touching Paws	Friendly Small Dogs
Elderly	Shouting	Playgrounds	Between Toes	Different Color Dogs
Babies	Fireworks	Parks	Touching Tails	Other Puppies
Toddlers	Gunshots	Home Depot	Leading by Collar	Cats
Tweens	Clapping	Pet Stores	Wearing a Harness	Kittens
Teenagers	Dishwasher	Parking Lots	Brushing Teeth	Different Surface Textures
Disabled	Vacuum	Outside Schools	Kissing on Nose	Car Wash
Loud Voice	Garbage Disposal	Social Gatherings	Touching Gums	Pet Groomers
Soft Voice		Outside Cafes	Touching Teeth	Mulch
Hats			Hair (Wrong Way)	Grates
Glasses/Sunglasses			Rub Belly	Elevators
Umbrellas				Puppy Obedience
Canes/Walkers				Other Neighborhoods
Bikers				
Motorcyclists				
Strollers				
Diff. Skin Colors				
Uniformed Persons				

Pro Tip #1: When introducing to kids, make sure to have a plush toy in case of biting.

Pro Tip #2: For a variety of sounds, use YouTube videos!



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How to Prevent Parasites

- Keep the house completely calm and stress-free for 3 to 7 days (no new visitors, limited commotion, minimal handling, etc.). Treat them like a newborn baby coming home. Stress is an easy way to bring on parasites. When you come home or have visitors stop by, please keep all your shoes at the door. Parvo can be brought inside on shoes.
- Do not wake the “sleeping baby”. Puppies sleep an incredible amount of time. Do not worry. If your pup wakes up with puppy energy, silliness, eats well, and drinks well, then all is good!
- Mushy poop is common with stress. You can also add in a little canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling, which has other ingredients), for the first three days if your pup develops loose stools.
- Upset tummies create a nice environment for parasites.

When to Worry:

1. Poop contains mucus or blood.
2. Puppy is lethargic, does not play with vigor, and refuses to eat.
3. The puppy cannot poop and vomits. This can indicate he or she ate something and has a blockage. This is an emergency. Seek immediate veterinary care.
4. Liquid poop. Be careful. A puppy can dehydrate quickly, so if the poop does not improve, a visit to the veterinarian will be needed.

I hope this makes the transition for your puppy easier and healthier. Thank you for ensuring their safety and well-being!



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Potty Training 101

Depending on your bedtime schedule, remove food and water 2-3 hours before bedtime to give the puppy a better chance of holding it all night. Puppies fully develop their bladders around 5 months old, so they will eventually be able to hold it longer.

- When you must take your puppy out at night, please do not make this a play session.
- Be matter-of-fact (as little talking as possible) and get down to business.
- Praise the potty behavior and go right back into the kennel.

We strongly suggest kennel training, and potty training is one of the biggest reasons. Puppies will rarely potty where they sleep. This is one of the main reasons I begin “potty training” puppies at three weeks old by dividing their whelping box into two sections – one for nursing and sleeping, and one for potty use.

- When you bring your puppy home and put them in an appropriately sized kennel (not too large, just enough room to turn around and lie down), they will fuss when they must go potty! If you cannot watch your puppy or it is naptime, tuck them into their kennel. When they do fuss, scoop them up in your arms and get outside as quickly as possible. You can also try carrying their kennel straight to the door.
- When your puppy has an accident, please clean it up thoroughly and move on. Only clap hands and scold vocally IF you catch the pup going potty.
- Rubbing their nose in it, etc., is not acceptable and is a complete waste of time.

In general, your pup will need to potty every 30 minutes as well as after a nap, vigorous play, exiting the kennel, and following meals. When in doubt, take out! Again, if you can't watch your puppy, they go to the kennel!

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Recommended items to get before you bring your new baby home

- Collar and leash
- Food and water dishes
- Dog bed and blankets
- Kennel
- Puppy training treats
- Puppy food
- Baby gates/pet pen
- Toys
- Puppy shampoo
- Cleaning wipes
- Ear wipes
- Dental care
- Nail clippers
- Grooming brush
- Potty pads
- Poop bags
- Poop scooper
- Check in at the vet

Questions

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us!

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