



We'll do our best to help you integrate your dog into your family, if you're willing to work with us and your dog, using force-free, reward-based, and low stress handling techniques and training.

# cheerfuldogs chronicles

cheerful dogs, happy people

Issue 3

## Living with Dogs: Assess Your Puppy Readiness

Puppies are great. They spread joy, provide endless entertainment, and most could win cuteness contests all day long just by existing. But puppies are also fast-growing, potentially havoc-wreaking little learning machines. Nature packs in as much information intake as possible in those first few months, and if you're not prepared, your puppy may learn all the wrong things and you could spend months—or years—playing catch-up or trying to recover from early mistakes.



**Are you equipped?** Food, bowls, a leash, and a few toys won't be enough. At a minimum, you will need: a puppy crate, an X-pen or baby gate, Kongs and treat balls, an ID tag, a flat collar, and a harness for walks, long and short leashes, a canine toothbrush and toothpaste, nail clippers, dog shampoo, brushes, and a variety of toys.

**Is your home puppy-proof?** Set up a confinement area (despite the name this is a cozy den for your puppy) for alone time and potty training. The area should be easy to clean and easy to close off with a baby gate. Think kitchen, laundry room, or bathroom. Furnish the area with a bed or crate, a water bowl, and several toys.

**Are the house rules clear?** Decide on set routines and procedures for consistency before you bring your puppy home. If more than one person is responsible for puppy raising, who will be in charge of the house-training routine? Where will the puppy



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cont.

## ....puppy readiness

be allowed—on the bed? The couch? Who will walk the puppy? Take the puppy to classes? Practise homework?

**Do you have good dog professionals lined up?** Such as veterinarian, groomer, daycare facility, dog walker, pet sitter, and, of course, a top-notch dog trainer and puppy class. We are certified, positive-reinforcement dog professionals who can help you with your puppy. The key is to plan well ahead for your puppy's first year of socialization and learning. Beyond the wonderful Instagram fodder, puppy time is a one-off opportunity to shape the dog you will live with for many years to come.



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### Did You Know: These dog temperature facts?

- Dogs are more sensitive to high temperatures than humans because they rely on breathing out hot air and breathing in cold air to regulate their body temperature. If the outside air is hot, particularly if it's close to body temperature, they overheat.
- Short dogs and dogs with squat faces have an ever-harder time than other dogs regulating their body temperature. They overheat faster in hot weather, enclosed spaces, or during vigorous exercise.
- Dogs sweat only through their noses and the pads of their feet. Having such a limited area to sweat from also contributes to rapid overheating and potentially fatal heat strokes in hot or humid weather.

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