

YORKSHIRE TERRIER
INFORMATION BOOKLET

WATCH OUT
Yorkkie



About!

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INDEX

- 1. Kennel Union of South Africa (KUSA) Breed Standard**
- 2. Breeder Details**
- 3. Yorkshire Terrier Facts**
 - **Temperament**
 - **Boldness**
 - **Intelligence**
 - **Independence**
 - **Health**
 - **Hypoglycemia**
 - **Genetic Defects**
- 4. Yorkshire Terrier History**
 - **Legacy**
 - **Ancestry**
 - **Huddersfield Ben**
 - **In America**
- 5. Good Breeder Means Good Dog**
 - **Recognizing a Good Breeder**
 - **What the Breeder Does**
 - **Breeders Choose Buyers Carefully**
 - **How to Recognize a Responsible Breeder**
 - **Choose a Healthy Puppy**
- 6. Preparing for Life With Puppy**
 - **Making Your Home Safe**
 - **Choosing Fencing**
 - **Choosing Pet Identification**
 - **Necessary Supplies**
 - **First Days at Home**
 - **Teaching Kids to Respect Puppy**
 - **Introducing Resident Pets to Puppy**
 - **Choosing a Name**
 - **Top Five Puppy Housebreaking Tips**
 - **The Scoop on Accidents**
- 7. Taking Care of Your Puppy's Health**
 - **Finding a Veterinarian**
 - **The First Visit**
 - **Getting Ready**
 - **The First Appointment**
 - **The Vaccination Schedule**

- **The Decision to Spay/Neuter**
 - **Coping with Fleas**
 - **Flea Control Myths**
 - **Prescription Flea-prevention Products**
 - **Getting Exercise**
 - **Easing Your Puppy's Separation Anxiety**
 - **Diagnosing Separation Anxiety**
 - **How You Can Help**
 - **Seeking Professional Advice**
- 8. Socializing Your Puppy**
- **Stages of Puppy Development**
 - **Meeting New Kinds of People**
 - **Getting Along with Other Dogs**
 - **Getting along with Other Pets**
 - **Coping with New Experiences**
- 9. Feeding Your Small-Breed Puppy**
- **Choosing a Dog Food**
 - **Basic Feeding Guidelines For Your Puppy**
 - **Decoding Pet Food Labels**
 - **The Critical Puppy Years**
 - **Feeding Tips**
 - **Controlling Begging**
 - **Scrap the Scraps**
 - **Ideal Proportions**
 - **The Feeding Schedule**
 - **Eufaula's Recipe**
 - **One Size Does Not Fit All**
 - **The Teething Pup**
 - **Moving to Adult Food**
- 10. Teaching Your Puppy to Mind**
- **Getting Started**
 - **Basic Commands**
 - **Puppies and Chewing**
 - **Keep 'Em Busy**
 - **Teach Your Pup to "Chew Smart"**
 - **Exercise Smart Discipline**
 - **What Not to Do**
- 11. Most Frequently Asked Questions About Puppies**

1. OFFICIAL BREED STANDARD OF THE KENNEL UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Long-coated, coat hanging quite straight and evenly down each side, a parting extending from nose to end of tail. Very compact and neat, carriage very upright conveying an important air. General outline conveying impression of vigorous and well proportioned body.

CHARACTERISTICS

Alert, intelligent toy terrier.

TEMPERAMENT

Spirited with even disposition.

HEAD AND SKULL

Rather small and flat, not too prominent or round in skull, nor too long in muzzle; black nose.

EYES

Medium, dark, sparkling with sharp intelligent expression and placed to look directly forward. Not prominent. Edge of eyelids dark.

EARS

Small, V-shaped, carried erect, not too far apart, covered with short hair, colour very deep, rich tan.

MOUTH

Perfect, regular and complete scissor bite i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Teeth well placed with even jaws.

NECK

Good reach.

FOREQUARTERS

Well laid shoulders, legs straight, well covered with hair of rich golden tan, a few shades lighter at ends than at roots, not extending higher on forelegs than elbow.

BODY

Compact with moderate spring of rib, good loin. Level back.

HINDQUARTERS

Legs quite straight when viewed from behind, moderate turn of stifle. Well covered with hair of rich golden tan, a few shades lighter at ends than at roots, not extending higher on hind legs than stifles.

FEET

Round; nails black.

TAIL

Customarily docked to medium length with plenty of hair, darker blue in colour than rest of body, especially at the end of tail. Carried a little higher than level of back.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Free with drive; straight action front and behind, retaining level top line.

COAT

Hair on body moderately long, perfectly straight (not wavy), glossy; fine silky texture, not woolly. Fall on head long, rich golden tan, deeper in colour at sides of head, about ear roots and on muzzle where it should be very long. Tan on head not to extend on to neck, nor must any sooty or dark hair intermingle with any of tan.

COLOUR

Dark steel blue (not silver blue), extending from occiput to root of tail, never mingled with fawn, bronze or dark hairs. Hair on chest rich, bright tan. All tan hair darker at the roots than in middle, shading to still lighter at tips.

SIZE

Weight up to 3.2 kgs (7 lbs).

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on health & welfare of the dog

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

2. BREEDER DETAILS

Breeder's Name: Lynette Fouche
Breeder's Address: PO Box 258, Hennenman, 9445.
Breeder's Tel. Numbers: 082 722 4506
Breeder's Email address: <mailto:lynette@sayorkies.co.za>
Breeder's KUSA reg. no: 1007360

3. YORKSHIRE TERRIER FACTS

Temperament

Though a toy breed, the Yorkshire Terrier, Yorkie for short, still retains much of its terrier ancestry in terms of personality. Individual dogs will differ, but they are generally intelligent, independent and courageous. Yorkshire Terriers are quick to determine where they fit in a household's "pack." Their behavior towards outsiders will vary - they often will be inclined to bark at strangers, but some Yorkies are outgoing and friendly towards new people while others are withdrawn and aloof. The differences in behavior in this regard are largely based on how the owner trains or conditions (and socializes) the Yorkie. A few individual Yorkshire Terriers may be timid or nervous, rather than bold, but the vast majority does seem to meet the breed standard for a confident, vigorous and self-important personality. The following distinctive qualities are likely to be present in a Yorkshire Terrier:

Boldness

Despite its Toy classification, the breed retains much lively terrier personality. Yorkies will not assert themselves as the "alpha" dog. Yorkies typically get along well with other dogs and love to play together with them. Rather, bold character comes from the Yorkie's mix of great inquisitiveness, or an instinct to protect, and self-confidence. Some Yorkies are unaware of their small size and may even challenge larger, tougher dogs. In one case a 12-pound Yorkie pushed open a screen door (to investigate a commotion outside) and rushed to the aid of an elderly woman who was being attacked by an 80-pound Akita. When the Yorkie snapped and growled, the Akita turned his attention on the small dog long enough for the woman to escape. Unfortunately, this boldness can get Yorkies into trouble, as small dogs can be seriously injured. For similar reasons, Yorkies do not make suitable pets for very young children. Some people also find the dog's boldness to be a source of great nuisance, leading to the dog sometimes being regarded as "yappy". They make well rounded family pets.

Intelligence

Yorkshire Terriers as a breed are intelligent dogs. According to Dr. Stanley Coren, an expert on animal intelligence, the Yorkshire Terrier is an above average working dog, ranking 27th (32nd including ties) out of the 132 breeds tested. His research found that an average Yorkshire Terrier could understand a new command after approximately 15 repetitions and would obey a command the first time it was given 70% of the time or better. This capacity as working dogs enables Yorkies to excel in sports like obedience and agility, which require the dog to understand communication from the handler and carry out a complex series of commands. Additionally, Yorkies learn to recognize numerous words and can be taught to distinguish and fetch separate toys in a box by their names.

Independence

The well bred and well handled Yorkshire Terrier is content to be near its owner without being on a lap or underfoot. Yorkies are energetic, but also need much rest and will often prefer to spend downtime in privacy, such as in a kennel or out-of-the-way corner. Early terriers were expected to hunt in the company of handlers and other dogs, but also to have the self-confidence to go out on their own after prey. Very pampered and indulged Yorkies are more likely to be clingy and demanding, and lack the true terrier self-confidence. Yorkshire Terriers tend to be more difficult to train than some breeds, due to their characteristic independent nature. The independent mindedness of Yorkies leads some trainers to consider them to be among the hardest to house-break.

Health

Health issues often seen in the Yorkshire Terrier include bronchitis, lymphangiectasia, hepatic lipidosis, cataracts and keratitis sicca. Additionally, injection reactions (inflammation or hair loss at the site of an injection) are common. Another common health condition in Yorkies are their sensitive skin. The most common type of skin conditions Yorkies face are brought on by allergic reactions to seasonal pollen, pollution, food, and sometimes the air itself. Their coats may get very dry due to scratching and biting and eventually leading to massive hair loss. Yorkies often have a delicate digestive system, with vomiting or diarrhea resulting from consumption of foods outside of a regular diet. They are usually picky with which foods they eat. They usually will not eat what they don't like, it will be left aside. Trying to mix foods is not a good idea because they tend not to enjoy it. The relatively small size of the Yorkshire Terrier means that it usually has a poor tolerance for anesthesia. Additionally, a toy dog such as the Yorkie is more likely to be injured by falls, other dogs and owner clumsiness. Due to their small size, Yorkies may be endangered if kept in the house with an undiscerning or abusive person, especially a child. Many breeders and rescue organizations will not allow their Yorkies to go to families with young children, because of the risk it poses to the dog.

The life span of a healthy Yorkie is 8-15 years. Under-sized Yorkies (3 pounds or less) generally have a shorter life span, as they are especially prone to health problems such as chronic diarrhea and vomiting, are even more sensitive to anesthesia, and are more easily injured.

Hypoglycemia

Low blood sugar in puppies, or transient juvenile hypoglycemia, is caused by fasting (too much time between meals). In rare cases hypoglycemia may continue to be a problem in mature, usually very small, Yorkies. It is often seen in Yorkie puppies at 5 to 16 weeks of age. Very tiny Yorkie puppies are especially predisposed to hypoglycemia because a lack of muscle mass makes it difficult to store glucose and regulate blood sugar. Factors such as stress, fatigue, a cold environment, poor nutrition, and a change in diet or feeding schedule may bring on hypoglycemia. Low blood sugar can also be the result of a bacterial infection, parasite, or portosystemic liver shunt. Hypoglycemia causes the puppy to become drowsy, listless (glassy-eyed), shaky and uncoordinated, since the brain relies on sugar to function. Additionally, a hypoglycemic Yorkie may have a lower than normal body temperature and, in extreme cases, may have a seizure or go into a coma. A dog showing symptoms should be treated by a veterinarian immediately, as prolonged or recurring attacks of hypoglycemia can permanently damage the dog's brain. In severe cases it can be fatal.

Genetic defects

As with many purebred dogs, the Yorkshire Terrier is prone to certain genetic disorders, including distichiasis, hydrocephalus, hypoplasia of dens, Legg-Perthes disease, patellar luxation, portosystemic shunt, retinal dysplasia, tracheal collapse and bladder stones.^[27] The following are among the most common congenital defects that affect Yorkies.

Distichiae, eyelashes arising from an abnormal spot (usually the duct of the meibomian gland at the edge of the eyelid), are often found in Yorkies. Distichiae can irritate the eye and cause tearing, squinting, inflammation, and corneal abrasions or corneal ulcers and scarring. Treatment options may include manual removal, electrolysis or surgery.

Hypoplasia of dens is a non-formation of the pivot point of the second cervical vertebra, which leads to spinal cord damage. Onset of the condition may occur at any age, producing signs ranging from neck pain to quadriplegia.

Legg-Perthes disease, which causes the top of the femur (thigh bone) to degenerate, occurs in Yorkies more than in any other breed. The condition appears to result from insufficient circulation to the area around the hip joint. As the blood supply is reduced, the bone in the head of the femur collapses and dies and the cartilage coating around it becomes cracked and deformed. Usually the disease appears when the Yorkie is young (between five and eight months of age); signs are pain, limping or lameness. The standard treatment is surgery to remove the affected part of the bone. Following surgery, muscles hold the femur in place and fibrous tissue forms in the area of removal to prevent bone rubbing on bone. Although the affected leg will be slightly shorter than prior to surgery, the Yorkie may regain almost normal use.

Luxating patellas (slipping kneecaps) are another common genetic defect in Yorkies. Weak ligaments and tendons in the knee or malformed (too shallow) patellar grooves, allow the patella to slip out of its groove sideways. This causes the leg to 'lock up' with the foot held off the ground. A dog with this problem may experience frequent pain and lameness or may be bothered by it only on occasion. Over time, the patellar ridges can become worn down, making the groove even more shallow and causing the dog to become increasingly lame. Surgery is the main treatment option available for luxating patellas, although it is not necessary for every dog with the condition.

Portosystemic shunt, a congenital malformation of the portal vein (which brings blood to the liver for cleansing), is also common in Yorkies. In this condition some of the dog's blood bypasses the liver and the "dirty" blood goes on to poison the heart, brain, lungs and other organs with toxins. A Yorkie with this condition might exhibit a wide variety of symptoms, such as small stature, poor appetite, weak muscle development, decreased ability to learn, inferior coordination, occasional vomiting and diarrhea, behavioral abnormalities, seizures (especially after a meal), blindness, coma and death. Often the shunt can be treated with surgery.

Tracheal collapse, caused by a progressive weakening of the walls of the trachea, occurs in many toy breeds, especially very tiny Yorkies. As a result of genetics, the walls of the trachea can be flaccid, a condition that becomes more severe with age. Cushing's disease, a disorder that causes production of excess steroid hormone by the adrenal glands, can also weaken cartilage and lead to tracheal collapse. There is a possibility that physical strain on the neck might cause or contribute to trachea collapse. Since this is usually caused by an energetic Yorkie pulling against his collar, many veterinarians recommend use of a harness for leashed walks. An occasional "goose honking" cough, especially on exertion or excitement, is usually the first sign of this condition. Over time, the cough may become almost constant in the Yorkie's later life. Breathing through the obstruction of a collapsed (or partially collapsed) trachea for many years can result in complications, including chronic lung disease. The coughing can be countered with cough suppressants and bronchodilators. If the collapse is advanced and unresponsive to medication, sometimes surgery can repair the trachea.

4. YORKSHIRE TERRIER HISTORY

Legacy

The Yorkie was bred as a ratter, used to kill mice and rats in small places. There is some evidence that they may have been used for hunting as well. Like most terriers developed in the early 19th Century, it was common for Yorkies to demonstrate their prowess as vermin killers in what were known as "rat killer"

As a hunting group, terriers specialize in pursuing animals (usually vermin) that live in dens or burrows. Animals that are cornered and defending their young will fight ferociously. Therefore, any dog that would willingly pursue them must have an extraordinary degree of courage; terriers are bred for that quality.

Ancestry

As the name implies, the Yorkshire Terrier originated in Yorkshire (and the adjoining Lancashire), a rugged region in northern England. In the mid-nineteenth century, at the peak of England's industrial revolution, miners and mill workers from Scotland came to Yorkshire in search of work and brought with them several different varieties of small long-coated terriers, generally known as Broken Haired Scotch terriers (*not* Scotties). The specific breeds that make up the Yorkshire Terrier's ancestry are not known, since the breeders at that time did not keep records of the bloodlines. Certain breeds, however, are commonly thought to be the main forebears. The likely source of the Yorkie's small stature, long-haired coat and blue color are the Clydesdale, Paisley, Skye and Waterside terriers, all English terriers transported to England at various times. The English Black and Tan Terrier bloodline probably gave the Yorkie its signature color pattern. These breeds were all working dogs, used to keep vermin under control in the textile mills and coal mines. Many have suggested that the Maltese, an ancient breed (likely originating in Asia), may be in the Yorkshire Terrier's background as well.

The breed first appeared at an 1861 bench show in England as the Broken-Haired Scotch Terrier, named for the dog's Scottish terrier ancestors. Early Yorkies were also known simply as Toy Terriers, in both rough and broken haired varieties. Yorkshire Terriers were given their breed name by 1874.

Huddersfield Ben

A dog known as Huddersfield Ben is universally acknowledged to be the foundation sire of the Yorkshire Terrier breed. He was born in 1865 in the town of Huddersfield, county of Yorkshire. The very public life of this dog, owned by M.A. Foster, did much to popularize the breed in England. Ben died in an accident at the age of six, but in his short life he won more than 70 prizes at dog shows and also demonstrated exceptional skill in ratting contests. Ben was a highly sought after stud dog because he was one of the first to consistently sire Yorkies true to type and under 5 pounds.

In America

The Yorkshire Terrier was introduced in the United States in 1872. The first Yorkie was registered with the American Kennel Club in 1878, making it one of the first twenty-five breeds to be approved for registration by the AKC. During the late Victorian era, the Yorkshire Terrier quickly became a popular pet, and as Americans embraced Victorian customs, so too did they embrace the Yorkshire Terrier. The breed's popularity dipped in the 1940's, when the percentage of small breed dogs registered fell to an all-time low of 18% of total registrations. Smoky, a Yorkie and famous war dog from World War II, is credited with beginning a renewal of interest in the then obscure Yorkshire Terrier breed.

5. GOOD BREEDER MEANS GOOD DOG

Recognizing a Good Breeder

If you pick a good breeder, the dog you choose will have a leg up on life from the start. After all, it's in the breeder's own best interests to make sure the dogs he breeds are healthy, well-socialized and the best of their type.

The breeder's role is an ancient one. It began when an early human and a wolf or wild pariah dog struck up a friendship. Over time, humans continued to favor intelligent dogs that enjoyed learning and being around people.

Without understanding the far-reaching results of what they were doing, our prehistoric ancestors became the first breeders. They selected out agreeable dogs that could perform work to help the family by gathering food, pulling a sleigh or guarding and leading other domesticated animals. When these dogs mated, they perpetuated their abilities; thus, we domesticated the dog, just as we did cattle, goats and sheep. We also differentiated dogs, according to their roles in human society.

What the Breeder Does

Breeders strive to achieve physical conformation in their dogs. That means a dog must meet the standards that make his breed unique – size, body shape, the way the ears and tail are set, the angle of the stance. Above all, the dogs must be healthy, with each generation further minimizing the chance of genetic flaws.

In order to evaluate and choose a breeder, you must understand the characteristics that would make him top-notch. The majority of responsible breeders pursue their calling as a hobby; they are just enamored with a particular type of dog. They know everything there is to know about a breed's behaviors and potential health problems. Some also might make a living as professional trainers; they might show dogs. But they always make a lifetime commitment to each dog that they breed. They don't tally their rewards in purely financial gain.

A breeder must know the ancestry of a pup and his parents for at least several generations back. He needs this information to understand each pup's personality and health tendencies, as well as to maintain good standing among fellow breeders and to meet KUSA requirements. A good breeder also looks to the future: He usually requires buyers to keep him informed about a dog's health throughout his life; if tragedy strikes, he may even require a cause of death report.

Breeders Choose Buyers Carefully

Many breeders choose each dog's buyer as carefully as a buyer would choose a breeder.

They'll ask for a history of your relationship with dogs and other pets; quiz you on your knowledge of the breed; even probe into your family's habits and schedule. Many breeders require you to sign a contract, stipulating how you will care for your dog.

A responsible breeder raises a limited number of dogs. He does not over-breed; he breeds a dam only when he is certain he has enough responsible people to buy the pups she will produce. And he breeds when the parents are two or older, after the most egregious genetic flaws would be evident.

A dedicated breeder also belongs to a local, state or national (or all) breed clubs. This allows the breeder to keep abreast of current information regarding their breed and to produce the best puppies possible.

A breeder goes to great lengths to find a mate for his sire or dam. That means that both dogs are of age; proven to be healthy, intelligent, easily socialized; and capable of filling the roles they're bred for, be it hunter, herder, protector or companion. Even if the resulting pups won't be raised for showing, some breeders travel great distances with their dogs to make the right match.

Once a female is impregnated, the breeder provides her with a healthy, calm environment; supports her through birthing and her puppy's early days. He socializes each puppy so they're used to humans and provides a stimulating environment for them. He interviews buyers and educates those he chooses to sell to.

The fees you'll pay a breeder, beginning with a down payment, reflect the expenses incurred at every stage of the process, from mating through follow-up. Fees vary, depending upon a breed's rarity, geographic location and special requirements, such as cesarean birthing for certain breed.

But beware of breeders who overcharge because a breed is popular at the moment. In the true spirit of responsible breeding, it costs the same to breed a St. Bernard whether or not he resembles the pet movie star of the month.

Responsible breeders know about their breed. Responsible breeders screen for genetic diseases and maintain good veterinary and breeding records. Responsible breeders offer a written health guarantee with each puppy they sell. Responsible breeders are always available to offer help and advice to their new puppy owners. Responsible breeders always breed their dogs with the thought of improving their line.

How To Recognize a Responsible Breeder

- A good breeder will only sell a dog under contract, which will set forth that breeder's policy regarding health guarantee, refund/return policy and other rights/responsibilities between buyer and seller.
- A good breeder will be knowledgeable about the breed and the common genetic diseases in that breed.
- A good breeder will offer you support with your new puppy, and always help you place the dog (or take it back) if for some reason you cannot keep the dog.
- A good breeder will be able to show you both parents, and in the case of a male that lives off the premises, will have a photograph and history available.
- A good breeder will carefully screen potential buyers to ensure that the dogs will be placed in an appropriate home.
- A good breeder's kennel or home will appear clean and well maintained.
- A good breeder will be willing to answer your questions about the breed and the appropriate care for your dog.
- A good breeder will be willing to let you see the environment in which the dogs are bred and raised.
- A good breeder will allow you to see the pups but may not allow you to handle all of them. Exposure to many different people can increase the risk of illness in the pups. Only serious buyers should be allowed to handle the pups to limit exposure.

Choose a Healthy Puppy

When choosing your puppy, try to make sure he is healthy and well cared for. At eight weeks of age, the pup should have had at least one vaccination for distemper, parvo, hepatitis and parainfluenza and received at least one dose of dewormer. Also, look for the following traits:

- Active, playful and well-socialized; puppy should not appear fearful
- Bright eyes, with no discharge of any sort
- No nasal discharge
- Clean ears and skin
- Pink gums and correctly aligned teeth
- Well-proportioned body
- Shiny coat
- Good eyesight and hearing-check this by jingling your keys and seeing if the dog responds.

Always have your new puppy examined by your veterinarian as soon as possible. If there is a medical problem, you should be able to return the pup to the breeder.

6. Preparing for Life with Puppy

There is nothing quite like bringing Baby home for the first time. You'll want to introduce her to all the relatives — human and otherwise — give her a tour and lavish new toys on her. But before the baptism, take the time to make sure your household is ready. That means puppy-proofing her quarters, spaces shared with you and the yard or garden, if you have one. You'll need to purchase supplies ahead of time and read up on puppy behaviour so you know what to expect. Furthermore, it is hugely important to prepare children for the new responsibilities that lie ahead and to teach them to handle the pup correctly. As your to-do list grows, consider using our checklist to help you organize your tasks.

Making Your Home Safe

The stories often become family lore: "Ruffles" pulled the fringe off the dining room curtains when she was a puppy, "Babe" chewed up Bobby's football boots right before the big match, "Ferragamo" hid in one of Aunt Leddy's handbags for an entire day and the whole family was convinced she had run away. Sure, the tales are fun — but only if the scenario has a happy ending. You can prevent injury — even death — by making sure your house is pet-friendly. Literally get down on all fours and scoot around each room in your house to look for problems. This will give you a puppy's point of view. Remember to:

- Consolidate electrical cords then hide them in hard plastic "cord keepers," cover outlets with plastic plugs.
- Move houseplants out of reach until your pup can be trusted. Never give her access to poisonous plants such as poinsettias, azaleas, rhododendrons, dumb can, Japanese yew, oleander and English ivy.
- Put away breakable treasures and beloved toys.
- Tuck household chemicals into cabinets and consider locking them with baby hinges. Note this is imperative with engine lubricants and antifreeze, which are especially interesting to puppies and deadly.
- If you have an outdoor dog run or kennel, check the path of the sun during different times of the day. If your puppy will receive full exposure, ensure there is shelter available for her to take refuge.

Choosing Fencing

The allure of the wide world is strong for puppies. That's why you'll want to make sure your home has appropriate fencing to keep her safe. Note too, that you might need a fence-within-a-fence to secure your pool or hot tub. Though canines are known for their ability to swim, some pets fall in but can't navigate to steps or leap over tall walls to get to safety. Fencing choices include:

- Privacy fences. These tall barriers have no openings.
- Chain link. This material is durable.
- Underground fencing. These wire systems are invisible to the eye because they're buried underground and connected to transmitters which are linked to a special collar. This collar emits a small shock when the puppy nears the barrier.
- Dog runs. A covered concrete slab will protect your pup from adverse weather and ensure she doesn't climb or jump out of the cage. Such flooring keeps her from digging a hole underneath and escaping.

Choosing Pet Identification

No matter how much thought you put into keeping your dog contained, there is always the chance that she might get lost. Therefore, you'll want to make sure she's properly identified. Think about:

- Purchasing a breakaway collar that includes an inscription featuring her name, address and your permanent telephone number as well as the name and number of her veterinarian.
- Having a microchip surgically implanted with contact information.
- Because a tattoo or microchip could go undetected, supplement them with a collar and tag.

Necessary Supplies

People are absolutely mad about their puppies. That's why doggie day cares, canine boutiques and bakeries for barkers have popped up around the country in the past decade. But what equipment do you really need? Put the items listed below on your "must" list, then if your budget allows, indulge in that cheetah-print puppy carry-all you've been eyeing.

- Specially-formulated puppy food (Note: The basic needs of growing pups differ significantly from that of adult dogs)
- Stainless steel no-tip food and water bowls (such finishes won't break or absorb odors)
- Puppy treats for use in training
- Identification tags, adjustable collar, 6-foot-long nylon leash between 3/4 inches wide with a breakaway feature (Tip: Make sure the collar is sized correctly. One way to measure is to make sure two of your fingers can slip between the collar and the puppy's neck.)
- Home and travel crate large enough to accommodate your puppy when she's full grown
- Stain remover specially formulated for doggie odors
- Brushes and combs to suit your puppy's coat
- Dog shampoo, toothbrush and paste
- High-quality chew toys to ease teething (Note: It is important to make sure playthings will not break apart easily.)
- Parasite controls such as flea medicine
- Nail clippers
- Expandable baby gate to isolate puppy

First Days At Home

The incorporation of your pup into your family begins the minute you pick him up at the kennel or shelter and will continue for many months. During these days, you'll want to gently impart upon him that you're the leader of his pack and that there are rules to be followed. If you establish good habits right off, you're likely to save yourself grief later on. (Yes, we agree that it is lovely to snuggle with your 10-pound Golden Retriever puppy in bed on a Saturday morning, but do you really want Genghis sleeping with you when he tips the scales at a hefty 110?) Veterinarians recommend the following strategies to help socialize your pup and ritualize his days:

- Bring your new puppy home when the house is relatively quiet and "normal." This means no sleepovers for your twin boys until routines are established, no spontaneous vacations or holidays where the pup will be left alone, no late nights at the office. Instead acclimate your little one to the usual household routines.
- Before you even enter the actual house, take your charge to the area in your garden or yard (or to the park) that will serve as his toilet. Allow him time to sniff and snort. If he goes potty, praise him effusively. If there is no action, try again later.
- Then, introduce your pup to one room in the house at a time to avoid overwhelming him. Cordon off a small section of the house with a baby gate or door and keep him there to get used to things for a couple of days. If you aim to crate-train him, place the kennel in this space. Leave comfy bedding in the room, but quickly remove it if it becomes soiled, so that Puppy won't think he's got a personal indoor potty.

Teaching Kids to Respect Puppy

You might have purchased your puppy to occupy your kids — or maybe you had kids because you loved babying your pet. Whatever the case, children of all ages need to be taught how to handle your family's animals in an appropriate manner. Consider these ideas:

- Before introducing puppies and children, lay ground rules with the kids, provided they are old enough to understand them. Remind them to be gentle. Show them exactly what you mean by petting their forearms and heads as you would your pet's. Ask them to practice by stroking you.
- Remind kids to use a gentle voice when addressing the puppy as though they are talking to a baby.
- Teach children to respect the animal's space, most especially at mealtimes, as even the best puppies might bite if they feel threatened.
- Instruct kids to allow the pup to come to them, as even the smallest child can spook a young animal.
- Limit puppy-child play session to between 15-30 minutes 2-3 times per day. Articulate that pets need rest time just like the rest of us.
- Explain that teasing behaviors — such as holding a ball just out of a puppy's reach — will only reinforce bad habits like jumping and barking.
- If it's the baby that is new to the home, bring blankets or clothing that smells like the child to the animal prior to a homecoming.
- Always supervise interactions between youngsters and pets, disciplining the appropriate party should a snafu take place.

Introducing Resident Pets to Puppy

The addition of a new puppy can be tremendously exciting for your current furry friends. That said, special precautions can — and should — be taken to lay a foundation for copasetic friendships. Experts suggest:

- Separate your new puppy and the old gang for a few days by putting up a baby gate between two rooms. (Or, keep the newbie contained in a kennel.)
- Allow the friends to sniff one another through the bars for several days.
- Finally, supervise "dates" between the two pets, resorting to separation if need be.

Whether your family is large or small, the addition of a puppy won't be anything but joyful. And when you're properly prepared, expanding the circle will go off without a hitch.

Choosing a Name

Here are a few tips to consider before naming your new puppy:

- Names should be short. A two-syllable name is best because it's brief and won't be confused with one-syllable commands such as "no" or "sit."
- Be consistent. All family members should use the same name - don't use confusing nicknames or variations.
- Reward your new puppy's recognition of his name with lots of praise and play.

Top Five Puppy Housebreaking Tips

Housebreaking your new puppy may seem like a daunting task, but with a bit of insight into dog psychology and these proven puppy training tips, your new pet will learn quickly. If he's an adult dog who was never fully housebroken (he has accidents daily, weekly or monthly), you'll find it's best to treat him like a brand-new un-housebroken puppy.

1. Select the site. Before your new puppy enters your house, introduce him to the specific area of your yard you've already designated as his. He'll soon associate it with bathroom breaks.

2. Visit it often. It's best to take your new puppy outside about every two hours, as well as upon waking, after playing and feeding, and before going to bed. In addition, be alert to signals like sniffing and circling that may indicate he has to go.

3. Use his crate. When you can't be there, crate your dog. Your puppy respects his new "den" and will avoid soiling it. If you purchase a crate large enough to accommodate his adult size, you can partition off part of the crate so he won't go in a corner.

4. Correct him kindly. Accidents will happen. Remember that shouting, scolding and punishment serve no purpose and will only confuse your new puppy. Even if you catch him in mid-act, simply say, "No!" and immediately take him outside.

5. Praise him. Lavish praise on your dog each time he goes outside in his assigned spot. Speak in an upbeat voice, smile and reward him with treats after he does his business.

The Scoop on Accidents

Here's how to make short work of accident cleanup:

- Soak up urine with paper towels and remove feces with a plastic bag.
- Treat the soiled area with a mild detergent solution.
- On carpeting, blot the stain - don't scrub - and work from the outside toward the center.
- To neutralize odors, use a spray product that's veterinarian-approved as safe to use around pets.

7. Taking Care of Your Puppy's Health

The problem with puppies, and with all dogs for that matter, is that they can't tell you what's wrong when they fall ill. Sure, they can show you something's up with great displays of whimpering and whining. They might scratch until the sun goes down, but you don't really know if the problem is caused by fleas or allergies. And unless you majored in animal husbandry, chances are you'll need to look for a veterinarian who knows her stuff to care for your four-footed friend — in good times and in bad. Furthermore, it's important to know what to expect when you visit her offices for checkups.

Finding a Veterinarian

Shopping for a health care provider for your pup is no different than searching for any other family doctor. You'll want to do plenty of research and consider the following:

- Does the veterinarian have a good reputation? Ask friends and family about their experiences. Also, call the local humane society to see who they recommend. After all, those who provide care to so many animals will have a sense of which professionals are most compassionate and have good track records.
- Do a background check on each professional's education and experience. Find out how long the provider has been practicing and whether or not she graduated from a prestigious veterinary program.
- Investigate whether or not the doctor has an area of specialty. Some might work only with dogs, for example, or have an in-depth knowledge of Yorkshire Terriers and the ailments common to that breed.
- Look into the clinic's location. After all, doggie ambulances are few and far between and a drive across town during a medical emergency could mean the difference between life and death.
- Once you find a provider you are comfortable with, visit her office for a one-on-one interview. You'll want to garner her philosophy on puppy rearing and discuss other matters unique to your circumstance.

The First Visit

We recommend taking your pet to the veterinarian within the first three days he's home to ensure he's fit. (The visit is akin to taking a used car to your own mechanic to make sure you didn't invest in a lemon.) The visit will likely include:

- An external check including the examination of the puppy's coat, muscles, bones, eyes, ears, mouth
- A fecal exam to check for internal parasites
- A question-and-answer period
- The scheduling of immunizations

Here's how to prepare:

Getting Ready

As the "parent" of a new puppy or new adult dog, it's important for you to help. If you have time, introduce your dog to his new veterinarian by scheduling an orientation-only visit. Let the veterinarian's staff pet him and offer him treats. If you project a calm, upbeat attitude, your dog will likely remain calm too. Some experts recommend scheduling these "just dropping in" visits on a regular basis.

The First Appointment

At your dog's first appointment, you'll be asked basic information, and a staff member may weigh your pet. Keeping track of his weight can help identify problems associated with weight loss or gain. Then you'll meet the veterinarian. You'll be asked about your dog's diet and lifestyle. Next you'll get to ask about your dog's care. Then the veterinarian will examine him and may administer his first vaccinations.

The Vaccination Schedule

The information you provided will help the veterinarian determine the kinds of diseases your dog may be exposed to and plan an appropriate vaccination schedule. Schedules vary, but it's important for puppies to get a series of vaccinations to provide optimal protection against infectious diseases like the ones listed below. The series is begun as early as 6 weeks old, with boosters given 3 to 4 weeks apart until puppies are 12 to 16 weeks old.

- Canine Distemper
- Adenovirus-2
- Canine Parainfluenza (Da2P)
- Canine Parvovirus (CPV)

The Decision to Spay/Neuter

Raising one puppy is delightful; realizing your pooch is "in the family way", however, can be downright daunting. Make sure there are no surprises by having your little one neutered or spayed as soon as possible, provided you don't want to become a breeder, that is. The surgeries can be done by the time puppies are six months old and include a fairly quick recovery time. Fido's mates and pals at the park will be none the wiser. Benefits to such surgeries include:

- Decreased aggression in males
- Decreased interest in roaming
- Decreased urge to mark territory
- Decreased chance of mammary tumors or uterine disease in females who are spayed before her first heat cycles

- Less mess (Dogs have 21-day-long cycles that occur every six months and start sometime after six months of age.)

Coping With Fleas

Unfortunately, puppies and fleas are like peanut butter and jelly — you can't have one without the other. These bothersome, nearly invisible parasites not only make your pup itchy, but they can transmit disease, pass on tapeworm or even cause anemia, especially in vulnerable youngsters. Furthermore, they can infiltrate your home and bite people. Though hard to spot with the naked eye, your pup will exhibit symptoms such as scratching, biting and gnawing the skin. By the time you actually see the fleas, you've got a full-blown infestation. If you suspect your puppy is harbouring unwanted guests, pop your pup in the bathtub and rub your hands up and down his coat to look for flea "dirt," dark dots that are actually flea excrement. Drop tap water on the dots and watch for the color red to develop. If so, you've got a problem.

Flea Control Myths

Some swear you can rid your puppy of fleas by feeding him onion or garlic. And though he might enjoy a taste of Italian cuisine, such a meal might actually produce a toxic reaction. Furthermore, feeding puppies brewer's yeast or applying it to the skin will have no effect on fleas.

Prescription Flea-prevention Products

Scientists have developed both topical and oral prescriptions medications that prevent fleas from biting and reproducing. They are administered once per month and, in our opinion, are well worth the cost. Here's the scoop:

- Oral treatments come in a pill but are not effective until after 60 days of initial treatments. At that point, chemicals present in the medication interrupt the flea's life cycle and they die.
- Topical products provide immediate relief and prevent future outbreaks.

As with humans, preventative care is the best way to ensure your puppy lives a healthy, happy life. And we're sure that means he'll be teaching you to speak Dog sometime soon.

Getting Exercise

The right amount of exercise can mean all the difference. An appropriate amount of exercise will promote your new puppy's good behavior and assist you in training him. Talk with your veterinarian about how much daily exercise your breed typically needs. Some dogs are just naturally more high-energy and need more exercise than others. Schedule family members to exercise your dog throughout the day.

Easing Your Puppy's Separation Anxiety

Maybe it hit you as soon as your parents backed the family car out of the dormitory parking lot your first year at university and you realized you were on your own. Or, perhaps you felt it standing at the neighborhood bus stop last fall, your first born struggling to climb the oversized steps of the school bus on his way to kindergarten. No matter whom you are or when you felt it, you never forget bouts of separation anxiety. The pang of loneliness is nearly visceral; the need to reach out and hang on is imperative. As human beings, we can explain to ourselves how and why the hurt is there. We understand life's beginnings and endings and are able to navigate them, usually with resolve.

But people aren't the only ones who struggle with separation anxiety. Puppies do, too.

Considering she's recently left behind her momma, her siblings and the only home she's ever known, that's understandable. She might be scared. And lonely. She clings to what she knows makes her feel safe, warm and happy — you. So when you go off to work in the morning or spend an entire day at a rugby match, she

mourns you. Unlike human beings, however, she doesn't have the mechanisms to cope as well. As a result, she might drool, pant, bark excessively, soil the house or engage in destructive behavior. She may try to escape from your home. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to help her adjust. Here's how:

Diagnosing Separation Anxiety

Most puppies learn to embrace their new lives soon after being adopted. Old fears quickly evaporate as they learn your household's routines. But for one in every 15 pets, separation anxiety remains acute. How do you know if your pup has a bad case? Veterinarians who see chronic cases report that the aforementioned behaviors occur within the first 30 minutes after you leave your home. Moreover, they happen consistently when your puppy is left alone.

How You Can Help

- Be empathetic. Pups who suffer from separation anxiety are not misbehaving or being spiteful. Never punish or isolate her. Both tactics can backfire and worsen the problem
- Redirect her behaviour. Tuck a treat into your little one's kennel before departing or toss her a new toy before you leave. You could also try feeding her a meal, as pups with full bellies are likely to be more relaxed than those who are hungry.
- Keep your departures and arrivals low-key. If your voice and body language say "this is no big deal", she might start to believe you.
- Hire a pet sitter or doggie day care service so that she'll have company while you're gone.
- Teach her to tolerate your comings and goings. Give her a treat, and then leave the house for a minute or two. She'll begin associating your departures with pleasure (or at least the treat sweetens the deal). Then, gradually prolong the amount of time you're gone until she can better cope.

Seeking Professional Advice

Some pets do not outgrow separation anxiety. (In fact, breeds like the Weimarer are known for such issues in some form of it even as adults.) These animals need your utmost compassion and, perhaps, medical attention. Sedatives can be prescribed for extreme cases (though they are not long-term solutions). Moreover, professional animal trainers can help.

Like you, puppies are social creatures. It is normal for her to miss you. In time, she'll learn you're coming home, and the pangs of separation anxiety will fade. Someday soon, she'll be so comfortable with solitude you will be sure to catch her asleep — atop your favourite couch.

8. Socializing Your Puppy

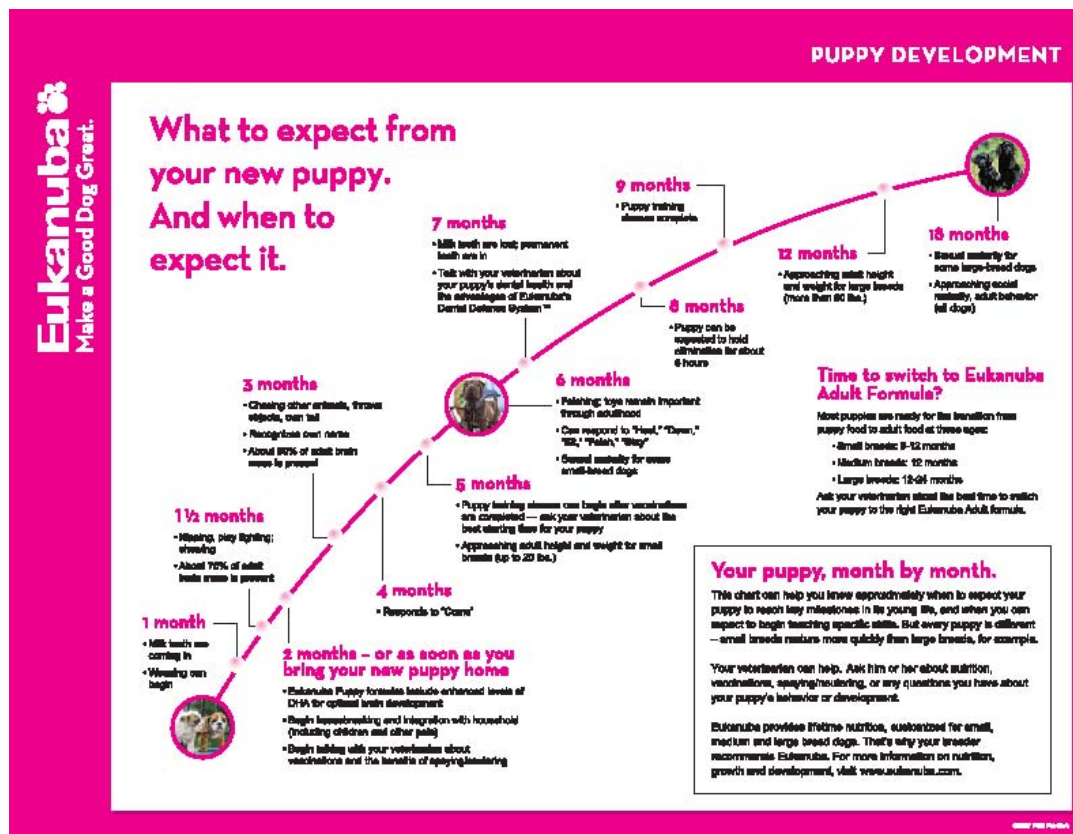
When you made the decision to adopt a puppy versus a full-grown dog, you probably did so in part because you knew what you'd get. "Yes, there will be peeing and chewing," you thought to yourself as you looked over the litter of downy pups. "But at least I won't have to contend with the shadowy history as to why the shelter staff nicknamed my pet 'Tiger.'" This gave you great comfort. Until, however, you got home and realized that a clean slate is, well, a clean slate. Not only will you be responsible for housebreaking your pet, but you'll have to socialize him, too. You'll want to make sure he's not only obedient, but friendly to all kinds of people - and animals. It is a lofty goal but you can get there with hard work and patience (on both your part and that of your pup). We've got a few suggestions to help get you started.

Stages of Puppy Development

Before you can develop a strategy to socialize your pet, it is important to know something about how puppies are wired.

- Seven to eight weeks: Many breeders typically wean and release pups to their new homes at this age. This is an ideal time to adopt, as puppies are becoming more independent and are exploring their environment.

- Eight to ten weeks: Your little guy will likely go through a "fear" period. He'll stick close to you and will frighten easily. Try to limit noise and keep new experiences non-threatening. (Trust us on this and plan your five-year-old son's birthday party to a nearby park. Do not take your puppy.)
- Ten weeks of age: Puppies enter a "juvenile" stage in which he will be more inquisitive and ready to explore. This phase lasts until adulthood. It is a terrific time to introduce new experiences and work on socializing your pet. (Please note that some puppies go through a second "fear" period around four or five months.)



Meeting New Kinds of People

The world is full of different types of individuals, so it is essential that your pet can relate to others. Always reward your animal with treats when he demonstrates desired behavior.

- Begin by introducing your puppy to quiet friends on his own home turf for short periods of time. Invite one or two neighbors over for a drink on the patio and to scratch your puppy's ears. When greeting your little one, have guests crouch down low and allow him to approach them on his own time. This will give your pup a greater sense of control.
- Once your pet masters "home" visits, try taking him to the park or dog run. Let him decide who to meet and for how long. You never want to force your pet into a situation where he is fearful. (Of course, make sure the person he approaches wants to be greeted. Some people are afraid of dogs — even puppies.)
- It is also important to introduce your puppy to people of different races, ethnic backgrounds, ages and professions as some dogs might develop an aversion to people who don't look like you and thus seem "unusual" to them. (The postman will thank you later.)
- Once he begins to enjoy new adults, introduce him to older children for short amounts of time. Supervise the visit, of course, as kids can play roughly and may scare your pup. If you don't know any children personally, take the pup to a park and he'll likely draw them in on his own. (Please note: Even if you don't have kids in your family, it is imperative to socialize puppies with them. If

dogs don't interact with children early in life, they often develop aggressive behavior towards them later. Small children who race around and make high-pitched squealing noises can trigger prey instincts in dogs who are not used to them.)

Getting Along With Other Dogs

Even puppies who consider themselves to be nearly human will have to learn to get along in the canine community. At the very minimum, you'll come across another dog (or his scent) during your daily walks. Thus, he needs to practice doggiespeak.

- Head to the park to find poochy playmates. Allow cordial sniffing and some play, but back off if your puppy seems intimidated or if the other parties have poor manners.
- Consider hosting doggie play dates. Invite friends to bring their dogs to your garden or backyard for a game of frisbee.
- Please note that dog-to-dog socialization is hugely important for breeds that are dominant or aggressive.

Getting Along With Other Pets

Your new puppy and your Siamese cat might never be best friends (Remember the Disney story "Lady and the Tramp?") but you can at least encourage them to tolerate one another.

- Begin by keeping the newcomer in a kennel and allowing the resident pet to "visit" him through the safety of the bars. Gradually extend the length of visits before allowing the two to meet face-to-face. Supervise these meetings until you feel confident all will go well.
- Please note that no matter how well-behaved and well-socialized your puppy is, he will likely still try to chase animals he considers prey. It would be doubly unpleasant for both your bunny and your three-year-old to witness a National Geographic hunting scenario, so we suggest keeping Fluffy safely locked in her cage and out of your pup's reach.

Coping With New Experiences

The vacuum cleaner can be a terrifying thing for a young puppy. All is quiet, then suddenly, this towering devil growls to life and begins sucking up dog hair from the couch. To avoid frightening him (and having to clean up pee), introduce your pup gradually to new experiences.

Let him check out the quieted vacuum/car/baby toy/hair clippers by himself. Then, place him a safe distance away before turning it on for a moment or two. After turning it off, stand by the object and call your pup to you. Reward him. Repeat this lesson, extending the amount of time the sound is running. Finally, call him to you while the noise is actually going. He'll eventually see that the television/fan/washing machine is no big deal.

9. Feeding Your Small Breed-Puppy

They're often called "purse dogs" by people who don't know any better. It's a rather rude moniker, we think, especially given the royal heritages of so many small-breed pups. After all, the Emperor of China sat with Shih Tzus. King Charles II passed a law that no Cavalier King Charles Spaniel would ever be barred from the House of Parliament. And the poor Papillon walked to the guillotine with sad Marie Antoinette. (The pet was spared her ill fate.) These small-breed puppies were bred for the best. And in modern times, you should

continue to give it to them. You may not be a blue-blood, but your puppy treats you like one. Besides, we know now that small-breed pups have different nutritional needs than do bigger dogs. That's because they have faster metabolisms and reach maturity quicker. This means they need higher levels of protein, fat, calcium and phosphorus to support growth and development of bones, muscles and other tissues. Moreover, their mouths and tummies are dainty, so their meals must come in the form of a petite kibble. Whether or not you chose to feed your small-breed with a silver spoon is up to you. Whatever you do, be sure to consider the benefits of a perfectly designed puppy food like Eukanuba before serving her.

Choosing a Dog Food

Inexpensive pet foods may appear to be a bargain until you realize that they don't provide premium nutrition. Eukanuba Dog Foods provide high-quality ingredients for the complete and balanced nutrition to help a good puppy grow into a great dog.

When your new puppy dog feels as good on the inside as he looks on the outside, it shows every day. It's in his happy steps and the sparkle in his lustrous coat. Here are some signs that your dog is benefiting from the nutrition of premium food:

- Exceptional muscle tone.
- A shiny, luxurious coat.
- Healthy bones and teeth.
- Clear, bright eyes.
- Small, firm stools.
- A happy, healthy, playful attitude.

Basic Feeding Guidelines for Your Puppy

People are what they eat, the old adage states. The same is true for puppies. Grow a pup on thoughtfully prepared food like Eukanuba and you can expect a dynamic, inquisitive, energetic animal that sports a dense, thick coat. What you'll see is an external articulation of all that's happening inside: the skeleton is developing properly, muscles are building, and neural pathways in the brain are expanding. If we designed his meals, he's also getting the antioxidants he needs for his developing immune system. This means his immune system is likely to be a whole lot stronger to combat common doggie diseases like distemper and parvovirus. We know understanding the nature of canine nutrition may sound daunting (and, we admit, sort of boring), but we'll try to break it down for you, as it is imperative information for you to understand.

Decoding Pet Food Labels

If you don't buy our product, please read the labels of other brands very, very carefully so you know exactly what you're putting into your puppy's system. It takes less than a minute to scan a dog food label, but what you learn can be crucial to your purchase decision.

- The name of the food can tell you how much of a particular ingredient is in it. Brands that have animal protein source in the title—"beef formula"—indicate that 25 percent of the product is beef. Names that include "with" in the title—"with chunky chicken" or "flavor"—such as "turkey flavor" contain as little as 3 percent of the ingredient.
- Labels on the back of puppy food can also clue you in as to how much product you'll receive in the food. Those listed first, second and third are present in higher quantities than those listed fourth, fifth and sixth. (Though this is according to weights taken before cooking.)
- For dry food, a key ingredient should be a source of high-quality protein, such as chicken or lamb.
- The manufacturer's phone number should be included. It indicates that the company is proud of its products and welcomes customer feedback. All Eukanuba products are 110% guaranteed or your money back.
- The label also recommends how much to feed your dog each day. Use these recommendations as a starting point to determine feeding amounts.

The Critical Puppy Years

Nourish him as a pup and you'll build an excellent foundation for life as a healthy dog. That's because his first few months are critical to the development of his body and mind. In fact, puppies experience their most rapid period of growth during the first six months of life. It is no real surprise, then, that puppies expend nearly twice the energy of an adult dog. The catch is that Mr. Blue doesn't have the stomach capacity to eat enough food to meet his energy requirements. Therefore it's important he's given meals with an enriched formula. So unless he's eating a premium brand, he may be missing important building blocks in his diet.

Feeding Tips

Once you've purchased your puppy's food, it seems it would be simple to feed him—just open the bag and pour, right? But there are a few things you can do to turn his food into a meal.

- Think like a dietician and measure portion size correctly. To determine it, start with the daily amount recommended and divide by the number of times you'll feed your pooch (usually breakfast, lunch and dinner: after four months of age, feed only in the mornings and evenings.) Remove the bowl after he's had a chance to eat for 30 minutes. This avoids overfeeding which leads to unhealthy weight gain. (While puppies need to chew frequently, they shouldn't snack like humans.)
- Think like a canine connoisseur and serve his meals at room temperature, the way he likes them.
- Resist the urge to play chef and mix in cottage cheese, hamburger or eggs into his chow. Such foods can interfere with the absorption of minerals provided in dog food. (Plain old puppy food might not look that enticing to you, but neither does chewing a shoe.)
- Always provide your pup with fresh water. Just one dropped kernel of kibble can contaminate his bowl quickly.

Controlling Begging

If you allow begging at the table to start, soon every meal may be accompanied by whining and pawing. To help stop begging, eliminate all feeding from the table and follow these tips:

- Exercise your dog before mealtime, and feed him at the same time the family eats.
- Give him toys to play with while you're eating.
- Totally ignore the dog if the begging persists - don't even make eye contact.
- Confine him to his crate during family meals as a last resort.

Scrap the Scraps

Those soulful, pleading eyes may melt your heart, but it's best not to feed your dog human food. It can lead to canine obesity, intestinal upsets and nutritional imbalances. Unlike people, dogs are content eating a similar diet every day, especially if it offers the wide range of flavors and textures in Eukanuba® Dog Foods.

Another reason to avoid inappropriate feeding of human food is that some foods can be harmful or fatal to dogs, such as:

- Chocolate
- Onions
- Meat bones
- Raw meat
- Raw poultry

Ideal Proportions

The nutritionists behind Eukanuba know that puppies need twice as much energy as adult dogs. That's why they pack their special formulas for small-breeds with high-quality ingredients including:

- Antioxidants, including beta-carotene and vitamin E (to strengthen the immune system)
- Fiber such as beet pulp
- Digestible carbohydrates such as barley and grain sorghum, (these release energy more slowly following a meal than conventional grains)
- Omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids (to support skin and coat health)

The Feeding Schedule

Some small-breeds enjoy classical music. Others have come to enjoy jazz. Whatever her taste, make sure mealtimes also include kibble 2-3 times per day from the time she's weaned until about four months of age. Then, she's graduated to dog food and only breakfast and dinner should suffice. Please note that fresh water should always be made available to quench her thirst.

Whatever your treasure's lineage, you'll do right by her if you feed her Eukanuba. She's your best friend and deserves nothing less. Besides, who else would keep the secret that the Burberry handbag she's riding around in is a faux?

Eukanuba's Recipe

Our scientists have calculated the perfect blend of protein, carbohydrates and fat necessary to ensure good health. And while our formulas will cost you more, know that because the food is nutrient dense, your animal will actually consume less of it per meal. (Consider: Are you more satisfied after eating two bags of popcorn or the petite filet?)

Here's some of what we've included:

- Highly digestible carbohydrates, such as barley and grain sorghum (for sustained energy)
- Dense fiber, such as beet pulp (to maximize energy and minimize waste)
- Omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids (to keep skin supple and coat shiny)
- Antioxidants, like beta-carotene and vitamin E (to boost immune system)

One Size Does Not Fit All

While all Eukanuba foods contain the above ingredients, we know it is also important to consider your pet's size when mixing our blends. You see, not all puppies have the same nutritional needs. Small breeds develop faster and require higher levels of protein, fat, calcium and phosphorus; large-breed pups must be given a less nutrient-dense formula to make sure they don't overeat. Medium-breed pets, of course, have their own concerns. Think of it this way: You wouldn't ask a man who is six-foot-five to wear a suit cut for another who is five-foot-ten. Why then would you ask your furry friend to eat someone else's dinner?

The Teething Pup

While the Brothers Grimm never penned a story about the Tooth Fairy leaving quarters in doggie beds, that's not because canine teeth don't fall out. Between three and six months of age, puppies' teeth loosen and are expelled. (Yes, sometimes in places you'd rather not find them, like your closet.) During this time, your pup's gums will be very sensitive; he may even refuse food. This is normal. Try easing him through this stage by:

- Mixing his regular dry food with canned food;
- Soaking dry food in water for 10-15 minutes to soften it;
- Loosening teeth by feeding crunchy food and biscuits;
- Sticking with his current food, as switching it could cause intestinal upset.

Moving to Adult Food

Just when you've gotten used to taking Pup potty every hour, reminding him to stay "down" and sacrificing expensive leather goods to his chewing habits, your little one will surprise you by growing up. When you turn this corner, buy him his first bag of adult dog food— then go get yourself a drink, you've earned it. The big indicator will be his size: He'll stop growing in height and weight. For small- and medium-breed puppies, this happens around one year; large-breed animals don't mature until they're upwards of two.

When you make the switch, follow the below guidelines:

- Consider whether or not your dog gains weight easily, if he has a high activity level or any other special needs. Many premium brands including Eukanuba offer unique formulas.
- To avoid an upset belly, gradually incorporate the new type of food with the current kibble over a four-day time period.
- Portion sizes can be determined by dividing the total daily amount by the number of times you feed him (usually twice).
- Periodically, check his weight by moving your hands along his sides. You should be able to feel his ribs. Furthermore, you should also be able to see his waistline if you peer down at him from above. (Don't embarrass Pup by doing this at the dog park; wait until you're in the privacy of your own home.) If you suspect your pet is overweight, simply increase his exercise routine.

Puppies, like children, are not cheap dates. We won't try to convince you otherwise. But if you feed your pet a high-quality premium food like Eukanuba right from the start, you'll be laying the groundwork for a healthy life. And that means you'll be spending a whole less on veterinarian bills.

10. Teaching Your Puppy to Mind

Arnold was a gargantuan black Labrador Retriever who meant well. He tried to show just how friendly and likeable he was by jumping up to kiss houseguests, sharing his bones with them during dinner parties and rooting through their suitcases when they needed toothpaste. His owners thought this was adorable. The visitors, however, weren't so sure. At their behest, poor Arnold was often sentenced to the laundry room. (Even when banished, he was determined to be helpful. He would off the evenings at the recycling bin, shredding old newspapers.) None of this was Arnold's fault, of course. He was simply showing affection the Doggie Way. Oh, but only if his owners had taught him Human Manners as a puppy! Think how happy Arnold (and the houseguests) would be! Take a note from Arnold and teach your pup how to behave before he's big enough to bowl over your friends in the wrong kind of way.

Getting Started

Expert behaviourists say you can begin training your little one as early as seven weeks old, providing your sessions are presented as gentle play. Give him a few days to adjust to his new life with you, and then begin. Remember that puppies have very short attention spans, so you'll want to school your pet for only a few minutes per lesson. That said, you can try mini-sessions several times per day. When your pup is between four and six months of age, you can begin formal obedience lessons. A few pointers:

- Whenever possible, try to arrange the situation so your pup can't fail. For example, throw only one ball into the backyard and ask him to "fetch the ball." (Giving him access to several toys at once would add too many variables to the game.)
- Bribery does wonders. Reward desired behaviours with praise, food and toys.
- Be consistent. If you don't want Zeus to jump on neighbors in greeting, don't let him jump on you either when you walk in the front door. Also, use the same simple words or phrases for the same specific behaviours.

Basic Commands

As anyone who has tried to rein in a crotch-sniffer will tell you, your pooch must be able to respond to a handful of basic commands instantly. Here are a few that might get you out of an embarrassing (or an emergency) situation:

Off/No Jumping: Back up when you see your pup coming towards you and say "Off!" or "No jumping!" Reward him when his feet are planted on the ground.

In Your Kennel: Present your pet with a treat, and then put it in his kennel while saying "Kennel!" (or "Go to bed!"). When he goes inside, praise him, but don't shut the door yet. Practice this scenario, and then begin closing the door, rewarding him with a treat through the bars. Gradually extend the time in the crate. (A word of caution: If he whimpers, don't let him out, as that rewards the behaviour.) When you do open the door for good, don't do cartwheels. You don't want coming out to be better than going in.

Speak: Show the puppy a treat and say "Speak!" (You may have to actually bark yourself so that he gets the idea. Do this inside so your neighbors don't think you've gone to the dogs.) Once he barks, praise him.

Quiet: After Zeus masters barking, really get him going. Then, suddenly bring your finger to your lips and say "Quiet!" He will likely be startled and immediately stop barking. Reward him effusively.

Give: To help avoid unwanted aggression and guarding behaviour, teach your puppy to hand over his toys and food. Begin by offering him a toy-for-food trade. Say "Give!" as you make the exchange.

Get it/leave it: Leash your dog and go for a walk. Toss a treat in front of him and say "Get it!" Once he masters this concept, try asking him to "Leave it!" Drop the treat. When he goes for it, gently bop him on the nose while saying "Leave it!" Make a game out of "getting" and "leaving".

Sit: Place a treat in front of Zeus then gently move it upwards over his head. He'll raise his head to follow your hand and, in the process, lower his rump. Push his hindquarters down to the ground with your free hand while saying "Sit!"

Lay: Present your pet with a treat then lower it to the ground while saying "Lay!" Try gently guiding his shoulders to the floor. Give the reward when he lies down, even if it is only momentarily.

Stay: Have your pup sit down. Back away from him a few steps while saying "Stay!" then praise him for doing just that. After a split second, reward him. Always praise him while he is still waiting, not after he gets up so that he will associate the word with the correct action.

Come: Carry treats with you throughout the day and randomly call to your pup using his name, "Mr. Bean, come!" When he races to you, reward him.

Training your puppy can be a hugely rewarding enterprise for the both of you. Not only will your pet be manageable at home, but in public when you happen to run into your boss who, by the way, is terrified of dogs.

Puppies and Chewing

Attention teachers: If half your sixth grade class came to school today swearing their dogs ate their homework, well, it could likely be God's honest truth, at least in one or two cases. Puppies are notorious chewers — hence the adage — and they'll nosh on everything from handbags to theme papers about Tom Sawyer. It's not that they're intentionally trying to anger you. (Though we know you'll likely have to count to ten once you see your Italian briefcase dismembered.) Pups, you see, are simply following Mother Nature's instructions. They're hard-wired to cut their teeth and they need something (or someone) to help them do it. Moreover, they use their mouths as a means to explore their environment, even to reduce tension. Many alleviate boredom this way. Others are just hungry for a snack. So, how do you cope with Mr. Motor Mouth's habits? We've got some ideas.

Keep 'Em Busy

You wouldn't leave a 2-year-old child in a room alone for five hours, and the same rule should apply to puppies. Your furry whippersnapper needs to be stimulated physically and cognitively — often. This means:

- Offering a variety of safe chew toys or treats like puppy biscuits or pig's ears. (Never give puppies chicken bones, as they can fracture and lead to significant damage or death.)
- Providing plenty of exercise, even if that means hiring a dog walker. (You might actually save money in the end when you realize you've preserved your baseball card collection.)
- Thinking up games that get him to use his noggin. (Try a round of "fetch" or hide a treat inside a hollow ball.)
- Attending to his needs quickly so that he doesn't go on a boredom binge.
- Feeding him meals at regular intervals so that he doesn't go looking for dinner.

Teach Your Pup to "Chew Smart"

If chewing is unavoidable, you might as well get him to eat the right stuff. Here's how to do it:

- Praise your fur ball each and every time he chomps on something assigned to him. Reinforce this behaviour on occasion by offering him an edible treat.
- Do not confuse Pup by first offering him an old slipper then heckling him when he eats your mother-in-law's loafers. Puppies are indeed smart, but they can't read labels. Make sure he knows what's his and what's yours.
- Spray a commercial anti-chew solution, a bitter- or hot-tasting spray to goodies you'd like to safeguard. He'll take one bite and avoid them later.
- If he goes after particular objects again and again simply remove them for awhile. Reintroduce them at a later time.
- If an object of affection is too big to hide — a recliner, for instance — then try moving it to a different location in hopes that Pup will latch onto something else.
- Motion-activated alarms sometimes serve as a deterrent.
- Try booby traps. Stack empty soft drink cans around the leg of the chair. The loud noise the cans make when tipped over might be enough to scare your puppy away forever. (A warning: One Poodle we once knew discovered a cache of soda and relished biting holes in the cans then spraying the carbonated beverage all over the living room. Her brother wisely took refuge under the couch.)

Exercise Smart Discipline

- Pups caught in the act should be given a simple verbal reprimand followed by encouragement to chew on an appropriate toy. Practice this: "Chesapeake, no chew!" Then throw your canine a bone. (Or a cleaning rag, if she's really bright.)

What Not to Do

- Motion-activated alarms sometimes serve as a deterrent.
- Verbal reprimands alone can backfire by teaching the pet to be sneaky about chewing or by teaching him not to chew at all — even toys — in your presence.
- Never spank, slap, kick or otherwise physically punish a puppy. Not only is this nasty behaviour on your part, but it could result in your pet becoming hand shy or a fear-biter.

Yes, the chewing thing gets old. But on the upside, you'll be motivated to patent a puppy chewing gum that will make you a billionaire.

11. Most Frequently Asked Questions About Puppies

The thing about raising a puppy is that unless you've done it before, you're not sure if you're doing it the right way. To quell those fears, here are the most frequently-asked questions received at You & Your Dog magazine. They've also provided answers you can rely on from our experts.

Q: How much should I play with my new puppy?

A: Aim for between three and six play periods per day, but remember that he'll tire easily as a youngster. A game of fetch is ideal, as it includes exercise and a lesson on commands.

Q: How often should I take my pet to the veterinarian?

A: Three times per year during puppyhood (which ends in about one year for small and medium sized breeds and between 18 and 24 months for large-breed dogs). After that, he should have a visit once annually, unless he gets sick.

Q: How do I teach my pup not to jump on people?

A: Hold a treat in front of your dog's nose then raise it over his head. As his nose comes up, his head should come down. Say "Sit!" Reward him when his hindquarters touch the ground. Repeat the drill and gradually remove the food used during the lesson. (But always give him a treat afterwards if he's followed your rules.) Once he learns the command, ask him to "Sit!" each time he greets someone.

Q: How are the nutritional needs of large-breed and small-breed puppies different?

A: Small-breed pups develop much faster than do others. They have faster metabolic rates and thus need higher levels of protein, fat, calcium and phosphorus. Meanwhile, large-breed dogs aren't considered full grown until they're nearly two years old. And while many people surmise they should eat huge quantities of food, they simply need meals that pack a nutritional punch. (If overfed, these animals risk putting on too much weight too quickly and developing skeletal problems.) The scientists at Eukanuba have developed specific formulas for every size puppy so you'll be sure to know they've got all the nutrition they need to grow up healthy.

Q: What common ailments should I watch for?

A: Worms and infectious diseases such as parvovirus and distemper are most problematic. The later two can be avoided with vaccines, though it is smart to limit your puppy's exposure to other dogs until he has been fully immunized.

Q: How often should I groom and/or bathe my pet?

A: Long-haired breeds should be brushed out every day or so (give him a treat when you're done so that he learns grooming is pleasurable). Bathe when stinky, but avoid overdoing it, as his skin is sensitive.

Q: When should I switch to an adult dog food?

A: For small- and medium-breed puppies, move to a high-quality adult formula like Eukanuba when he blows out the candles on his first birthday cake. Large-breed dogs should switch by the start of his second year of life.