

*mini guide**

Puppy Prep: Setting Up for Success (Not Surprises)



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Force-free | Science-led |
Connection before correction

*Full puppy parenthood guide available on our website

Before You Bring a Puppy Home

Ask yourself:

Can I meet a puppy's needs 24/7 for the next few months?
Who will handle toilet breaks, training, and sleep schedules?
Is this the right season or would waiting be kinder for everyone?

A puppy **isn't** a gift. It's a 10- to 15-year commitment wrapped in fur and curiosity.

Prepare the Home

What you need

Safe space: pen, crate, or quiet room

Baby gates

Bedding & blankets

Chews, lick mats, Kongs

Cleaning supplies

Collar, harness & ID tag

Vet registration & insurance

Why it Matters

Gives security and prevents overwhelm

Manage freedom kindly

Comfort and warmth

Outlets for teething/self soothing

Accidents happen

Legal requirement and comfort

Safety net from day one

Stock Up on Essentials

High-value training treats (chicken, hotdog, cheese)

Puppy complete food (check with breeder what they are feeding)

Long-lasting puppy suitable chews

Enzyme cleaner for toileting accidents

Food puzzles and enrichment toys

Contact info for local trainer / puppy class (force-free only)

Plan the First Week

Keep visits and outings minimal – calm beats chaos

Gentle exposure to household sounds.

Feed, play, toilet, nap - on repeat.

Reward calm curiosity.

Remember: overtired = bitey.

Puppies need 18-20 hours of sleep a day.

Prepare Emotionally

Training is not linear - there will be accidents, nips, and tears.

Consistency and kindness are the fix, not punishment.

Give yourself grace - every guardian learns on the job.

Checklist

☐ Safe rest area

☐ Puppy-proofed rooms (wires, plants, shoes!)

☐ Treats & chews ready

☐ Vet booked for initial check

☐ Training plan for first few weeks

If the timing isn't right, wait. Puppies deserve calm, patient starts, not holiday chaos.

If you're ready, prepare well. You're building the foundation of a lifetime friendship.