



Woofles Gourmet Petfood Kitchen

Caring for a new puppy

FEEDING: The best diet for a growing puppy is to start them off on a raw food diet. Meaning, they receive a combination of raw meat and bones. As long as the puppy is receiving a varied selection of meat and bones, it should not develop any form of bone growth problem.

Number of Feeds:

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| 6-12 weeks old: | 3 – 4 feeds per day |
| 3 – 6 months old: | 2 – 3 feeds per day |
| 6 months onwards: | 1 – 2 feeds per day |

Your puppy should start of eating between 6-8% of their body weight on a daily basis during their growth phases. Keep an eye on the puppy's weight, and adjust the quantities accordingly. If the puppy is gaining too much weight, you should cut the food down slightly, likewise if they are looking too thin, the food should be increased. Puppies will go through growth spurts and at these times may require a bit more food than normal.

Suitable Foods for puppies:

UNCOOKED chicken necks, mince, frames. Beef mince, Lamb Brisket, Veal Neck bones, pilchards. Once the dog has reached about 4-6 months old, you can start introducing a bit of offal to the diet, such as heart, kidney, and tripe. Make sure you get this from a trusted supplier who has treated it, as raw offal can contain sheep measles or hydatids (this also applies if buying human grade). As the dog gets older, it is good to introduce new types of meat to their diet, such as rabbit, ostrich, fish and possum.

VACCINATIONS: All puppies (and adult dogs) must be vaccinated against the five main and potentially fatal viral diseases; Parvovirus, Distemper, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, and Hepatitis.

Vaccinations should be administered at 6 weeks, 9 weeks, and 12 weeks old, and then annually after that. Puppies should not be allowed around areas such as parks or pavements where other dogs have been and should be kept away from other dogs faeces until at least 7 days after their 12 week puppy vaccination.

WORMS: Puppies should be worked on a fortnightly basis from 2 to 12 weeks of age, and then monthly up to 6 months old. Puppies should then be wormed every 3 months.



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FLEAS: are a common problem in puppies, especially during summer. It is important to use a product that is safe for puppies, as a lot of flea products are only suitable for adult dogs. A natural based product such as 'Flee Flea' is a great way to keep fleas away if you use it on a regular basis.

EXERCISE: It is important to give your puppy's regular daily exercise. Be very careful where and when you exercise your puppies if they haven't had their full vaccinations. It is good to exercise them in the back yard and around the house until such time that you can take them out and about on a lead. Also make sure you adjust the level of exercise according to the dog's age, breed, and temperament. You don't want to over exercise puppies as this can cause stress to their bones and joints at a young age. It is a good idea to allow the puppy to run around at its own pace, by playing with a ball or something that it can chase. Avoid letting puppy run up and down stairs or jumping off things or any activities that can jolt the bones around while it is still young and developing.

SOCIALISATION: Dogs are pack animals and enjoy being around other dogs, however if dogs are not socialised properly as puppies, they can develop 'bad manners' or can become very uncomfortable when around other dogs. It is a good idea for puppies to have contact with other dogs especially between about 4 – 16 weeks of age, but remember, you need to make sure they are only socialising with dogs that are fully vaccinated until the puppies themselves have been fully vaccinated.

TRAINING: As well as socialising the puppy, training is very important. You want to have a dog that you can control in any situation whether they are on or off a lead. It is also important that you have a non-aggressive dog. You want to start training from the day you get your puppy. It is a good idea especially in a family situation, that you sit down before getting your puppy, and discuss the things you are prepared to let your puppy do as part of the family. If you don't want to allow him/her to sleep on the bed with you (which is recommended you don't), you need to establish that rule right from day one, so the puppy doesn't get confused about what it is allowed to do and what is isn't. Always reinforce good behaviour with a reward, and discourage bad or inappropriate behaviour. A lot of the time, a dog will learn fast if you say "NO" in a firm voice to something it is doing wrong, and then as soon as it stops doing the bad behaviour and starts doing something it's allowed to, you reward him.

There are also a lot of good puppy classes you can take your dog to which will help with the socialising as well as training.