



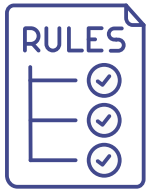
Taking Home a Foothill Puppy

This is a quick guide to help you plan for your new puppy. We know it is hard to remember everything, so we put the basic key steps all in one simple guide.

<p>PUPPY PROOF</p> 	<p>Puppy-proofing your home is one of those new puppy essentials that every owner needs to do. Puppies love to play with (and chew) just about everything. First set up a puppy playpen area with a kennel attached this will allow you and the puppy a safe place for them to play while your attention needs to be elsewhere.</p>
<p>TOYS</p> 	<p>Toys provide much-needed mental stimulation and can be used in new puppy training too. Invest in a variety of toys for your new family member. A mix of chew toys, soft toys, treat toys, and interactive toys should cover all the bases!</p>
<p>ROUTINE</p> 	<p>Routine is essential. Even if you don't currently have one, develop one that you can follow for the first few months of your pup's life. Dogs thrive when they have structure and routine - they'll know what to expect each day and will adapt their behavior accordingly.</p>
<p>CRATE TRAIN</p> 	<p>Crate training is a key part of new puppy training. You may choose not to use a crate in the house, but vets and groomers use crates. If they haven't been crate trained, this makes the experience all the more traumatic. You never know when you'll need the help of a crate, so make crate training a priority in your new puppy training. There are many videos and guides to help with this process. It can be frustrating initially, but don't give in to the whining and don't give up. It will be worth it!</p>
<p>POTTY TRAINING</p> 	<p>Housebreaking is what new puppy owners struggle the most with. Here's the good news - We at Foothill have already started it for you and if you follow our recommendation and stay consistent, follow a routine and use positive reinforcement, it should come quick and naturally.</p>
<p>FOOD RESEARCH</p> 	<p>An essential puppy item is to find a great puppy food. You'll want to do research to ensure that you're feeding your puppy the best that you can afford. Meat (not meat meal) should be at the top of the ingredient list, and whatever you feed shouldn't contain any unnecessary fillers. If you choose to change puppy to a new food, be sure to change the food over slowly. If you made a sudden switch, this could upset your pup's stomach.</p>



MAKE RULES



Every puppy training guide will stress the importance of consistency. This applies to all aspects of new puppy training, including house rules. Will your pup be allowed on the furniture, even when fully grown? Will they be allowed in the kitchen, or to sleep on your bed? Decide this in advance and then stick to it. This will make life much less confusing for your pup. As a result, they'll learn so much faster.

NO BAD HABITS



Biting, jumping, excessive barking, begging for food – these are all very common new puppy training problems. The issue is that many owners let it slide when a puppy first displays unwanted behavior. In some cases, they may even accidentally reinforce it by laughing at how cute a puppy looks when doing something they shouldn't. However, it's much easier to train the right behavior from the start, rather than try to train away a bad behavior as an adult. If your puppy does something that you don't want them to be doing in the future, put a stop to it now, before that behavior turns into a habit.

SOCIALIZE



So many puppies miss out on socialization at this key time in their lives for a variety of reasons (vaccine schedule, COVID restrictions, life gets busy etc). If puppies are not socialized properly and early on, this can cause behavior issues in the future. Prior to having their full set of vaccines, there are ways to get creative to ensure you are continuing their socialization and giving them exposure to as much as possible. Of course we want to keep their health and safety in mind, so until fully vaccinated, do not let them touch dirt, grass, or areas heavily populated by dogs you don't know.

TIME OFF



Plan a time to bring home a puppy when you either have some extra time off or the ability to spend a bit more time at home. As mentioned, rules, routine and consistency are so important, and being home plays a huge role with that. Taking some time off work to focus on you and puppy will be so helpful and you will be glad you did.

OBEDIENCE



Puppy obedience class is one of the most important items for puppy. Find a trainer and class before puppy even comes home. They can start puppy class just days after coming home. We encourage you to start ASAP. Teaching puppy basic obedience in a setting with many distractions (other puppies) will be excellent for their development. In person puppy classes are a must!