

Puppy Owners Guide

HAVANESE



Ellingly Havanese

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Puppy Information		
Your Puppies Name		
Date of Birth		
Microchip Number		
	Last Done	Next Due
Vaccinated		
Wormed*		

* Drontal Puppy Suspension

Preparing for your new Arrival

Preparing for your new puppy is such an exciting time. Pretty soon you're going to have a small ball of fur (and joy) running around the house and you're thinking already about all the fun times ahead.

You've likely chosen a puppy but have to wait weeks before he or she is old enough to come home to you. The bad news is that the wait can be difficult and feel like forever. The good news is waiting gives you a lot of time to think and prepare to bring your new furry family member home.

It's important to have a space already set up for your puppy before you bring him or her home. This will help them feel settled and safe and allow them to rest and sleep in their own comfortable space. Have some toys and playthings in their area to entertain them; this also helps them to know that this area is theirs.

Puppy Proofing

Make things easy for your puppy by picking items up off the floor, by not leaving things lying around within puppy reach and by watching your puppy all the time. Make sure to keep electrical cords, shoes, and small items where puppy cannot get them. Check under and behind furniture for anything hiding the puppy might find. Especially be aware of Christmas decorations and lights.

You can use a bitter-tasting deterrent spray, like Bitter Apple, on anything valuable that cannot be removed, like corners of furniture. (Just test it first in a small area to make sure it does not stain).

It is best not to allow the puppy access to every room right away. More access = more opportunities to get into mischief. Use baby gates and closed doors to keep the pup where you can supervise.

When it comes to puppy-proofing your garden, everything from fences to the type of plants within easy reach must be taken into consideration. Make sure you fence off your favourite plants and remove the ones that pose a risk of intoxication or irritation for the new puppy. These are some of the least dog-friendly plants to be aware of: Lily, Azalea, Daffodil, Tomato, Foxglove, Yew and Hydrangea.

Make sure there are no gaps or holes in fences, no gates without proper locks. Also remember steps and stairs: can the puppy get under the house, or can he escape into the front garden or onto the street?

Create a list of Rules ready for your puppy's first day at home

One of the kindest things you can do for the dog is to have consistent rules and start working towards them as soon as you get the dog home. Before bringing your puppy home it is useful to agree a list of house rules with your family. It's important that each member of the family is consistent with the puppy training. A puppy will get easily confused if they are allowed on furniture by one member of the family but not by another.

Plus, new pups will not lose time developing very cheeky habits if left unchecked. Let them beg at the table once and expect to be pestered at every mealtime! There are also some rules to establish for the human members of the family. If you know you've got a puppy who likes to

chew things for example, you're asking for trouble if you leave an expensive pair of trainers within their reach.

Teaching the puppy, the household rules will enable the family and the dog to live in harmony together. Using positive motivation training techniques (reward-based training) will help to quickly establish a strong bond based on mutual respect and elevate you to the leadership position.

Positive Pet Parenting

Positive or reward based behavioural training is widely accepted to be the most effective and enjoyable way to encourage dogs to behave in the ways that we want. This concept really hinges on capturing and rewarding desirable behaviours (with food and praise) while ignoring undesirable ones.

In the case of negative behaviours with dogs and puppies, the best approach is to 'shape' their behaviour by redirecting them away from the undesirable behaviour (e.g. barking at the neighbours) towards a learned desirable behaviour (e.g. sitting quietly on a mat). While it can take time and patience, positive pet parenting will help your dog to learn how to behave and interact with people and other animals appropriately without damaging your relationship or causing distress, anxiety or pain.

A handy mantra for positive pet parenting is to train the dog you want - acknowledge and reward behaviours you desire in your dog, ignore and reshape the behaviours that you don't desire.

Register with a Vet

There are a few things that can be taken care of before your puppy's arrival. One of them is registering the new puppy with the local vet practice. It's better to be on their books as soon as possible. Make sure you can get to the practice easily and you know who to contact and where to go in an out-of-hours emergency.

I highly recommend that within 24 hours of getting your puppy, that you take him to the vet you've chosen.

Things you will need for your puppy

- Dog bed: Get two, Havanese love their dog's beds and to have them in the same room as you
- Bowls: Stainless steel or ceramic, food, and water bowls
- Identification tags for the collar
- Toys: Choose items the puppy can't swallow
- Cleaning supplies: Disposable paper, disinfectant, and household gloves
- Crate: To help with potty training
- Treats: A vital part of training
- Food: Puppy food right for your dog's size and age
- Collar and leash: Get the puppy used to these early
- Brush and comb: Start grooming so the puppy accepts it
- Non-toxic dog shampoo and conditioner

Puppy Tips for the First Week

- Do get Havanese puppies outside at least six times a day, adult dogs at least four.

- Do go out with him to praise and reward him for going outside.
- Do control where and when your Havanese goes to the bathroom by using a crate, regular routine and close supervision. When you are not home reducing the puppy's access to a smaller part of the house.
- Get your Havanese used to a grooming routine at a young age.
- Set up a safe area for you puppy to spend unsupervised time. Ideally with access to the garden so he can make regular trips to the bathroom

Ask for help when you need it

Once you get through the first day, you and your puppy will settle into a routine together. But sometimes, you may need a little help.

Please call us if you are having any trouble or would like to discuss any issues or seek advice. We are here to help you and the puppy, and just like you we want this to work out. It is much better to call and nip problems in the bud, than to struggle on and let them escalate.

Puppies first day home

Let your Puppy adjust

Do not expect your puppy to come through the door confident and playful. They may do, but far more likely they will be tentative, wary and uncertain as they try to discover what the next phase of their life is going to bring. On your puppy's first day home everything changes for them. Their new life may seem strange, different and potentially scary. You know that your puppy has 'come home', that you will love your new dog and give them everything you can to keep them happy and healthy but right now, your puppy doesn't know that. Be patient and your dog will settle in much faster.

You might see some personality changes during the first few days. A pup who was bold and outgoing when with his siblings, may suddenly seem quiet and withdrawn. He may not want to eat much, and not seem interested in playing with his (truckload!) of new toys. This is all perfectly normal.

Encourage curiosity, not fear

Puppies can be nervous of all the new sights, sounds and experiences around them and will often react by crying or cowering away. If they cry, try not to always reassure or pick them up. Allow them to discover the world with curiosity rather than fear and reward calm behaviour with praise and affection.

The Car Ride Home

To reduce the likelihood of a messy trip, we try to avoid feeding puppy within the last two hours prior to departure. Cover your lap and upholstery with a towel or blanket. Even after we've taken every precaution, puppies can get carsick so be prepared.

Keep your dog safe in the car by using a crate or seat belt harness.

Keep the car ride quiet and relaxed. If your puppy whines or cries, DO NOT punish her OR be overly affectionate. The latter will only reinforce the negative behaviour. Pet her softly and let the situation diffuse itself.

For longer trips, stop for bathroom breaks and stretching. Remember to keep your puppy away from areas frequented by other dogs. Until he's been vaccinated, your puppy is susceptible to numerous diseases

If he's in a mess from the journey just wipe him over - don't bathe him now. He needs to keep his own scent and a bath would be too stressful.

Introducing a Puppy to your home

As soon as you bring puppy home, take him to the area you have established for bathroom breaks. He will probably need to go after the car ride. Carry him in your arms to the area you want him to use for toilet purposes and put him down there. If you put him down before you get there, he'll probably pee right where he is. If he does eliminate, praise him to start the house-training process on a good note.

When you bring your puppy indoors, let him explore on his own for a while. If you have taken the time to puppy proof your home, he should be safe but keep an eye out. If your puppy gets into something he should not or chews on an object that is off-limits, do not punish him. Simply

exchange the object for something you have designated as chewable, such as a rawhide or nylon bone.

On your puppy's first day home, you should have an area set up just for him. This includes toys, a blanket and a bed. He doesn't need a full tour of the house that day; wait to show him all the rooms in your home until he's been there a few weeks. Close the doors and put up a baby gate to keep him from getting into forbidden areas.

Introducing a Puppy to your Dog

If you are introducing a new puppy to your dog or other pets, he'll need to find his place in the pack, and you can help him out.

When you arrive home, allow your puppy to first go to the toilet in front of the house. Bring the puppy inside in the crate and place in the middle of a room allowing your existing dog to sniff and bark at the new addition. Leave the puppy in the crate until the existing dog has lost interest (usually takes no longer than half an hour), then take the crate outside and open it for the dogs to meet face to face.

When the dogs meet face to face, one of them is going to establish dominance. This is a normal and necessary step in a dog-dog relationship, but sometimes the process can look and sound scary. The dogs will maneuver around each other and may even scuffle to the point at which one dog ends up on his back, with the other dog standing over him.

Once the dogs are playing well together you can bring them inside and keep an eye on the dogs by watching their body language. Do not leave the dogs alone together for the first days until you are sure they are confinable with each other.

How to Tell if Your Dogs Play well Together

In healthy play, you will see the dogs switch off--they will take turns chasing each other or being on top. Big dogs with good social skills may handicap themselves by lying down when they play with smaller dogs. If one dog's tail is tucked or he avoids the other dog, he is not having fun.

A friendly dog greeting involves the dogs circling each other with loose, wiggly body language. They may even play bow or play bark.

Positive Reinforcement

Reward your existing dog for her calm behaviour in the puppy's presence. Never physically punish her for reacting with a growl or snap. As long as he doesn't actually harm the puppy, he should be allowed to set boundaries by growling and even snapping. If he does not correct the puppy for rude behaviour, you must step in and correct the puppy with a stern "no."

What not to do:

- Do not hold the puppy in your arms for the existing dog to greet. This may cause the puppy to feel trapped and threatened. Instead, stand with your feet slightly apart so the puppy can take refuge between your feet if he feels overwhelmed. Do not permit the older dog to trample, bowl over, or otherwise intimidate the puppy.
- Do not put the dogs in small spaces together, such as a car, crate or small room, before they are completely comfortable with each other.

Introductions to Children

Ideally, your kids should help you choose your puppy. When you bring him home, don't let them play with him constantly. Puppies need a lot of rest, just like a growing child. Limit puppy-children play sessions to 15- to 30-minute periods, four to five times a day.

When bringing your puppy home, make sure children understand how to handle the new puppy with care and respect. The arrival of a puppy is an exciting thing – but clinging onto the new arrival or playing rough games can make the puppy worried or fearful. As the puppy begins to grow up, this respect and thoughtful handling should continue from all the family. You want your dog to grow up wanting to be close to you and be touched by you, so set clear rules for everyone early on.

If the children are young or are not familiar with how to handle puppies, you should spend some time with them during these first few days explaining common sense rules on how to play with the pup.

- Young children might be tempted to shout at a puppy if they think he's doing something wrong. Be sure kids understand that puppies and dogs can be easily upset and startled by loud noises.
- No teasing. Keeping a toy just out of reach will reinforce bad habits such as jumping up and excessive barking.
- Wagging tails and play biting can be too rough for young children. Supervise puppy-child interactions and separate them if the play is too rough.
- Teach kids to care for a dog by showing them how to feed and groom him.

When it is time for the children to meet your dog, make sure the children sit calmly and quietly, and the dog will usually come to investigate out of natural curiosity. Teach the children to speak softly and slowly and gently pat the dog on the shoulder, and not on the top of their head or tail. Rewarding the dog for calm behaviour with a food treat (by the supervising adult) helps to reinforce calm behaviour around children and also helps them to associate children with something positive. Then take the focus off the dog by giving the children another activity. This way the dog can get to know the children at a pace they are comfortable with.

Let your puppy sleep

If you have young children, they can easily play with the puppy too much and overtire them. Make it a rule that they must never wake the puppy up. Unlike babies, puppies know when they need to sleep, so once your puppy's asleep, do not disturb them.

Nipping and Mouthing

All puppies bite, nip and 'mouth' - usually your hands, toes, and clothing are prime targets for these antics. This is perfectly normal and is simply an extension of the puppy learning about his environment. It does not mean you have chosen a vicious dog. It is especially important that you teach children how to deal with a mouthy pup in a positive manner and not a punitive one.

Nipping or biting is VERY RARELY a sign of aggression or that you have a 'bad' puppy. It's simply the way puppies play and communicate. Nipping and biting their siblings or Mumma comes naturally to every puppy, and the reaction that they get to their biting is how they learn 'bite inhibition' (how hard they can bite without getting into big trouble!).

In the early months of life your puppy is still learning how to socialise and interact appropriately with other dogs and humans. Redirecting mouthing or biting by providing appropriate chew toys is one strategy to help limit this behaviour. If your puppy starts to chew on your hands while you are playing, redirect his or her attention to a toy, rewarding with lots of quiet praise if they start to play with it. Keep in mind that as your puppy gets very excited, he or she is more likely to start biting and mouthing again so keep play sessions short.

What to do before Bedtime

Take up any food or water after six or seven o'clock to make sure your puppy is running on empty when it is time to sleep. Otherwise, you will be making trips to the bathroom all night.

Shortly before you go to bed, spend some time playing with your puppy. You want him to be tired enough to sleep soundly. Try to not let him nap within an hour or two of bedtime or else your puppy will be ready to play when you're ready to sleep.

Just before bed, take your puppy outside to his toileting area and wait for him to go. When he does praise him and bring him back inside. This reinforces good behaviour and begins the house-training process.

Where puppy should Sleep

If possible, you should let your puppy sleep in your bedroom to reduce the chances of whining or crying at night. We will provide you a blanket which has familiar smells to help settle puppy down to sleep. Scent is your puppy's strongest sense, and on their first night away from mum, they will be overwhelmed by new smells. You can help make them feel at home by placing the blanket we provide you into the dog bed or crate where puppy will be sleeping.

Young Puppies should NOT sleep loose in your bed as it is not safe for him. He may fall out or get rolled over on. Please do not let puppies sleep in the bed till over 4 months old.

Don't make a fuss of your pup – just say good night in a gentle, reassuring voice and pop it in its bed.

if puppy is not in the same room as you, it may cry and whimper once you put it to bed. Do not go to the dog if it starts to make a noise. It is crying from emotional isolation, it wants company, and if you go to it even to tell it off, you have just given it company, and therefore reinforced the crying, which ultimately strengthens the crying behaviour. If the crying is not rewarded by you attending to the dog, it should stop within a couple of days.

If you have a puppy or young dog, and it cries during the middle of the night (eg. it has woken from sleep), you need to get up and take it outside for a toilet break (no matter how cold it is).

In the Morning

Get up right away and take your puppy outside to his soiling area. Carry him. Don't let him walk there or he may be tempted to go before he gets outside. Let him empty everything out, and praise him when he's finished.

Your main objective now is to bond with your puppy. Spend lots of time with your puppy. Make him feel at home. Pay him a lot of attention when he is quiet, fuss and praise him when he pees outside. Do not forget to feed him often, and clear up accidents without comment. Once he has settled in, there will be plenty of time to think about crate training and learning manners, but for now just enjoy his puppy loveliness, and that scrummy new puppy smell.

Leaving your Puppy home alone

It is always a good idea if commitments allow, to take a few days off work or at least have the weekend to help settle a new dog or puppy in.

Your puppy will require a lot of care and attention from you. At some stage, however, you may have to leave your puppy alone for short periods. Try and make this a gradual process to avoid causing anxiety – leaving for very short amounts of time and rewarding him upon returning with a healthy dog food treat, a walk or play time. Gradually increase the length of time you are away so that your puppy realises that you will always come back, and he will have a walk to look forward to.

A good way to avoid boredom while you are away is to leave toys for him to play with. Keep a stash of toys hidden and give him different toys to play with on different days. Safe dog toys which can be filled with healthy doggie treats can help to keep him entertained while you are away. You can also try going for a walk before you leave as this can help to tire out dogs before they are left alone. Remember to avoid feeding immediately before or after exercise.

Here's 5 tips for keeping them occupied and happy:

1. Before leaving for work, play games with your puppy (inside or out) – one-on-one interaction for 15-20 minutes is both mentally and physically stimulating for your puppy and he or he will be less likely to be anxious when you leave for a longer period and more likely to settle and sleep. Make sure your puppy has a chance to toilet after playtime.
2. Just before leaving, offer your pup a favourite chew toy or breakfast in a food-dispensing toy (& maybe a smelly sock or t-shirt of yours for comfort) & calmly leave.
3. It would be great if you could return home at lunchtime to check on your puppy or get a neighbour or friend to pop in, play with the pup and take it outside for toileting. If not, you could consider hiring a pet sitter to check-in for the early weeks and later a dog walker when your pup is fully vaccinated. When you do return home from work, keep your greeting low-key, so your comings and goings aren't a big deal to the puppy.
4. Keeping to a routine each day is the best way to keep your puppy happy and reduce separation anxiety. If you are concerned about your puppy, consider setting up a pet video monitor paired with an app on your iPhone e.g. the Petcube Camera to see exactly what he or he is up to, especially in the first hour after you have left.
5. Don't forget to enrol in puppy socialisation and training classes recommended by your local vet to help your puppy grow into a confident, polite and stress-free adult dog.

Toilet Training

Now that you have brought your new baby home, teaching him where to do his business is of utmost importance. You have several options available. The most common housetraining methods are going outside, crate training, wee-wee pads, newspapers, and doggie litter boxes.

My personal favourite is to take the puppy outside in addition to placing wee-wee pads all over the house. When you combine these two methods you do not have to worry as much about inside accidents. The pads are there just in case.

The key to successful toilet training is consistency and patience. You will need to take your puppy outside to the area where you would prefer them to toilet a lot, ideally every 2 hours for young pups! A good rule of thumb is to take your pup to the toilet whenever they wake up from a nap, after eating or drinking, after play sessions or if they are showing signs that your puppy may need to “go” such as squatting, circling, or sniffing.

When you take your pup out to the toilet, avoid the temptation to play with them, simply give a command like 'go wee' and wait patiently for a few minutes. Reward your puppy with plenty of praise every time they do the right thing. It is important to know that Havanese puppies are very playful and enjoy going outside. They tend to run around, explore, and play before they do their business. It is almost as if they must work themselves into the mood. Also, some Havanese will go more than one time. Be sure that you stay outside long enough to give your puppy plenty of time to do his business.

When (not if) your pup has a toilet training accident in the house, do not scold them or rub their nose in it as this will only breed anxiety and fear. Simply clean up the mess without delay, using an enzymatic cleaner to avoid the urine or faeces scent from attracting your puppy back to that spot to toilet next time. Corrections and punishments for indoor accidents will only teach your puppy not to eliminate around you *even when outdoors) but will not stop him from eliminating indoors when you're not around. If you catch the puppy in the act, say “No!” sharply and carry the puppy outside.

To make sleeping through the night easier, you can pick up your puppy's water bowl a couple of hours or so before bedtime and take him out right before you go to bed.

When to take your Puppy Outside:

- Every 2 hours
- Shortly after each feed
- After playing
- After exercise
- After any other excitement, for example visitors
- Last thing at Night
- First thing in the Morning

Feeding your Puppy

What to feed

Use stainless steel, non-tip food bowls, which will not break or absorb odours.

Please feed the same diet as puppy has grown up on. We have found that **ROYAL CANIN** provides our Havanese with high



quality, nutritious and palatable food. Never feed your Havanese puppy a poor-quality food bought from the supermarket. Even though there are other Premium brands available on the market, we have not had as much success with them, either our dogs do not like the food, or their health was impacted with upset tummies or loose stools.

Avoid Home-made food as it is very difficult to get this balance right. Puppies need the best possible diet whilst they are growing, as even a slight imbalance may harm their development and growth. Any change in diet should be made very gradually over at least a week to avoid upset and you should try a new diet for at least 10 days before making any further changes.

If your puppy refuses to eat entirely, do not force or coax her into eating by offering meats or foods from your table, or any other type of food that is out of the normal range of dog approved foods. These foods will not provide adequate nutrition and will only lead your puppy to expect to be given “people foods” from the table. He will never get into the habit of eating the appropriate foods if he knows that you will feed her the “good stuff” if he holds out for them. You will need to stand your ground and only offer the types of foods that you will be giving to your puppy/dog over the long term.

Instead If puppy refuses ROYAL CANIN dry food then you can rehydrate it. Rehydrating dry food, mix the correct ration of hot water ~60°C to kibble and soak for 15 – 20 minutes to soften. Please allow mixture cool to blood temperature before feeding your puppy. Do NOT discard excess water, as it can contain essential nutrients. **ROYAL CANIN** Mini Puppy ratio 1:2 of kibble to hot water.

Do not feed the following (note this is not an exhaustive list): onions, garlic, chocolate, coffee or caffeine products, bread dough, avocado, grapes, raisins, sultanas, currants, nuts including macadamia nuts, fruit stones (pits) e.g. mango seeds, apricot stones, avocado stones; fruit seeds, corncobs; green unripe tomatoes, mushrooms; fish constantly, cooked bones; small pieces of raw bone, fatty trimmings, Xylitol (a sugar substitute found in some products such as some types of sugar free chewing gum, lollies, baking goods, toothpaste)

How much to feed

Knowing how much to feed of a particular food can be tricky; the ideal feeding amount will vary from brand to brand and depends on your puppy's age and weight. To work out how much to feed your puppy, consult the feeding guidelines on the food packaging and use this as a starting point, adjusting the amount up or down depending on your puppy's needs.



How often to feed

Maintain a regular feeding schedule. The number of times per day that you will need to feed your Havanese depends on his age. Your Havanese will need to be fed often while he is a puppy and less often as an adult. Talk to your veterinarian if you are unsure about the right type of feeding schedule for your Havanese.

In general, if your Havanese is:

- 8 to 12 weeks, then feed him four times per day.
- three to six months, then feed him three time per day.
- six months to one year old, then feed him twice per day.
- past one year old, then feed her once per day

Keeping your puppy healthy

Grooming

Brushing: Get your Havanese used to a grooming routine at a young age.

The reason why regular grooming is a must is because the Havanese has long air that can easily collect dirt and pollen and build knots and tangles. A quick brushing every day and one good, thorough brushing every week will ensure that your dog is clean, healthy and looking great free of mats and tangles.

To remove the knots:

1. Use your fingers to gently massage the knot. This helps to loosen the hair naturally before getting the tools out.
2. Separate the mat from the surrounding hair by gently brushing back the areas around the clump of hair to focus on the problem spot.
3. Using a coarse comb, start at the top (furthest from the skin) to detangle the mat and work your way towards the base. Be extra careful not to snag the skin (keeping your hand under the fur helps).
4. Don't forget to pet your pup, give him words of affection and treats once the process is complete (and throughout the steps above if needed).



Eye clean once a week: You will likely need to clean the surrounding eye area of the Havanese at least once a week. Gently remove the built-up gummy discharge and wipe the area clean.

Ears, check ears once a week: Your dog's ears should be pink and healthy inside. Healthy ears are generally pink, clean, and have an unobtrusive smell.

A pet suffering from an ear infection could show several symptoms including:

- ears appear red/inflamed, and a black/brown or yellow/green discharge may be seen
- strong odour
- constant ear scratching or shaking of the head
- swelling around the ear
- whimpering due to discomfort

Keeping your dogs' ears dry by drying them after bathing can reduce the likelihood of an ear infection starting. If you suspect that they have an ear infection or irritation, contact your local Vet for more information

Paws check daily, trim nails every few weeks: Trim hair around the paws to keep them clean. It is very important to Check between your dog's pads for foreign objects that may have wedged there and check the pads themselves for cuts, scrapes and infection.

Bathing:

Always brush out your Havanese coat prior to bathing. If you do not, any tangles already started will become larger and impossible to work out

Ensure that bathing forms a regular part of your Havanese grooming routine. Bathe your dog once every 1-2 weeks or as often as needed. When bathing a Havanese be careful not to get

water in their ears as this can lead to ear infections. If water does enter the ears, they can be dried by wiping out with a clean tissue.

1. The first step for a proper bath of the Havanese is the daily brushing. Put the dog into the bath and wet it completely, taking care not to put water in the nose or directly into the ears. When the water has saturated the hair, apply the shampoo by gently massaging the hair towards the direction of its growth, until a thick lather is obtained.
2. Rinse until there is no trace of shampoo in the hair. Apply conditioner by spreading it evenly throughout the hair. Wait one or two minutes for it to take effect and then rinse until the excess conditioner is removed completely.



Drying:

Remove the excess water with your hands by squeezing the hair downwards, and then wrap the dog with a towel. To dry your Havanese properly you will need a blow dryer on a warm setting.

Never brush the coat wet. You must be drying it WHILE brushing to avoid over-stretching and damaging the hairs. The airflow from the dryer helps the hairs maintain their elasticity.

Worming

Due to their smaller size and novel immune system, puppies are particularly sensitive to parasite infestations. Your pup's intestinal worming program has been started by 4 weeks of age. We have been using Drontal Worming for small dogs and puppies.

As a rule, all puppies need to be wormed every two weeks until they're three months of age, then every month until they reach six months of age, and finally, depending on the product, every three months for the rest of their life.

Vaccination

Puppy will have had his first vaccination before you take him home. On your puppy's vaccination record you will find the date of vaccination and the next vaccination will be due 4 weeks after.

Puppy Behaviour and illness

Young puppies are very prone to catching certain diseases, some of these (like Parvo or Distemper) can be fatal. Some of the symptoms of homesickness as I've described above, can also be early symptoms of illness.

Here are the 3 most common signs of illness in puppies:

- Repeated or severe diarrhea
- Repeated vomiting
- Extreme lethargy

While homesickness can cause a loss of appetite and 'sleepiness' and a sudden change in diet can cause diarrhea, these are generally not as severe in nature as they are with true illness.

A sick puppy will also often have dull eyes and can't be tempted to take tasty treats, or play for longer than a couple of minutes, if at all.

Dental Care for your Puppy

It's never too early to start thinking about your puppy's dental health! Your puppy will start teething from about 12 weeks as their adult teeth start to come through. Most of the time owners don't even notice these baby teeth fall out as they are often swallowed, but don't be worried if you find the occasional little tooth around the house! Once all your pup's adult teeth are through (usually by about 6 months), it's time to start thinking about how you will care for their dental health throughout their life. Veterinary dentists recommend daily tooth brushing as the gold standard for dog dental care, and the earlier you start the easier it will be for your dog to accept this. Try to get your puppy used to having their mouth examined and handled from an early age.

The earlier you start giving attention to your dog's teeth the better. Puppies learn very quickly to accept dental home care as part of their daily routine. Regular and frequent attention to your dog's mouth and teeth will help avoid painful dental problems for your canine friend and costly visits to the vet.

Dental home care may include:

- **Tooth brushing** (1 or more times a week). There are many products available such as doggy toothbrushes and beef flavoured toothpaste to assist you with this and it's the best way to avoid problems with your dog's teeth
- **Use Mother Nature's toothbrush – bones.** The chewing of the tough cartilage on bones such as ribs, beef tendon bones can help scrape tartar and plaque off teeth
- **Dental exercisers like chewy toys** (please do not buy the plastic eatable bones).



Dogs can develop gum disease, tooth infections and other dental problems, just like us. Bad breath is caused by a build-up of bacteria in the mouth due to overgrowth of tartar. If your dog's mouth is starting to pong, it could be an indicator of dental disease. If left unattended, this can be very painful for your pet and can progress to rotten teeth, bleeding from the gums and decreased appetite.

Puppy Training

Havanese are smart dogs and they are easy to train. Some Havanese dogs have even performed in circuses. Teaching your Havanese some basic commands is also a good way for you to bond with him.

Timing

Timing is an important key to success in training with positive reinforcement techniques. It is important to reward the dog (with a Click! or "Yes!") at the exact moment she is doing something right, then follow quickly (or a little later, for a more advanced dog) with a food reward. The better your timing, the more it will all make sense to your dog, and the more quickly she will learn. It is astounding how quickly a motivated dog can learn with a human who has good timing.

Teach basic commands

Teach your dog basic commands such as sit, stay, come, and down. Training your dog makes your life easier, fulfills his desire to please you, and strengthens your bond.

Three commands to start teaching your puppy right away:

- **Their name** – Practice sitting by, or standing near, your puppy and saying their name. Praise them and reward them with a treat every time they turn their head to look at you.
- **Sit** – This is a precursor to all other training (like down and stay. Place food near the tip of your dog's nose and move it up and over towards the back of their head. Your dog should naturally sit – when they do, give them the food. Start saying "sit" during the process so they can learn the command. When teaching commands such as 'sit' and 'drop', get down to the level of your puppy.
- **Come** – To teach your puppy to 'come', attach a lead to their collar, let them wander away for a while and then call their name and the command 'come' while holding a treat. Reward them with the treat once they come over to you and repeat the process until your puppy learns to respond to the cue even without getting a treat as a reward.

Puppy training tips

1. When praising your puppy (or adult dog), pat them under the chin or chest as this is more affectionate than a pat on the back or the head.
2. Training should be done in short but regular sessions throughout the day. We recommend five minutes sessions, four or five times a day to ensure your puppy is giving you their full attention during training.
3. Don't let your puppy do things when they are young that you don't want them to do later in life (e.g. jumping up onto furniture or sleeping in your bed).
4. Praise and positive reinforcement are very important when teaching puppy commands.
5. Never yell at your puppy or punish them for disobeying or ignoring your cue – positive reinforcement is the best way to train your dog.
6. A tiny dog treat or highly-flavoured food is the best reward when your puppy has done what you've asked them to but remember not to overfeed. Treats should only make up 10% of their daily diet.
7. Puppy training is best begun at eight weeks of age and puppies are operating at full learning capacity between eight and twelve weeks old.

8. Your voice is your best training aid – use a happy tone for praise, a clear tone for commands, and a firm tone to say “No”.

Teaching Your Puppy not to Chew

Your puppy will have a natural urge to chew, especially while going through the teething stage. Have a “toy box” (an ice cream bucket or basket) where he can reach the toys inside. The toys should be of different textures (rope toys, stuffed squeaky toys, etc.). If he can get a toy, he will be less apt to chew on things he should not.

Puppies LOVE to chew, and they are of the opinion that everything is edible until proven otherwise! Chewing fills basic canine needs and you cannot (and should not) stop your pup from chewing - but you do need to make sure he only exercises his jaws on appropriate chew toys. The good news is that all this chewing stuff usually peaks during the teething phase, and then diminishes slowly as long as you've been consistent about corrections and providing guidance and toys.

To discourage problem chewing in dogs and puppies try to redirect their chewing to a chew toy, offering lots of praise when they do the right thing! Have a selection of different chew toys on hand that you can rotate every few days to keep your pup from getting bored. If he does find something to chew on that he should not have, take it away, tell him “NO” and offer him something from his toy box.

You can also use chew deterrent sprays for problem chewers but bear in mind while these sprays may deter your dog from chewing a particular object, you still need to address the underlying behaviour. Giving your puppy lots of toys to stimulate their mind will help keep them out of mischief, it's also a lot easier than spraying everything in the house with chew deterrent spray!

Teaching Your Puppy not to Bite

If you watch a litter of puppies at play, you'll see them 'mouthing' and nipping at each other ALL the time. The rolling around, squealing and growling is all part of the way they learn acceptable canine interaction. If one of them bites too hard, another puppy will yelp and likely bite back harder.... lesson learned! And watch what happens if one brave little puppy decides to try sharpening his teeth on his momma or another nearby adult. He gets told in no uncertain terms that this is NOT okay.

But although puppy biting is normal and has an important role to play in puppy development, all puppies need to learn that they are not allowed to nip, mouth or bite humans - ever. Being consistent is hugely important. All members of the family need to be 'on the same page' and to use the same correction technique every single time your puppy nips or bites.

It's also important not to expect instant results! The simplest no-bite technique for puppies is to simply let him know it hurts and to withdraw your attention when he misbehaves in this way.

Every time your puppy sharp little puppy teeth touch your skin say "OUCH" loudly. This lets him know that his puppy biting hurts and may surprise him into stopping (at least temporarily). Also, immediately stop interacting with him by breaking eye-contact and/or walking away. Be sure to follow this procedure every single time he nips, or bites and he will soon get the message.

All your puppy wants is to be with you and to have your attention so when he realizes that if he bites or nips, you will stop playing with him he'll stop. Of course, be sure to praise him and love on him when he plays nicely without biting. It is just as important to reward good behaviour as it is to discourage the bad.

How to Teach a Puppy to Stay

First, teach the release word. Choose which word you will use, such as "OK". Stand with your puppy in a sit or a stand, toss a treat on the floor, and say your word as he steps forward to get the treat. Repeat this a couple of times until you can say the word first and then toss the treat AFTER he begins to move. This teaches the dog that the release cue means to move your feet.

When your dog knows the release cue and how to sit on cue, put him in a sit, turn and face him, and give him a treat. Pause, and give him another treat for staying in a sit, then release him. Gradually increase the time you wait between treats (it can help to sing the ABC's in your head and work your way up the alphabet). If your dog gets up before the release cue, that's ok! It just means he isn't ready to sit for that long so you can make it easier by going back to a shorter time.

Once your dog can stay in a sit for several seconds, you can begin adding distance. Place him in a sit and say "stay," take one step back, then step back to the pup, give a treat, and your release word. Continue building in steps, keeping it easy enough that your dog can stay successful. Practice both facing him and walking away with your back turned (which is more realistic).

Once your dog can stay, you can gradually increase the distance. This is also true for the "sit." The more solidly he learns it, the longer he can remain sitting. The key is to not expect too much, too soon. Training goals are achieved in increments, so you may need to slow down and focus on one thing at a time. To make sure the training "sticks," sessions should be short and successful.

Training your puppy to walk well on leash

Every dog needs to learn how to walk nicely on a lead, whether for their own safety or for legal reasons. But many puppies will pull, making life difficult for you both. To get them used to walking on a lead, start in an enclosed area and clip the lead to their collar. But instead of holding it, let it go and allow the puppy to run around trailing the lead.

Once your puppy is comfortable with this, pick up the lead and give your puppy some treats while you hold it. If your puppy pulls on the lead, drop it and try again in five to 10 minutes. Eventually, after a bit of practice, your puppy will get used to it and you'll be ready to teach walking on a loose lead.

Loose-lead walking gives your puppy the freedom to explore while you train them not to pull. When your puppy is comfortable walking on a loose lead, try introducing them to different underfoot textures, such as grass, gravel, wood chips and so on.

Now that your puppy is used to walking on a loose lead, they can progress to heel training. 'Heel' is an important command for puppies to learn as they progress in their leash training, but getting to this step may take time.

Start with a short lead, just about 5 cm of slack – any more than this will allow your puppy to pull ahead, which you're trying to avoid. Always have your puppy on the same side of your body to prevent confusion. Begin walking with your puppy. If the lead is relaxed and they aren't pulling, mark this behaviour by saying 'good' and 'heel'.

Socialize Your Puppy

Enrol in a puppy class that will start after puppies second vaccination.

Even before your puppy's vaccinations, it's good to take them out in the car and invite plenty of visitors over for your dog to get used to new environments and people. After their vaccinations, it's time to venture out into the big wide world and discover new things. Heading out on plenty of walks together helps your dog to familiarise themselves with busy places, crowds of people, traffic noise, children and other animals too. It's important to get your dog used to as many people, dogs and new surroundings as possible during the socialisation window (the first 16-18 weeks of puppyhood) so that they can grow into a confident adult.

Plan activities and trips with your dog

Include your dog in family activities. Take him to the park, beach, or to special activities such as a dog parade. If you're traveling to an event, check ahead for lodging that accepts dogs. If you're flying, ask about travel accommodations for your dog when you make the reservation.

