New Puppy checklist

Everything is enormous, nothing is house-trained, and this part is short.

8 to 16 weeks for a medium dog · size-adjusted, approximate. Stages are behavioural as much as chronological.

01 This stage is done when

Tick each one as it becomes true most days, not once.

- [ ] First vet visit done, and you asked what the vaccine schedule looks like and when the puppy can go where
- [ ] Microchip registered in your name with a phone number you actually answer
- [ ] The puppy sleeps in the crate with the door shut, next to your bed, most of the night
- [ ] Ten or more days in a row with the puppy toileting outside more often than in
- [ ] The puppy eats a meal calmly inside the crate with the door closed
- [ ] Twenty different ordinary things met safely: surfaces, sounds, hats, umbrellas, a vacuum, a calm adult dog
- [ ] Paws, ears and mouth handled daily without a struggle
- [ ] The puppy has spent short periods alone, awake, without panic
- [ ] You have found a positive-reinforcement puppy class and know when the next one starts
- [ ] Everyone in the house is using the same words for the same things

02 Ask your vet

Questions to take to an appointment — not tasks, so no boxes.

? Ask your vet the same day if a puppy has diarrhoea or vomiting that goes past one episode, or has stopped eating or drinking. Puppies dehydrate much faster than adult dogs and the margin is small.

? Ask your vet before you take an unfinished-vaccination puppy to a park, a pet shop floor or a dog beach, because where the line sits depends on what is circulating where you live.

? Ask your vet whether your puppy's parasite prevention is right for their current weight, and how often it needs to change while they are growing.

? Ask your vet if your puppy seems suddenly weak, wobbly or cold after missing a meal, particularly with a very small breed, because low blood sugar in tiny puppies moves fast.

? Ask your vet, or a qualified behaviour professional, if your puppy freezes, hides or shrieks at ordinary household things rather than recovering within a minute or two. Fear responses at this age are worth addressing early, not waiting out.

03 Have ready

By need: the starter kit first, then THEN the recommended additions. The stage page carries the researched picks and current prices.

NOURISH

- [ ] The food they came home on
- [ ] Shallow, tip-resistant bowls
- [ ] THEN Soft, pea-sized training treats

REST

- [ ] The crate, divided down to puppy size
- [ ] Two washable crate mats
- [ ] THEN A crate cover or a blanket over three sides
- [ ] THEN A second bed by the sofa

MOVE

- [ ] A soft step-in puppy harness
- [ ] A light six-foot leash
- [ ] THEN A crate or carrier for the car

THINK

- [ ] Two hollow stuffable toys
- [ ] THEN A snuffle mat or scatter-feeding mat
- [ ] THEN Three different chew textures

TRAIN

- [ ] A one-handed treat pouch, worn all day
- [ ] Enzymatic cleaner
- [ ] THEN Washable potty pads, if you are in an apartment
- [ ] THEN A real grass patch, if outside is a lift ride away
- [ ] THEN A clicker or an agreed marker word

PROTECT

- [ ] Gates on the stairs and the kitchen
- [ ] Vet-recommended parasite prevention
- [ ] THEN A folding playpen
- [ ] THEN A soft brush and nail clippers or a grinder

Notes — vet visits, weights, dates