

Pawsitive Press

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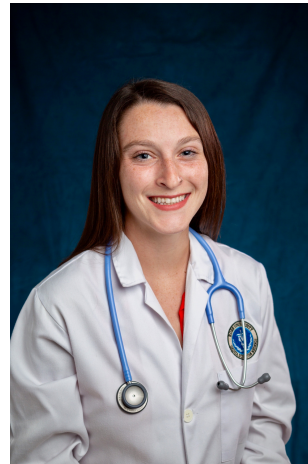
Bringing a Pet Home After the Holidays

By: Emma Olson, D.V.M.

One of the first things you should do with your new puppy or kitten is have them seen by your veterinarian. This is to establish a Veterinarian-Client- Patient-Relationship (VCPR), repeated yearly to keep this relationship valid. At this visit they may need vaccines, deworming, or testing for diseases. Additional topics like flea/tick and heartworm prevention will be discussed. This is also a good time to ask your veterinarian for tips and tricks for raising your new kitten or puppy.



So what supplies do you need for day one? You will need water and food bowls (stainless steel or ceramic are best), food, litter box (kitten), crate, collar and harness, leash and toys. Some things you can get later are ID tags, poop bags, enrichment items



(scratching posts and mats, food puzzles or treat toys ie. Kongs). While retractable leashes in theory sound like a good idea, they are dangerous. A leash is there to help protect your dog. If they are 10+ feet away this makes it harder to protect them in a dangerous situation. One important thing to remember is that what is cute from your little puppy or kitten will likely not be cute from your adult dog or cat. Socialization early on is important whether this means going to puppy classes or getting a trainer. A trainer can help with housetraining for your puppy. For your kitten they will need to have a litter box from day one. The litter box rule is one litter box per cat in the house plus one. Positive reinforcement is the best way to help housetrain your dog.

slower.

One last tip is pet insurance; get it! This is a great way to ensure your new puppy/ kitten is covered for unexpected accidents or illnesses. It allows owners to provide the care animals need without the worry about cost.





puppy training guideline



8-10 weeks

- Daily schedule
- Potty training
- Crate training + thresholds
- Redirect chewing + mouthing
- Name recognition
- Commands: Sit + Come
- Socialization: family + close friends

10-12 weeks

- Introduce leash + harness
- Doonway thresholds
- Impulse control: food + water bowl
- Commands: Place, Down + Heel (indoors)
- Socialization: common noises



3-4 months



- Structured play: tug + fetch
- Heel practice in front or backyard
- Command combinations indoors + hold commands for longer
- Commands: Stay + Drop-It
- Socialization: new pups (after vaccinations)

4-6 months

- Heel practice around the neighborhood
- Advance commands outside + in new locations; add 3Ds (distance, distractions + duration)
- Begin to wean off food rewards



6 months-1 year



- Continue with a daily schedule, crate training, commands, walks and regular socialization
- Advance commands outside with long-line, increase the 3Ds + work in new locations

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