

# Bringing your Puppy Home

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You and your puppy have just arrived home. Let the puppy "go potty" in the yard, using a leash. Allow them plenty of time to sniff, and explore their new world. They'll probably mark several spots. This will let them feel like the area is theirs and will seem more familiar to them next time out. We recommend that you use a leash for the first few weeks, even in a fenced area. This helps your puppy know that you are the pack leader, and are in control. If they spend too long exploring one spot, or their mind wanders and their attention is temporarily lost, the leash will help you to quickly re-establish the leader/follower mentality with the puppy. This is very important for your long term relationship with your dog. They must know that you are the pack leader and hence ultimate authority. This will put the puppy at ease (assuming it's not an Alpha Type) and help them understand their position in the pack (your family). Praise them with an enthusiastic sounding tone in your voice and pet them vigorously after they've done their business. This teaches them your approval of their behavior. An important part of your new puppy care is establishing this positive relationship. Don't forget... Always use a leash if you are not in a safe area.

Like us, puppies at first have very short attention spans. Inside the House Have a secure area that's slightly out of the way. A laundry room, the kitchen, or the garage where your puppy will spend its first few weeks with you in your home. Make sure you have a crate for the puppy. This is where the puppy will sleep. At first just have bedding and a toy or two (not one that can be chewed up easily), in the crate. The puppy will sleep well in its crate once you have established the fact that this is where the puppy sleeps at night. We do suggest putting the crate on the bed with you or on a chair or stool next to the bed – so the pup can see YOU. If they have problems going to sleep have it close enough to just put your fingers through the door, this way they can be touching you and fall asleep.

Crate training is not inhumane, in fact they like having their own little den (just like their wolf ancestors). They find comfort and will usually not potty where they sleep. This is a great housebreaking tool. It also protects your house (furniture/shoes/legs of chairs/counters) and protects the new puppy from chewing or eating something it should not, and that might make them sick. You wouldn't let a toddler run loose at night unrestrained. The same is true for your little friend.

## **Other Pets**

If you have other dogs, cats or pets that also live with you, give some time for them to get used to the puppy. Slowly let them investigate each other. They will usually sniff each other and watch each others body language. If they are like most Aussie puppies, they will be very curious about the other pet. If you have older pets, they may find a puppy nerveracking or resent the intrusion in their territory. Give all involved time to develop a relationship. Not letting the older dogs snap at the puppy may upset the natural heirarchy. (Telling your grandfather that he now has to bow to the whims of a baby probably wouldn't go over so well either.) Aussies integrate well with most anything, they just need to learn the

other pet's boundaries. When it comes to integrating your new puppy care must be given to ensure they can be naturally socialized and accepted into the "pack" by learning their place in the hierarchy. Puppies are High Energy Your little Aussie puppy is bursting full of energy. Their minds are soaking up everything around them, and they're trying hard to learn how to fit into their new world and family. Running the energy out of them periodically will insure less digging and chewing problems. Spend time out in the yard making them run short bursts, or for long walks Take them out to potty 5 - 6 times a day , usually more. This is a great time to teach them what to expect about relieving themselves. Five to six times may seem like a lot, but puppies have small bladders, and the act of teaching them to go outside to do their business, trains them to go to the door when they need to go out. Also, when you take them out of their crate at any time, you should take them immediately outside. This trains them to go when they get up in the mornings. It is a good way for the puppy to relieve itself and get exercise at the same time. This also helps relieve any anxiety the puppy may have in its new surroundings. This is also a good time to play with your puppy. Make up a game you and the puppy can play when you go outside.

### **Chewing and Digging**

Chewing and digging problems are usually due to excessive energy. Assuming that you follow some of the guidelines above to exercise your puppy, you will eliminate most of their chewing and digging behavior. Your Aussie Puppy is in the "chewing stage" of its life, because just like humans, they teethe too, and just like us — it hurts. We use knotted ropes soaked with beef broth and put in the freezer.

Popsicles and ice cubes are a great way for your puppy to have a treat and soothe their gums and teeth too. The chewing stage where many new puppy owners get frustrated and decide they did not want a puppy after all. Deciding what they chew is your responsibility! You're the adult, and they are the "child". As with small children, it's up to you to put the puppy in an environment that is safe for them, and won't ruin something expensive for you. Puppies explore with their mouths as much as anything, and they learn about the different textures of things by gnawing. Also, chewing makes their razor sharp teeth feel better by rubbing the super sharp edges down just a bit. The key to new puppy care is to understand how your puppy sees the world and what her motivations are. If you follow the suggestion to use a crate with lots of rawhide or soft rubber chew toys for your puppy, chewing problems will not be a big part of your relationship with your Aussie. Bully Sticks , pork rawhide chews or kong toys filled with peanut butter are excellent chewing items to keep your little one occupied..

### **Male vs. Females**

Male or Female: Most people think a female dog makes a better pet. This is simply not true and actually in most cases the opposite is the case. In the dog pack makeup, females usually rule the roost, determine the pecking order, and who competes to maintain and/or alter that order.

The females are, as a result, more independent, stubborn, and territorial than their male counterparts. Females are much more intent upon exercising their dominance by participating in alpha behaviors such

As "riding" other dogs. Most fights will usually break out between 2 females. If you already have a female dog I highly recommend getting a male.

Neutered males almost never exhibit any of the unwanted behaviors thought of in intact males such as roaming, "riding", or marking his territory. If you have your male dog fixed before he begins to lift his leg he will never do so.

Females tend to be easily distracted and can be moody where boys tend to have the same even temperament, day in and day out. They are more tolerant of children and will usually learn commands sooner.

### **Puppy Outings and Environmental Concerns**

We strongly recommend that you refrain from taking your new puppy to highly traveled dog areas

Examples are dog parks, highway rest stops, trailhead systems , some lakes etc.

Be careful not to allow your Mini Aussie puppy wonder areas where other dogs frequent. Your puppy is not protected from Parvo or Distemper until after the 4th shot in the series at 16 weeks of age so be mindful of where you put the puppy on the ground to potty. Also, stay away from the dog park. There's plenty of time for that later when it is safe.ails

Petco . Home Depot, Nurseries are great places to socialize your pups but always use your best judgement and either carry or place them in a basket.

Puppies can be around other dogs especially if you are aware of the dogs background. Their immune systems take approximately 6 months to mature. Many times if the internal balance is compromised in some way and there is no worms or parasite suspected we suggest canned pumpkin to "reset" the natural internal bacterium. Probiotic yogurt can also used.

### **Traveling with you Pup/Adult Dog**

While we believe holding the puppy in the car and trying to reduce stress with ear rubbings, etc. as the first method to try for travel. We feel that a pup in a lap is much better than putting it inside a crate to go home.

Refrain from food for a 3-4 period before traveling. We have had pups get "car sick " just going to the vet. As new pups they like to ride on your shoulder or lay behind your neck.. They need to be up high and see out of the vehicle to avoid sickness. As they get older some are happy in the center console, on a lap or breathing fresh window air.

Do not put them in a crate to travel until they are crate trained.. It is much like riding on a rollercoasters with a bag over your head. They most likely will be sick. We have seen dogs so nervous they will "froth" or salivate from the mouth.. Please take them everywhere with you if possible.

