

# MANY TEARS ANIMAL RESCUE

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## Puppy Advice

### Training

All puppies adopted from Many Tears must be taken to training classes as soon as possible. Some training classes let you take the pup as soon as they have had their 1st inoculation and allow the pup to sit on your lap to take in all the sounds and smells. Some training classes don't let you take the pups until 2 weeks after 2nd vaccination (vets often advise this too) but you miss out on introducing lots of things while the pup is at its most socially absorbent. Mentally it needs to be "out there" getting used as much as possible - being carried around stores and schools etc. Introduce them to as much as possible in the first 12 weeks of life.

### Leaving your puppy alone

Let the puppy settle in your home in for a couple of weeks before thinking about leaving it completely on its own. However, during this time make sure even when you're at home the pup goes for a few "time outs". Put it in its sleeping area for 5 mins to get it used to you not being there 24/7. Then start shutting it in its sleeping place and going out for 10-15 minutes and gradually lengthen the time. The maximum time a full grown dog should be left on its own is 4 hours but you need to build up to this slowly.

### Sleeping

Make sure your puppy has a warm cosy place to sleep. This should be away from draughts and a soft toy is a good idea as they are used to something to curl up with and lie on top of. Make sure there are no removable eyes or noses and no beanie filling in case the pup bites through and ingests.

If you are taking your puppy up to bed with you, it is advisable to shut the pup in a crate and have this by the side of the bed. That way you can "shush" them in the night if they start to stir and if they whine and need to go out for the toilet you will hear them. However, the crate should be big enough to have a bowl of water in and an area for newspaper or puppy pad if you don't want to be getting up and letting the puppy out in the middle of the night!

If leaving your puppy downstairs, enclose it in a smallish area (a crate is fine) - make sure there is room for a cosy bed and enough room to lay newspaper or puppy pad down for them to wee and poo on in the night and, of course, a bowl of water.

### Toilet training

As soon as your puppy wakes up at any time, not just in the morning, take it out for a wee! It will also usually need to go to the toilet 20mins after eating but this can vary. Look for the signs and catch it as soon as you can. Just pick it up (it will stop weeing) and put it outside until it's been to the loo. Remember it's pointless to tell a puppy off or shouting at it for going to the toilet. Simply use a word each time it goes to the toilet in the correct place so it associates that word with what it's doing. Praise profusely and reward when it goes outside and ignore when it goes indoors.

### Chewing

It can be amusing when a new puppy chews your shoe laces when it first arrives but that can change when it's your favourite pair of shoes. Start as you mean to go on. If a pup is chewing something you don't want it to simply remove the object and replace it with something it can chew. That also means not biting your fingers, which might not hurt when they're tiny, but will do as they grow!

### How many times a day to feed your new puppy

Puppies should be on 4 meals a day by the time they go to their new home and are completely weaned from their mother. At around 14 weeks reduce the feeding to 3 slightly larger meals a day. Stay on 3 meals until around 5-6 months and then reduce to 2 larger meals. Please seek advice from your vet if you are unsure how much to feed your puppy and remember if you are feeding dry food soak it first so you can see how much it swells up. If you feed the dry food without soaking first remember this will swell in their stomachs so don't overfeed and make sure water available at all times.

### Worming

Puppies should be wormed every 2 weeks until 3 months old. Then once a month until they are 6 months old and thereafter every 3-4 months.

### Forms to be returned to Many Tears

Every puppy adopted from Many Tears comes with a training and spay/neuter form. The training form has to be completed and signed by your puppy's trainer and returned once your puppy has completed its training course. Many Tears insists all puppies are spayed/neutered at 6 months old. The spay/neuter form needs to be completed by your vet and returned to us to confirm this has been done.