

First 72 Hours With Your New Puppy Checklist

Prepare Before Arrival

- Cozy crate or puppy pen setup
- Soft bedding and safe chew toys
- Food bowl, water bowl, and puppy food
- Harness, leash, and ID tag
- Puppy pads or outdoor potty plan

Day 1: Getting Comfortable

- Introduce puppy to one small area first
- Take outside for potty every 1–2 hours
- Offer gentle praise and calm reassurance
- Keep things quiet and low-stress
- Expect some whining or nervousness — it's normal

Day 2: Start Routine Building

- Create a simple potty → play → nap cycle
- Feed meals on a predictable schedule
- Introduce the crate with treats and positive association
- Practice name recognition with short sessions

Day 3: Early Training Foundations

- Begin 30–60 second training play sessions
- Reward calm behavior, not just excitement
- Gently introduce new sounds and textures
- Watch for stress signals and allow breaks