



BlackHawk®

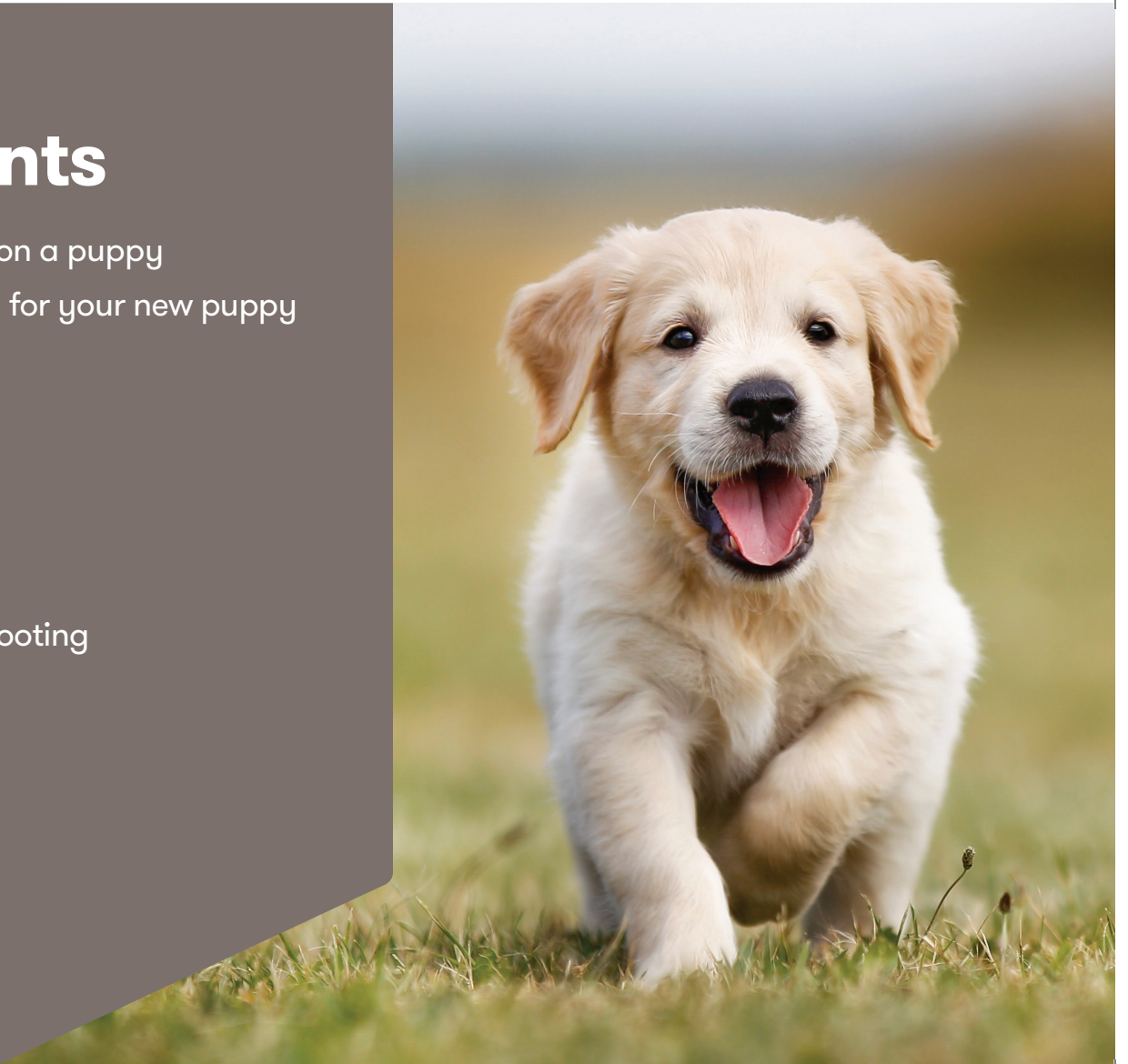
Every ingredient matters

My new puppy

A comprehensive guide

Contents

- 1** Deciding on a puppy
- 3** Preparing for your new puppy
- 4** First days
- 6** Feeding
- 9** Training
- 11** Health
- 15** Wellbeing
- 20** Troubleshooting



Deciding on a puppy

The first big decisions you need to make before you find the right puppy for you are:

- **What type of dog fits with my family life?**
- **Do I rescue a puppy from a shelter?**
- **Do I buy a puppy from a breeder?**
- **Do I find a puppy elsewhere?**

These may seem like simple questions, but each decision has a huge impact on what your responsibilities are as a pet owner.

What type of dog fits with your family?

This is an important first step as dogs come in all shapes and sizes! They also have different personalities, activity levels, instincts and needs. With plenty of research, chatting to your Veterinarian and even meeting lots of different dogs and owners, you will be all set to take the next step and find yourself a new best friend.

Do I rescue a puppy from a shelter?

There are many lovely dogs available from rescue groups and organizations who dedicate their lives to rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing animals. The bonus here is that you get a desexed, microchipped and medically checked pet that will be eternally grateful for their new home.

Do I buy a puppy from a breeder?

A registered breeder should invite you to meet the parents and will give you a certified pedigree to authenticate the pup's bloodline. They will often be available to help you with advice on how to care for your new puppy too. While puppies may not be available all year round, if you have found the right breeder and bloodline for you, it pays to be patient.

Do I find a puppy elsewhere?

It is always nice to get a puppy as soon as you decide you want one, however owning a puppy is a huge responsibility and needs thorough planning. There are many "quick" ways to get a puppy, but these may involve backyard breeders or puppy farms. We encourage you to consider finding your new friend through channels which are in the best interests of their welfare.





Preparing for your new puppy

Congratulations on deciding which puppy fits with your family!

Before your new bundle of joy arrives home, take time to plan and get your home ready to ensure the transition into your home is as smooth as possible.

It is an exciting time and can be overwhelming for both the new puppy and other members of your home (four- and two-legged family members alike). Everyone will be affected in some way, so don't forget to consider the impact it will have on your other pets too.



Make sure you have a few of the essentials to keep your puppy happy...

- Food
- Food bowl
- Water bowl
- Training treats
- Collar and ID tag
- Lead
- Bedding
- Training pads
- Toys
- Crate/pen
- Kennel (if needed)
- Flea treatment
- Worming treatments
- Grooming tools

First days

Bringing your puppy home

The first day you bring your puppy home will be an exciting experience for you, your puppy and other family members, and great opportunity to teach children to properly care for a pet.

Your puppy has a lot of adjusting to do with so many new things to learn and explore. They will most likely feel a bit insecure for a period of time, until they adjust to their new living arrangements and get used to being away from their mum and litter mates.

Remember that all puppies are babies and need to be handled with care and given lots of love and protection. It will be a very exciting time for the family and other pets, so during the first introduction, make sure everyone is quiet and calm.

Start by settling your puppy into a smaller area that is designated as their 'safe space' or 'den'. Try to make this a positive place to be by spending lots of play and cuddle time there. You can then gradually give your puppy time to explore their new home and environment under supervision.

Let your puppy practice short periods of alone time in their space when they appear to be calm, and then try to gradually increase alone time without them becoming distressed.

Reward calm and independent behaviour to reinforce that your puppy is okay on its own and is loved even when you are not there.

When introducing the new kid on the block to your other pets, start slowly after all the excitement settles and consider the following steps:

- For the first few days, it is best to let them have their own space and just get used to the new smells in the house.
- Then bit by bit let your other pets spend short periods of time near the puppy area under supervision.
- In time they will usually all be happy to share their space without stress and over excitement.

TIP: Crate training

Crates and pens are a great way to provide your puppy with their own safe space.



The first night

Your puppy will need a special area to sleep and will need to feel warm and protected.

The first night can be a challenge for puppies when they are without the company of their old family and some puppies may cry on their first few nights alone. This is best avoided by making sure they feel comfortable and safe in their own area. Commercially made pheromones can be a good option to help to settle your puppy into their new environment.

Make sure your puppy has a clean soft bed and is able to stay nice and warm. You can use a heat pad to help them stay warm throughout the night, however you'll have to make sure these are chew proof to prevent your puppy from injury.

Puppies need regular toilet breaks throughout the night and this may also be a reason for crying. Most puppies can't hold on for the toilet through the whole night until they are over 6 months old.

“The first night can be a challenge for puppies when they are without the company of their new family and some puppies may cry on their first few nights alone.”



Feeding

Puppy nutrition

The key to a healthy dog is to feed them a quality diet right from the start. Puppies develop at a fast pace and this varies dependent on breed and size. During peak growth, puppies require nearly twice the kilojoules of an adult dog of the same weight. Small breed puppies finish growing around ten months of age, whereas large and giant breeds grow for up to two years.

If you compare this time frame to humans, who keep growing until 16 to 18 years of age, you can see that puppies have a lot of work to do in a short space of time. Feeding your puppy a premium puppy food will ensure they get all the right levels of energy, protein, calcium, phosphorous, omega fatty acids, vitamins and minerals to help build strong muscles and bones, whilst supporting their growth phase. What you feed them can also affect their ability to learn the skills they need for life.



TIP: Puppy nutrition

Black Hawk puppy formulas provide a complete and balanced diet, which are specifically developed for growing puppies, with formulas designed to meet their specific nutritional requirements. The balanced calcium and phosphorous levels are important for strong bones and teeth as well as nerve and muscle function.



Which puppy food is right for your puppy?

At full growth, is your puppy expected to be under 25kg?



Black Hawk Original Puppy Lamb & Rice or Chicken & Rice

- Easily digestible, palatable formulas designed to meet the needs of rapidly growing puppies
- Contains Australian grown oats and rice for energy
- Ingredients are rich sources of antioxidants and omega fatty acids
- Transition to Black Hawk Adult from 12 months of age

Black Hawk Grain Free Puppy Wild Caught Ocean Fish

- Balanced, palatable and digestible nutrition for growing puppies
- A grain free recipe using Australian grown sweet potato, potato and tapioca instead of grains
- Wild caught ocean fish is rich in omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3 may assist your puppy's brain development, skin well-being and soft shiny coat
- Transition to Black Hawk Adult from 10 to 12 months of age

At full growth, is your puppy expected to be over 25kg?



Black Hawk Original Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice

- A palatable formula which assists controlled growth
- Balanced phosphorous and calcium levels
- Added glucosamine and chondroitin for joint health
- Transition to Black Hawk Adult from 18 to 24 months of age

Tips

- Feed a complete and balanced puppy diet, there is no need to add supplements unless prescribed by a Veterinarian.
- Use the feeding guideline on the back of the puppy food pack as a guide and divide the total amount into the number of times you plan to feed your puppy per day to determine the amount of food to feed.
- Always ensure there is fresh water available.
- When swapping over to a new food, transition over a minimum of 7 days to avoid an upset stomach, gradually increasing the proportion of new food over time.
- For very young puppies, soak dry food in warm water for 5 minutes and then serve at room temperature. Discard any uneaten food within 1 hour.
- Puppies will start to teeth between 3 – 6 months. In many cases the crunching of dry food can help loosen the teeth, so they get through the teething process quicker.
- The time to transition to adult food varies by dog size (earlier for small breeds – increasingly later as adult weight increases). Ask your Veterinarian what is right for your puppy.

Feeding your puppy

Once you have chosen a quality balanced food for your puppy, you will need to consider how much they need and how often they need to be fed.

Feeding requirements will vary for each puppy depending on breed, sex, activity level and age. As a general rule, puppies need to be fed three to four small meals per day, as they only have small stomachs and are burning through all of that energy very quickly. This is why it's so important to choose a food that can give them all of the right ingredients in an easily digestible food. Once your puppy reaches 6 months you can reduce their meals down to just two per day. Remember there is no exact science to feeding your puppy so it is important to monitor their weight and growth. Your Vet will be able to keep an eye on how well they are growing and help you to stay on track. Refer to the back of the puppy food packet for recommended feeding guidelines.

Training

Basic training tips

It will take a while for you and your puppy to learn how to communicate with each other. The sooner you start basic training, the easier it will be for your new friend to understand what you're asking them to do.

Training should always be positive and based on reward. Punishing puppies can make them afraid to try new things, and we need them to try new things in order to learn. Puppy preschool is a great way to get supervised guidance on puppy training. The key with training is to reward immediately so that your puppy associates an action with the signal you are giving.

The training signals used to ask your puppy for a particular behaviour can be any word, action or sound you choose – the key is to be consistent and patient. Keep training sessions short while your puppy is young because puppies get tired easily.

Start training by following these steps:

- When you have your puppy's full attention, say his or her name using a fun/welcoming voice and then reward them for giving you their attention.
- Once they know their name, you can start to introduce a signal that means 'good dog, you got that right!' Again, you can choose any signal as long as you are consistent. Some people even use a training 'clicker' for this signal.
- From here you can start to introduce new signals for different behaviours and reward them when they get it right.

It is a good idea to get your puppy used to a soft collar soon after coming home. Get them used to this by putting the collar on for short periods of time while they are happily distracted or eating so that they associate it with positive things. Once they have mastered the collar you can add a soft, light lead as well.



House Training

As with all babies, puppies need to learn where to go to the toilet and how to ask. Don't expect them to be perfect straight away, but with gentle persuasion and encouragement they will catch on to the rules quickly!

Choose the area that you want your puppy to use as a toilet area. This may be a particular part of the yard or a training pad. Dogs usually prefer to go to the toilet on a soft surface. Although you can clean up after them once they have been to the toilet it can be helpful to avoid totally eliminating the smells in the toilet area while your puppy is learning. The right smells can help them find the right place to go back to.

The best way to toilet train your puppy is to watch them closely for signs they may need to go to the toilet, and make sure that you take them to their toilet area at key moments throughout the day. Try taking them to their toilet area at these times:

- When they wake up after sleeping
- After playing or training
- Just after a meal
- Before you put them to bed

TIP: Puppy training

Other products that can aid toilet training are...



TIP: House training

Training pads are a great way to designate an appropriate toilet area while your puppy learns to go in the right place, keeping the toilet training phase as stress-free as possible.



They are smart little bundles of joy, so they will learn after a short period of time. The signs that your puppy may need to go to the toilet include:

- Walking in circles and sniffing the ground
- Sitting, pawing or whimpering at the door (or near the toileting area)
- Starting to squat when walking around

Puppies are not able to hold on for more than a couple of hours and the urge to go may sneak up on them, so praise them for going to the toilet in the correct place, but don't scold them if they get it wrong. Positive reinforcement is the best way to train your puppy.



Health

Vaccinations

To make sure your little pal is healthy and getting a good start to life, they should be taken for regular visits to the vet. Your veterinarian will be able to advise you on everything, from how well your puppy is growing, to preventing common diseases.

Puppies should have their first visit to the vet at around 6-8 weeks of age. At each visit the vet will collect some general information on your puppy and will give them a thorough health check. All puppies should be vaccinated to prevent common and preventable diseases such as Canine Parvovirus, Distemper, Parainfluenza, Adenovirus type 1 (hepatitis) and type 2 (respiratory) and these usually all come in one vaccine.

Adenovirus may be more commonly called canine infectious hepatitis.

In some cases vets will also recommend vaccinating puppies against *Bordetella bronchiseptica* (Kennel Cough) and leptospirosis and while leptospirosis is technically optional, it is highly recommended north of Taupo, and in dogs that spend any time out in the bush or around vermin.

The first vaccination is usually given by the vet at their first visit. Booster vaccinations are given every 3-4 weeks until 12-16 weeks of age however vaccination protocols may vary. Puppies should be kept away from unvaccinated dogs and public areas until their final puppy vaccination is done. The 'core' vaccine can be boosted once every three years after the first annual booster vaccination is completed, while the two optional vaccines need to be boosted annually, for life.

CORE VACCINES

Recommended for all puppies

Canine Parvovirus	Canine Adenovirus Type 1 and 2
Canine Distemper	Parainfluenza

ADDITIONAL VACCINES

As recommended by your vet

<i>Bordetella Bronchiseptica</i> (Kennel cough)
Leptospirosis

TIP: Vaccinations

Check with your local Veterinarian for vaccination recommendation and frequency for your puppy.

Worm and flea treatment

It's important to protect your pet from parasites. Flea and intestinal worm treatments should be started soon after taking your puppy home. There are several convenient flea and worm treatments on the market that are suitable for puppies. Fleas breed very quickly and can build up in the environment that the puppy spends its time in. Just a few fleas can quickly become an infestation, so don't leave them unchecked. Intestinal worms can make your puppy unwell and some canine intestinal worms can also cause disease in humans. Puppies should be wormed with an intestinal wormer at least monthly until 6 months of age as puppies are more prone to having worms than older dogs. Talk to your local veterinarian on the best worm and flea treatment for your puppy.

Microchipping

To make sure your little one can be found if they ever go astray, microchipping is a must. Some puppies will have a microchip when you buy them and others will need to have this done at the Veterinary clinic.

Make sure to register your puppy with your local council and always keep them clearly identified with a collar and tag with their name and your contact details.



Desexing

To prevent unwanted breeding and some common health issues, it is recommended that dogs that are not going to be used for breeding should

be desexed. Most dogs can be desexed at about 6 months of age but your veterinary hospital can advise you on what is the best time for your breed of dog.

Desexing involves staying in hospital for a general anaesthetic and surgery. Your puppy will need to rest when they get home and may have stitches which need to be kept clean and dry. Often the vet or nurse will ask to see your puppy again after 7-14 days to check that they are healing well and remove their stitches.

Dental care

It is important to start considering your dog's dental care at a young age. Just like people, dog's teeth need extra care to avoid plaque and tartar building up, and to prevent dental disease and the health issues associated with it.

Brushing their teeth daily is also a great way to keep their teeth and gums in good health. Make sure your puppy is used to having their mouth touched before introducing brushing and only use dog toothpaste.

Your vet will check your dog's teeth at each check up to look for early signs of dental disease and will let you know if your dog has additional needs or is due for a dental procedure such as a scale and polish.



TIP: Dental care

One of the best ways to reduce plaque and tartar build-up is to encourage your pup to chew on specially designed dental treats and toys.





Wellbeing

Exercise

Exercise is very important to keep your pooch fit and happy. A chance to let out all of that puppy energy is not just important for physical health but also important for learning and development. Once your puppy is used to having their collar and lead on, you can start taking them on short adventures around the house and yard. The aim is to keep your puppy's attention on you as much as possible. You can encourage them to do this by rewarding them when they are walking by your side and paying attention to you.

The amount of exercise needed each day varies from dog to dog, so make sure you get some guidance from your vet on how best to exercise your dog. Those dogs that don't need a long walk still need to be mentally stimulated to keep them happy and healthy. For those that just need to get all of that energy out, you can eventually try games such as fetch or even swimming which is also great for keeping dogs fit and strong.

TIP: Training and play

Training and games are a great way to keep your pup engaged.





Socialisation

Just like us, most dogs really love some regular social time. It's a great idea to start socialising your puppy while they're young and doing lots of learning.

The socialisation period of a puppy is between 3 to 12 weeks of age. Proper socialisation during this time can help minimise the risk of your puppy developing behavioural issues later in their life.

It's often best to start with meeting other puppies of a similar age and size. It is important to make the first few experiences positive so that your little friend feels confident and learns the right social behaviour. Puppy pre-school is a great way to do this. Check with your puppy pre-school organiser for vaccination requirements and make sure your puppy is fully vaccinated before going into public areas.

One of the joys of owning a dog is including them in all the things you do, and puppies just love social time with their humans. Get your puppy set up with a car safety harness and start taking them with you on short trips.

TIP: Training and socialisation

Exercise, training and time with other dogs are all important for your puppy to learn the skills and co-ordination that they will need for life.

Grooming

Grooming is not just to keep tangles away, it also stimulates the skin and coat supporting overall skin health, as well as providing some nice one-on-one bonding time with your best pal. By regularly running your hands or a grooming glove over your little pup, you can start to get them used to being handled before you introduce a brush. Choose a brush that's gentle on your pup's skin and coat and easy to hold. Different coat types benefit from different brushes. For example, the slicker brushes are great for most fluffy coats and short coats, whereas the shedding rakes are perfect for heavy shedders and tangled coats. For tough tangles use a detangling spray before brushing the area. Get down to pup's level or pop them up on a table and brush them gently from head to tail and toes.

TIP: Skin health

If your pup has had a little too much fun in the mud, try giving them a lukewarm bath using a puppy shampoo. A puppy conditioner will help to keep their skin and coat hydrated and healthy.



Getting your puppy used to having their feet touched while they are young will make the important task of trimming nails much nicer for you both. It is only the very tip of the nail that needs to be trimmed and if your dog walks on solid surfaces a lot they may not need nail trims at all. If you are unsure about how much of the nail to trim make sure you ask your vet to show how to avoid cutting too much and injuring the nail quick.



Preventing inappropriate chewing and excessive barking

Inappropriate chewing

There are many reasons your pup may chew on inappropriate things. The most common by far is the fact that they are teething. Puppies need to work their gums to help their adult teeth come through and ease teething discomfort. The key is to get them chewing on specially designed durable chew toys rather than your favourite shoes or furniture. Provide them with a variety of chew toys and include their toys in the games you play so that they learn what toys are all about. Make sure you rotate the toys regularly, because just like children, puppies get bored quickly.



TIP: Appropriate chewing

Dog toys are also a great way to keep puppy occupied and develop strength and coordination.



Excessive barking

Just like us, our dogs like to say their piece. However if you think your puppy is vocalising excessively, have a chat with your vet and consider these tips:

- Make sure puppy has had plenty of exercise and mental stimulation and is not simply barking out of boredom.
- Keep pup occupied while you are not there by leaving them with toys and even put the TV or radio on for some background noise.
- If dogs are barking at things passing by or sounds, it may be best to keep them inside where they are less tempted to develop the habit of excessive barking.
- Teach them a word or signal for 'quiet' and reward them for obeying rather than punishing them when they bark. Punishment will only make them feel less secure and may make them bark more.

Preventing separation anxiety

They just love us to bits, but they need to know they are okay on their own too. Separation anxiety in dogs is very common with the busy lifestyles we humans live.

Separation anxiety is a condition that leaves dogs feeling fearful when they are not near their humans. Some of the signs that your pet may be experiencing separation anxiety when you are not there include:

- Excessive vocalisation (barking/howling/whimpering).
- Destructive behaviour such as chewing and digging.
- Inappropriate toileting and refusal to eat and drink.

Of course, chewing and toileting accidents may just be puppies being puppies but if you are concerned that your puppy is showing some of these signs, have a chat with your vet.

TIP: Fill a Yours Droolly Fill Me Dog

with a piece of your clothing as the scent will help comfort them when they are alone.



Luckily there are some things we can do even in young puppies that make them less likely to develop separation anxiety. Giving them their own safe space and rewarding them for calm and independent behaviour is a great start.

Other important things to remember include not making a fuss when you are saying goodbye, and when you get back from being away. It is exciting to see them, but try to contain your excitement until they are calm and okay – this way you say to them “you are okay without me.”

Troubleshooting

Frequently asked questions

Inappropriate chewing

Although there are a range of treats on the market, it is always best to choose the healthy option. Select a treat that lists real meat as the main ingredient and uses human grade, natural ingredients. Treats should make up no more than 15% of your dog's diet, with the other 85% coming from a quality, correctly balanced food.



What diet do you recommend for puppies?

We recommend feeding a complete and balanced food that is designed for growing puppies. A premium puppy food such as the Black Hawk Holistic Puppy Formulas will contain the right levels of energy, protein, calcium, phosphorous, omega fatty acids, vitamins and minerals to help build strong bodies and aid learning.



Is it safe to take my puppy travelling with me?

Start with short car trips to get them used to being on the move and it's important to make the car a positive place to be. The most important part of travelling with your pet is safety, so make sure they are set up with a quality safety harness or a travel crate with some comfy bedding. Don't forget to take plenty of breaks and have some water (and food if needed) packed.

Should I feed my puppy table scraps?

We do not recommend feeding your dog human food. Dogs have different nutritional needs to people and the wrong foods can upset their stomachs and lead to nutritional imbalances. Some human foods such as chocolate, onions, grapes and garlic are dangerous for dogs. Stick to feeding your dog a balanced diet that is specially designed for them.

How should I clean up toileting accidents?

Most puppies have the occasional toileting accident. Start by soaking up urine with paper towel and picking up any faeces with a doggie bag. The job is not done yet, even though you can't see any evidence, your puppy will still be able to smell where they have been and may think that this is a good spot to go again. Spray Yours Droolly® No More Marking and Weeing Inside spray to neutralise the smells in the area, making them less likely to return to the scene of the crime.

How do I change my puppy onto a new food?

When your puppy is ready to be moved onto an adult food, it is important to transition them over gradually as dogs can be sensitive to changes in their diet. Gradually increase the ratio of new food to previous food starting with $\frac{1}{4}$ new food and $\frac{3}{4}$ previous food on the first day, and gradually increase the percentage of new food over 1 week. After the transition week you can stop feeding the previous food all together.





BlackHawk®

Every ingredient matters

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