



# PUPPY PARENTHOOD *Year One*



There are few more memorable experiences than bringing a puppy home for the first time. The first year is a busy time where they'll go through several puppy growth stages, both physically and mentally. **If you're a new dog owner, here are some insights and things to expect as you track your puppy's development.**

## 8 to 16 Weeks

### VACCINATION & TRAINING

Learning basic commands, where to go potty, and how to walk with a leash

Scheduling vaccinations per veterinarian advice

Bonding with their humans

Fully transitioned to eating puppy food

*(which has a specific nutrient profile to support their physical and mental development)*

## 4 to 6 Months

### THE "TWEEN" MONTHS

Growing rapidly

Teething

Learning and testing boundaries

Possibly shedding their puppy coat

Becoming more energetic and playful

*(furthering the importance of consistency with training and discipline)*

## 6 to 12 Months\*

### THE TEENAGE ERA

Learning more and exploring their world

Transitioning to adult dog food at maturity

Reaching their full size

\*Large breeds can take up to 24 months to reach maturity

Finishing growth of adult teeth

*(learn more about the importance of dental care)*



Want to dig deeper about puppy care?  
Learn from our pet experts on our **Pet Expertise page.**



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