

# So you have a new puppy

*It is an exciting time bringing a new puppy into your home.  
It is important to get started on socialising and  
teaching your puppy how to behave*

## ***Where to start?***

Learning about life skills and socialising with other puppies is very important in the early weeks for a puppy. You can do these things in a good puppy school. At the same time, you learn about how you can raise your puppy so that it grows into that great dog you have always wanted.

There are lots of puppy schools around where you can learn about managing such things as toilet training, biting and chewing, barking and whining, and other things you may have thought came solved when you picked up your pup.

Puppy school is for pups aged 8 to 16 weeks and will teach you positive and force-free training methods for your pup.

So your first step is to find a puppy school run by a qualified puppy class trainer.

## ***What makes a good puppy class trainer?***

This is someone who is up to date with the latest scientific methods of training dogs. The person should only use force-free and positive training methods. They should be able to show you that they hold at least a Certificate II or a Certificate IV in dog behaviour services or some other recognised dog related qualification.

The trainer will show you how to teach your puppy some basic behaviours such as sit, drop, stay, and perhaps mat or crate training. They should also let you ask about all those questions you have now that you have a new puppy in your home.

The trainer should make available to you handouts on every topic they teach you in class. The handouts will help refresh your memory when you return home with your puppy.

Your trainer may also talk about nutrition and health care and while these are important, they should not be about product promotion.

## ***How social should the puppy classes be?***

Puppies need to learn to enjoy playing with other dogs but this should be done in a safe environment. Your trainers should carefully supervise playtime and allow a maximum of two or three similar temperament types to play together while ensuring each puppy is having fun and learning; and when to intervene to prevent puppies from being too rough with each other.

## ***Will puppy school teach my puppy how to behave?***

Basic training starts at puppy school. The trainer will not train your puppy for you but instead give you the skills so that you know how to manage all those issues you will have with a new puppy in your home.

Training your puppy does not stop at puppy school. It continues beyond puppy school (through adolescence into adulthood) so that you learn what to do as your puppy matures and travels through different life stages.

## ***What's next after puppy school?***

Consider joining a class for senior puppies followed by an adult pet dog class where you and your pup will learn more advanced skills.

The puppy class trainer should know of trainers and clubs in your area who can help you with this next stage of learning.

You may decide you need not continue past puppy classes. However, while puppy classes give you the skills to cope with a puppy, a good trainer will recommend that you continue with further training so that you can continue your dog's education once out of the puppy stage.

The next stage of training should again be based around positive and force-free methods. The training will help you to build and maintain a strong relationship with your dog. This promotes a dog that is always welcome in your home and in your community.



**More information and resources at [www.apdt.org.au](http://www.apdt.org.au)**