



Letters from Your New Puppy

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Foreword

Pawsitively Happy: Letters from Your New Furry Family Member,

as a puppy, I'm excited to become a part of your family and share many happy moments with you. However, being a responsible puppy owner is a big responsibility that requires dedication and love.

This guide is designed to help you understand how to treat me properly, including feeding, exercise, play, and training. Your commitment to my care and education over the next 15 years will ensure that I grow up healthy, happy, and well-behaved.

To the children reading this guide, I need your kindness and respect as I learn about the world around me. Please play with me gently and give me space when I need to rest. Ask for help from your parents or an adult if you're unsure how to handle me.

To the parents and adults reading this guide, thank you for taking on the responsibility of being my caretaker. Your guidance, love, and patience are essential for my wellbeing. Please involve your children in my care, and always seek professional advice if you're unsure about anything.

With your commitment and care, we can create a loving and safe environment for me to grow up in. I look forward to a long and happy life with you!

Sincerely,
Little Paws

Dear new small and big human friends,

Woof! Woof! My tail is wagging with excitement as I write this letter to you. I'm so happy to become a part of your family. I still can't believe how lucky I am to have found such a wonderful home with loving parents and a new best friend like you.

Your house is so much fun to explore! But, there are also some things that could be dangerous for me, like cords, shoes, your legos and small objects. I might chew on them and swallow them. That's why your parents have been "puppy-proofing" the house - so I can safely explore and play. Please be careful not to leave anything out that I could hurt me, okay?

I'm still a little nervous and unsure of my new home, but I'm slowly getting more comfortable as I explore it. I'm so glad that you're here to show me around and teach me new things. I'm eager to learn all the tricks you have in store for me and make you proud.

I hope we can grow up together and make so many amazing memories. I promise to be there for you whenever you need a furry friend to lean on. Thank you for giving me a chance to be a part of your family. I can't wait to see what adventures await us!

With love and excitement,
Your new furry friend!



True or false?

1. True or False: Puppy-proofing is a process of making a home safe for a new puppy to explore and play in.
2. True or False: Puppy-proofing only involves removing small objects that a puppy could swallow.
3. True or False: Puppy-proofing is not necessary if a puppy is well-behaved.
4. True or False: Puppy-proofing only needs to be done once when the puppy first comes home.
5. True or False: Puppy-proofing is only important for young puppies, not for adult dogs.

1. Answer: True. 2. Answer: False. Puppy-proofing also involves securing cords and wires, removing toxic plants, and covering sharp corners. 3. Answer: False. Even well-behaved puppies can get into mischief and accidentally hurt themselves by chewing on things they shouldn't. 4. Answer: False. Puppy-proofing should be an ongoing process as the puppy grows and gains more access to different parts of the home. 5. Answer: False. While puppy-proofing is particularly important for young puppies who are still learning, adult dogs can still get into trouble and benefit from a safe and secure environment.

Which of the following items are safe for puppies?

Cross out the items that are dangerous for puppies!

You'll find the answers further down in the text.

Fresh fruits and vegetables, Grapes and raisins, Batteries, Onions and garlic, Chewing gum, Lean meats, Xylitol (a sugar substitute), Alcohol, Coffee and tea, Macadamia nuts, Raw bread dough, Cooked bones, Medications, Cleaning products, Insecticides and pesticides, Cooked meat, Fertilizers and mulch, Tobacco and nicotine products, Dog Food, Certain houseplants, Sharp objects, Small toys or objects that can be swallowed, Electrical cords and wires, Plastic bags and wrappers

Dear loving and kind humans,

I'm so happy to be with you! There are a few things I want to tell you so that we can have the best time together. I know that you're still learning, so please take this as a gentle reminder of how to treat me.

Please be gentle when you're playing with me. I may be small and cute, but I'm also fragile, and my bones are still growing. So, when you're playing with me, please avoid roughhousing or grabbing me by my legs or tail. Instead, try playing with soft toys that I can chew on, or throwing a ball for me to fetch.

Please be patient with me as I learn new things. I may not always get things right the first time, but I promise to try my best. Yelling or punishing me when I make a mistake won't help me learn faster. Instead, try to use treats or praise to encourage me to keep trying.

Please, I rely on you to feed me, give me fresh water, and take me for walks. Please make sure that my food and water bowls are always cleaned and that you take me out for regular walks so that I can stretch my legs and do my business outside. I might need some help with grooming. Your parents will teach you how to brush my fur and take care of me.

Lastly, I know that I'm not perfect, neither are you. I promise to give you all the love and affection that I can. I may chew on your shoes or have accidents inside the house, but please remember that I'm still learning and growing. Your parents will be teaching me where it's okay to go potty. With your help, I'll be able to learn quickly! And don't forget to praise me when I go potty in the right spot! I need your patience, kindness, and love to become the best furry friend that I can be.



With love and gratitude,
Your new family addition!

Quiz:

Which of the following are important for a puppy?

A) Running B) Yelling C) Be Gentle D) Punishing

Which of the following should a puppy have access to at all times?

A) Water B) Soda C) Juice D) Dirty water E.) Milk

What is an important activity for a puppy to do outside?

A) Watch TV B) Play video games C) Take a walk D) Sleep

How should a puppy be treated when learning new things?

A) Yelled at B) Punished C) Given treats and praise D) Ignored

What is an important part of a puppy's daily routine?

A) Playing video games B) Watching TV C) Eating healthy food D) Drinking soda

What should a puppy be taught to do outside?

A) Bark at everyone B) Dig holes in the ground C) Go potty in the right spot D) Chase after squirrels

What is an important part of a puppy's new life?

A) Living alone B) Being with a family C) Eating junk food D) Drinking coffee

What should a puppy be given every day?

A) Yelling and punishment B) Treats and praise C) Boredom D) Ignoring

What is an important part of a puppy's happiness?

A) Playing video games B) Watching TV C) Getting affection from family D) Being alone

To my wonderful new family,

While I love playing with you and being around you, I need you to understand that I'm not a toy, but a living, breathing being that requires love, care, and attention.

I know that I'm new and exciting right now, but as time passes, I don't want to become just another object in your toy collection. I'm not something that you can play with when you're bored and then ignore when you're not interested anymore. I need your love and attention every day, not just when I'm new.

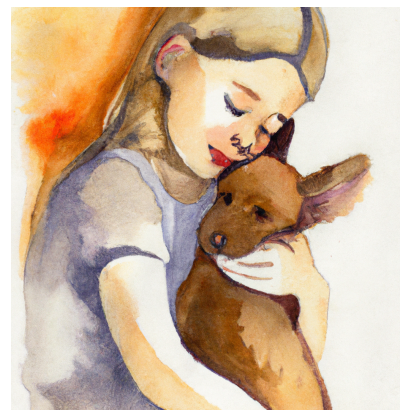
Please don't forget about me or neglect me once the novelty of having a puppy wears off. I need you to take care of me, feed me, walk me, and give me the love and attention that I deserve. Please don't leave me alone for too long, as I'll get lonely and bored without you. Remember that I'm not just a cute face but a living creature that deserves your respect and care.

I promise to love you and be your faithful companion for as long as I live. I'll be there for you when you're feeling sad, and I'll always be happy to see you when you come home. Please, in return, give me the care and attention that I need to thrive and be happy.

Thank you for listening to me. I'm excited to continue our journey together and create many happy memories.

Pawsitively delighted to be part of your family!

Woof woof and lots of love,
your new furry friend!



What does your new puppy need every day?

1. Is your new puppy a toy or a living creature?
2. Why does your new puppy need love and attention every day?
3. What should you do if you can't spend time with your puppy?
4. Is it okay to neglect your puppy once the novelty wears off?
5. What are some things you should do to take care of your puppy?
6. What can happen if you leave your puppy alone for too long?
7. What does your puppy promise to do for you?
8. What should you do to make your puppy happy and healthy?
9. How does your puppy feel about being part of your family?

Greetings to my caring new humans,

I'm writing to talk to you about an essential topic that is very important for my health and wellbeing - food. As you know, I'm still growing and need the right nutrients to become a healthy and happy dog.

It's important to feed me the right amount of food at the right time and in the right place. Please make sure to provide me with a balanced diet that includes all the nutrients I need. Please talk to our veterinarian to know what food is good for me, how much I should eat, and when. This may depend on my breed, age, and weight.

When you're feeding me, make sure to do it in a quiet and calm place, away from other pets or distractions. This will help me focus on eating and prevent me from getting over-excited or agitated. Also, it's essential to keep my food and water bowls clean to prevent me from getting sick.

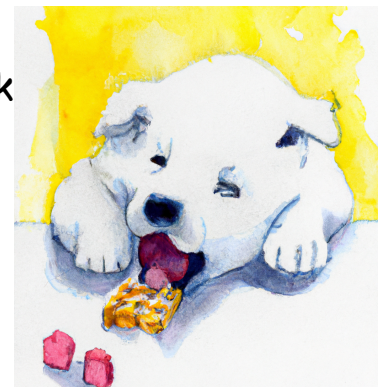
Please don't feed me table scraps or human food, even if I look at you with my puppy eyes. This could make me sick.

Lastly, I need to eat regularly throughout the day to keep my energy levels up and not get too hungry or too full. Ask our veterinarian how often and when I should eat.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope that you will remember to take care of me and feed me the right way so that I can grow up strong and healthy.

Snuggles and licks to the best human ever! Thank you for choosing me and giving me a forever home.

Your new family addition!



Would you have guessed that there are things you can eat but which are poison for me and can kill me?

Safe items include:

fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, peanut butter (without xylitol), some grains (e.g. brown rice, quinoa), some dairy products (e.g. plain yogurt, cottage cheese), carrots, blueberries, bananas, salmon, tuna, sweet potatoes, brown rice, quinoa, eggs, cheese, oatmeal, peanuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, and walnuts. On the other hand, grains like wheat or corn, chicken broth, canned pumpkin, and apple slices are also safe options for puppies and dogs.

Dangerous items: (and dangerous is dangerous!)

Grapes and raisins, onions and garlic, xylitol (a sugar substitute f.e. in chewing gum), alcohol, coffee and tea, macadamia nuts, raw bread dough, cooked bones, medications, cleaning products, insecticides and pesticides, fertilizers and mulch, tobacco and nicotine products, certain houseplants, sharp objects, small toys or objects that can be swallowed, electrical cords and wires, plastic bags and wrappers, and chocolate.

Remember, it's always best to check with your veterinarian before giving your puppy or dog any new foods or items!

And dogs can be allergic to safe food as well as humans can!

My dear and devoted family,

I want to talk to you about how to be a good puppy. As a puppy, I still have a lot to learn about how to be a well-behaved and happy dog, and I need your help to teach me.

Dogs like me have certain natural instincts, such as digging, chewing, barking, and jumping. While some of these behaviors may be cute or funny when I'm a puppy, they may become a problem when I'm older and bigger. That's why it's important to teach me the right way to behave from a young age.

When I do something that you don't like, like chewing on your shoes or jumping on the furniture, please don't yell or hit me. Instead, show me what I should do instead, like giving me a chew toy or teaching me to sit or lie down. That way, I'll learn what you want from me and make you happy. This will help me understand what you want from me.

I also need to learn how to behave around other dogs and people when I am young. That's why it's important to take me to the dog park, invite your friends over, and introduce me to new experiences. That way, I can learn how to behave in different situations.

Finally, please be patient with me. Learning how to behave as a dog takes time and effort, and I'm still young. But with your love, guidance, and patience, I'm sure that I can become the best dog that I can be.

I hope that you will help me learn how to behave appropriately so that we can have many happy years together. I want us to become a real good team. Yippee, I finally have a loving home and an awesome human to call my own!

Tail wags and puppy kisses,
your new faithful companion.



Which belongs to which? What do I do if...?

My puppy does...	Oh no...	Try this:
Chewing	If a puppy is not gradually acclimated to being alone, they may develop separation anxiety, which can cause them to exhibit destructive or anxious behavior when left alone as an adult dog.	Teach your dog to stay in a designated spot during mealtimes and reinforce this behavior consistently. Don't give in to begging, as this will only reinforce the behavior.
Biting	Puppies may beg for food or attention, but if they are constantly rewarded for this behavior, it can become a habit that is difficult to break as they grow up.	Teach your dog to sit or stay when people approach them. Reward them when they stay calm. You can also try turning your back on them or crossing your arms when they jump to show that it's not an acceptable behavior.
Jumping	Puppies also tend to explore the world with their mouths, which can lead to playful nipping or biting. However, if they are not taught that biting is not acceptable behavior, they may continue to bite as they grow up, which could be dangerous.	Provide your dog with appropriate chew toys and make sure to supervise them to redirect them from inappropriate objects. You can also try using a bitter apple spray on items you don't want your dog to chew.

Begging	<p>Puppies often jump up on people as a way of greeting or getting attention.</p> <p>While this behavior may seem harmless when the puppy is small, it can become a problem as they grow up and become larger and stronger.</p>	<p>Gradually teach your dog to be alone by leaving them for short periods and gradually increasing the time. Provide them with a comfortable space to relax in and give them a special treat or toy when you leave so they associate your departure with something positive.</p>
Separation anxietyx	<p>Puppies have a natural tendency to chew on things as they explore the world around them.</p> <p>However, if they are not taught what they can and cannot chew on, they may continue to chew on inappropriate objects such as furniture, shoes, or electrical cords when they grow up.</p>	<p>Teach your dog bite inhibition by making a high-pitched yelp or saying "ouch" when they bite too hard. Redirect their attention to a chew toy instead of your body. Consistently reinforcing good behavior and discouraging bad behavior can help.</p>

Hello to my new human friends,

Today I'm writing to you to talk about being a good dog. To stay healthy, I need plenty of exercise every day. This means you should take me for walks, play fetch with me, and let me run around in the backyard. This will help me stay fit (and you, too!) and avoid getting bored or restless.

As a dog, it's important for me to be a good member of our family. This means that I should be obedient, friendly, and loving towards everyone in our household. I promise to do my best to make you and the rest of our family happy, and I hope that you will help me learn how to be a good dog. If you don't understand why I behave in a certain way, ask an expert.

Additionally, it's important for me to visit the vet regularly for checkups and vaccinations. This will help prevent illnesses and ensure that I'm healthy and happy. Please make sure to keep my vaccinations and parasite treatments up to date, and to ask our veterinarian for advice if you notice any changes in my behavior or health.

As a dog, there are certain places that I should know and visit. These include the dog park, where I can play and make new dog friends, and other dog-friendly places like the beach or hiking trails. So, please take me to these places and let me explore and have fun. If you think I'm ready for it, you can also take me to restaurants, the city, or even a hotel! These visits will help me grow and become a confident dog.

I hope that you will help me be a good dog and stay healthy so that we can have many happy years together.

With love,
Your new family addition!



For the parent...	Effects of having a dog	Is this important for me?
Exercise	Dogs need exercise, which can encourage owners to be more active and improve physical health.	yes / no
Companionship	Dogs provide emotional support and can help reduce feelings of loneliness or depression.	yes / no
Stress relief	Interacting with dogs has been shown to lower levels of cortisol, a hormone associated with stress.	yes / no
Socialization	Walking a dog can lead to more social interactions and can help children and adults improve their social skills.	yes / no
Immune system	Exposure to dogs has been linked to a stronger immune system and lower rates of allergies and asthma.	yes / no
Heart health	Studies have found that dog owners have a lower risk of heart disease and lower blood pressure than non-dog owners.	yes / no
Responsibility	Caring for a dog can teach children and adults responsibility and accountability.	yes / no
Mental stimulation	Playing with a dog can provide mental stimulation and help improve cognitive function.	yes / no
Mood improvement	Being around dogs has been shown to increase levels of dopamine and serotonin, chemicals associated with happiness and well-being.	yes / no
Increased outdoor time	Owning a dog can encourage more time spent outside, which can have numerous physical and mental health benefits.	yes / no

For the child		
I get...	Is this ok?	I loose...
Companionship and friendship	yes/no	Time
Someone to play with and have fun with	yes/no	Flexibility
A furry buddy to cuddle and love	yes/no	Money
A sense of responsibility and purpose	yes/no	Cleanliness
A playmate to keep them active and engaged	yes/no	Privacy
A loyal protector and guardian	yes/no	Spontaneity

To my new pack leaders,

I'm writing to you today to tell you about some important things to keep in mind when we go for a walk or visit the dog park.

I would like to let you know about a special kind of school for dogs called obedience training. This is where dogs like me learn how to be well-behaved, follow commands, and interact with humans and other dogs appropriately. It's essential for my safety and your convenience, and I'm sure we'll both enjoy the classes together.

When we're out for a walk, there are some things that you should be aware of to ensure my safety. For example, always keep me on a leash, so I don't run away or get hurt by a car. Watch out for anything that might be dangerous, like broken glass, sharp rocks, or wild animals. Also, please make sure that I wear a good safety harness, as this will help protect me if we suddenly stop or get into an accident.

When we go to the dog park or encounter other dogs, it's essential to be mindful of my behavior and the other dogs' behavior. When we're at the dog park, I may meet some new friends. Still, it's important to remember not to jump on other dogs or chase them too much. Not all dogs are friendly, and some may be aggressive towards me or you. Please keep me close to you and observe the other dogs' behavior before letting me play with them and make sure that I don't get into any dangerous situations.

Playing with other dogs is great fun, but it's essential to be respectful and well-behaved., as this can cause them to become upset or defensive.

Hugs and licks from your adorable new pup.
Your new family addition!



Dear compassionate caretakers,

Today, I want to talk to you about traveling with me. Traveling can be a lot of fun, but it's important to make sure that I'm safe, comfortable, and happy throughout the journey. Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

Make sure that I have identification. This means that I should wear a collar with an ID tag that has your name and phone number on it. You should also bring a recent photo of me, just in case I get lost.

Bring all of the essentials. This includes food, water, treats, poop bags, a leash, and any medications that I need. It's also a good idea to bring my favorite toys or blankets to help me feel more at home.

Make sure that I'm comfortable. If we're traveling by car, please make sure that I have a comfortable and secure spot to ride in. You can use a crate or a special harness to keep me safe. If we're traveling by plane or train, please make sure that I have a comfortable carrier that meets the airline or train's requirements.

Plan ahead. Make sure that you know where the nearest veterinary clinic is in case of an emergency. Also, check with the hotel or accommodation you plan to stay in to see if they are pet-friendly and have any specific requirements.

Now, let's talk about some of the fun things we can do while traveling! For example, we can go hiking, visit the beach, or explore a new city together. It's important to make sure that we're following local laws and regulations when we're out and about, and that we're being respectful of other people and their pets.

Puppy' kisses,
Your new family addition!



Epilogue

give Me a Chance - Why Adopting an Older Dog is Worthwhile

As you come to the end of this little book, I hope you've learned a lot about how to care for a new furry friend. I want to share with you the benefits and considerations of adopting an older dog like me.

Many people think that puppies are the only dogs that make great pets. But the truth is, older dogs have a lot to offer too. I know that I may not be a perfect fit for every family, but I promise to give you all the love and loyalty that I have.

Pros:

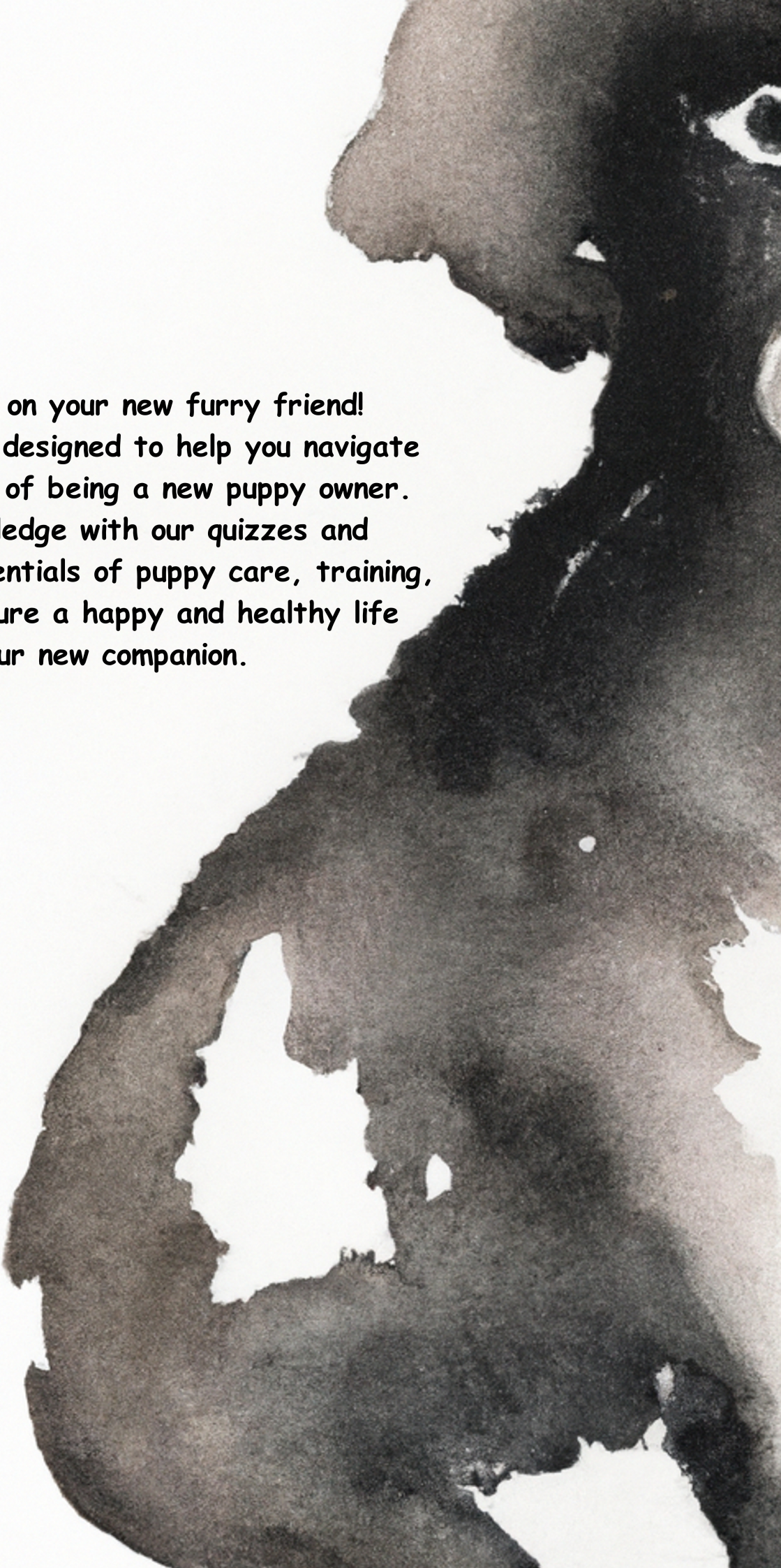
- We're often already trained and socialized, so you don't have to go through the early stages of training that puppies need.
- We're usually more relaxed and less energetic than puppies, so we're perfect for families with young children or seniors.
- We have a lot of love to give, and we're just waiting for the chance to show you.

Cons:

- We may have some health issues that need extra attention and care, but with love and patience, we can live happy and healthy lives.
- We may not have as many years left compared to a puppy, but the time we do have will be filled with love and companionship.
- We may have some behavioral issues, but with the right training and guidance, we can learn to be great pets.

I may not be a cute and cuddly puppy anymore, but I promise that I'll love you just as much as any puppy would. I'm hoping that you'll give me a chance to be your loyal companion and best friend for the rest of my life.

Sincerely,
One of the Forgotten Paws



Congratulations on your new furry friend!
This short guide is designed to help you navigate
the ups and downs of being a new puppy owner.

Test your knowledge with our quizzes and
learn about the essentials of puppy care, training,
and health to ensure a happy and healthy life
for your new companion.