Your new puppy: first 30 days

Tick things off as you go, and keep your key dates at the bottom.

BEFORE THEY COME HOME

- [ ] Find a local vet and ask who covers out of hours
- [ ] Compare and arrange pet insurance
- [ ] Buy bed, bowls, puppy food, collar and ID tag, lead, harness, car restraint, toys, pads, poo bags
- [ ] Puppy-proof the house: cables, cleaning products, plants
- [ ] Check the garden for gaps and poisonous plants
- [ ] Set up a quiet place to rest
- [ ] Agree house rules and who does what

ASK THE BREEDER OR CENTRE

- [ ] What food, how much and when?
- [ ] What are their sleep and toilet routines?
- [ ] Dates and products for jabs, worming and fleas
- [ ] See the microchip certificate
- [ ] Take a blanket with a familiar smell

DAY ONE AND FIRST NIGHT

- [ ] Collect at least an hour after their last meal
- [ ] Use a crate or harness for the journey
- [ ] Go straight to the toilet area when you get home
- [ ] Show them their bed and bowls
- [ ] Keep things calm with no visitors for a few days
- [ ] Sleep in the same room for the first few nights
- [ ] Comfort them if they cry
- [ ] Expect night-time toilet trips

FIRST 30 DAYS

- [ ] Update the microchip to your name and address
- [ ] Register with your vet and book a check-up
- [ ] Book any remaining vaccinations
- [ ] Plan worming and flea treatments
- [ ] Keep to the same food, and change it slowly
- [ ] Weigh your puppy regularly
- [ ] Start gentle socialisation, carrying them when out
- [ ] No walks until your vet says it's safe

DATES AND DETAILS TO KEEP

Vet _____ Out-of-hours number _____

Microchip number _____ Insurance policy _____

Next vaccination _____ Next worming _____

Next flea treatment _____ Weight and date _____

The law: dogs must be microchipped and registered by 8 weeks old, and must wear a collar and tag with your name and address in public. **Poison worry?** Contact your vet straight away.

General guidance based on advice from PDSA, Dogs Trust, Blue Cross, Cats Protection, the RSPCA and GOV.UK, checked November 2026. Always follow your own vet's advice and dates. TailLog is a service of Big Bulldog UK Ltd.

Your new kitten: first 30 days

Tick things off as you go, and keep your key dates at the bottom.

BEFORE THEY COME HOME

- [ ] Check they're at least eight weeks old
- [ ] Choose a local vet and ask who covers out of hours
- [ ] Compare and arrange pet insurance
- [ ] Buy carrier, separate bowls, kitten food, low-sided tray, litter, scoop, bed, tall scratching post, toys, brush
- [ ] Keep all lilies out of the house
- [ ] Put away medicines, cleaning products, small items

ASK THE BREEDER OR CENTRE

- [ ] Which food and litter do they use?
- [ ] Dates and products for jabs, worming and fleas
- [ ] Microchip details, if already chipped
- [ ] Take a blanket with a familiar smell

FIRST FEW DAYS

- [ ] Start in one quiet room
- [ ] Block small gaps, and tidy wires
- [ ] Keep the tray away from food and water
- [ ] Give them a high, safe place to sit
- [ ] Let them come out of hiding on their own
- [ ] Feed four to five times a day
- [ ] Keep to the same food, and change it slowly
- [ ] Scoop the tray daily
- [ ] Introduce pets and children slowly

FIRST 30 DAYS

- [ ] Vet check-up a few days after arriving, with records
- [ ] Book vaccinations and the second jab
- [ ] Plan worming and flea treatments
- [ ] Microchip and register, or update to your details
- [ ] Ask your vet about neutering at around 4 months
- [ ] Keep them indoors until your vet says it's safe
- [ ] Play often, and let them rest when tired

DATES AND DETAILS TO KEEP

Vet _____ Out-of-hours number _____

Microchip number _____ Insurance policy _____

Next vaccination _____ Next worming _____

Next flea treatment _____ Neutering date _____

The law: cats in England must be microchipped and registered by 20 weeks old. It's optional in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, but recommended. **Lily or poison worry?** Contact your vet straight away.

General guidance based on advice from PDSA, Dogs Trust, Blue Cross, Cats Protection, the RSPCA and GOV.UK, checked November 2026. Always follow your own vet's advice and dates. TailLog is a service of Big Bulldog UK Ltd.