

Ideal Puppy Timeline

Following the timeline below will maximize your likelihood of raising a confident, well-trained and enjoyable lifelong canine companion.

Age	Steps to take
6 weeks old	First puppy vaccine
6-9 weeks old	Best age to leave mom and littermates is 8 weeks of age. Begin housetraining Begin and complete collar and leash training Begin and complete crate training Begin basic obedience and good manner training Take for daily very short car rides Handle the puppy's paws, nails and ears daily
9 weeks old	Second puppy vaccines
9-12 weeks old	Finish housetraining Begin daily leash walks (off property). Avoid dog parks, ditches, pet stores. Continue basic obedience and manner training Continue daily short car rides Continue to handle ears daily. Start nail trims: 1 paw per day, repeat every 2-3 weeks OK to visit and play with other fully vaccinated dogs
12 weeks old	3 rd puppy vaccines If your puppy is anxious at this age, wearing an Adaptil collar can help decrease anxiety and increase trainability
12-15 weeks old	Housetraining should be complete Start puppy classes Continue daily leash walks and car rides. Take puppy to places with traffic, children, noise, 'chaos'. Continue getting puppy accustomed to ear handling and nail trims
15 weeks old	4 th puppy vaccines
15-18 weeks old	Graduate from puppy class to obedience class Continue daily leash walks. Continue to visit new places Puppy weight at 16 weeks is approximately one-half of adult weight
18 weeks old	Final puppy vaccines It is now safe to take puppy to all locations

By 18 weeks of age, the 'window' for a puppy to easily incorporate new people, places and experiences into his/her life is closing. Any anxiety or fears still present will need to be managed lifelong.