

# EARLY DAYS

## First Nights with Your Puppy

First nights can be quite unsettling for a young pup. They may cry and whimper, which is completely normal. This usually settles after a few nights as they get accustomed to your routine. Ensure your puppy feels safe in their bed. You could also consider using a raised bed where your pup can see you. This allows you to give reassurance without getting out of bed. A useful trick is to place the crate beside your bed and dangle your fingers in if they cry. Often, this is enough to soothe them. If the crying occurs overnight, it could be because the puppy needs to use the bathroom. Please expect an adjustment period for your new puppy. We highly recommend crate training, with more information provided further along in this guide.

## Arrival and Settling In

Your puppy will come to you at about 8-9 weeks old, having spent their entire life surrounded by their siblings and mother. Naturally, when they are removed from familiar surroundings, often transported for quite some time, and placed in a completely new space with different humans, they may act uncharacteristically confused. This is completely normal. Some pups will want to be nursed and cuddled, while others may choose to retreat to a crate. It's important to respect the pup and understand that they will eventually come around to you—they're probably just very overwhelmed by the situation.

## Creating a Comfortable Space

Once you arrive home, we recommend having a prepared area for the puppy where they can rest and settle after the day's events. Some breeders will send puppies home with teddies or blankets from the puppy pen; while they may not smell very inviting to us humans, they will offer your puppy some comfort as they adjust to their new home.

## Hydration and Comfort

Hydration is key. If you are travelling to collect your puppy, please bring some water. While puppies may not choose to eat, it is imperative that they have access to fresh water. Comforting your pup overnight is completely fine. Ignoring your puppy's need for attention may frighten them and make bedtime a negative experience. Sometimes, a quick cuddle or a few soothing words work wonders. Puppies have little bladders and cannot give much warning when they need the toilet. If your puppy wakes up overnight and won't settle, try placing them in their designated toilet zone and use a cue word to prompt them to go.

## TOP TIPS

Give your puppy a quiet area to rest in Try to minimise playful activity on the first day Allow your puppy to build trust in you by respecting their personal space and minimising disruptions