

# FIRST YEAR HEALTH & TRAINING TIMELINE

Beagle & Corgi · 8 Weeks to 12 Months · Pember Diamonds Knowledge Network

TRACK <i>Six tracks across the year</i>	8 WEEKS <i>Arrival</i>	9–10 WEEKS <i>1st Vet Appt</i>	11–12 WEEKS <i>Boosters</i>	14–16 WEEKS <i>Final Primary</i>	4 MONTHS <i>Teething</i>	5–6 MONTHS <i>Adolescence</i>	6 MONTHS <i>Mid-Year Check</i>	7–9 MONTHS <i>Deep Adolescence</i>	10–11 MONTHS <i>Settling</i>	12 MONTHS <i>First Birthday</i>
<b>HEALTH MILESTONES</b>	New-puppy vet check within 72 hrs. Heart, eyes, ears, bite, skin, lymph nodes checked. Confirm microchip.	Full physical exam. Carry puppy — do not place on clinic floor. Check bite & retained teeth.	Check teeth & gum health. Confirm all limbs & joints tracking normally.	Titre test optional — confirm seroconversion after final booster.	Teething begins. Check for retained deciduous teeth — especially canines. Review body weight.	Discuss spay/neuter timing with vet. Watch for first season in females (6–12 months).	Full mid-year health check. Weight & body condition score. Hip & joint observation.	Reassess tick/flea product dosing as weight increases. Intact males: social behaviour may shift.	Physical growth largely complete. Muscle tone & maturity continue into year 2. Plan microchip if not done.	Full annual exam: weight, teeth, ears, eyes, heart, abdomen, skin, joints. Transition to adult food. Begin toothbrushing routine.
<b>VACCINES &amp; PARASITE PREVENTION</b>	Confirm DHPPi 1st dose from breeder (6 wks). Begin tick/flea prevention. Confirm deworming record & continue.	DHPPi 2nd dose. Lepto 1st dose. Deworm (every 2 weeks until 12 wks).	DHPPi 3rd dose. Lepto 2nd dose. Rabies (from 12 wks — legally required in SA). Kennel cough if attending classes.	DHPPi FINAL booster. Most critical dose — lands after maternal antibodies clear. Optional titre test 2–3 wks later.	No new vaccines typically due. Review tick/flea product & dose. Deworm monthly.	No vaccines due. Discuss heartworm prevention if in coastal/humid region. Deworm monthly.	No vaccines due. Switch deworming to quarterly from 6 months. Review all preventatives.	No vaccines due. Confirm kennel cough current if boarding. Deworm quarterly.	No vaccines due. Plan ahead for 12-month booster appointment.	Annual booster: DHPPi + Lepto + Rabies. Deworm quarterly. Full preventative review.
<b>TRAINING FOCUS</b>	Name recognition. Crate introduction — positive only. Toilet routine established. Handling: touch paws, ears, mouth daily.	Sit. Watch me / eye contact. Carry to new environments for socialisation. Book puppy class.	Down. Stay (1–2 seconds). Loose-lead introduction. Puppy class begins.	Stay duration building. Leave it. Recall in low-distraction environment. Name of one toy.	Recall proofing — slightly higher distraction. Drop it. Settle on mat cue.	Expect regression — keep sessions short (5 min), high reward rate. Maintain all prior cues. Do not stop training.	Begin real-world proofing: heel work in new locations. Stay with mild distraction. Recall with one distraction.	Continue short, positive sessions. Manage environment — prevent rehearsal of unwanted behaviour. Recall in enclosed outdoor space.	Longer stay & settle durations. Recall reliability improving. Begin loose-lead in moderate distraction.	Consolidation: review all cues reliably. Introduce one new skill. Reward generously — the hard year is done.
<b>BEHAVIOUR &amp; DEVELOPMENT</b>	Socialisation window OPEN (3–12 wks). Brain forming emotional templates. Peak vulnerability & peak learning overlap.	Fear responses beginning to emerge — bold puppy may seem cautious. Sleep 16–18 hrs/day normal. Keep all intros gentle.	Brief fear imprint period possible (~8–10 wks). Confident phase follows — use it. Teething behaviour starts.	Socialisation window CLOSING at ~12–14 wks. Foundation of 'normal & safe' largely set. Personality clarifying.	Chewing intensifies — teething. Provide appropriate outlets. Food-guarding prevention: hand-feed occasionally.	ADOLESCENCE BEGINS. Impulse control drops. Distraction tolerance drops. This is neurological — it will pass.	Social behaviour developing. Curiosity about other dogs increasing. First season possible in females.	Peak adolescence. Dog physically strong, neurologically still immature. Most surrenders happen now — stay the course.	Edge beginning to come off. Concentration improving. Personality settling into adult character.	Young adult. Mental maturity continues into year 2. Bonding & trust well established if foundation was consistent.
<b>CORGI WATCHPOINTS</b>	Keep off furniture & stairs — joint caution under 12 weeks. MDR1 sensitivity: note for vet.	No floor contact at vet clinic — carry. MDR1: flag if unexpected medication reaction.	Herding instincts emerging — circling & heel nipping normal. Redirect immediately, do not punish.	Nipping may increase — be consistent. Start puppy class if not already.	Watch for retained baby teeth, especially canines. Back health: no jumping from heights.	Adolescent reactivity & barking may increase sharply. Address early — waiting makes it harder.	Monitor gait & hindquarters. Any stiffness = mention to vet. IVDD can present at any age.	Barking & reactivity peak. Training consistency critical. Enrich mentally — bored Corgis are loud Corgis.	Herding instincts stabilising. Recall improving. Coat blowing (shedding) likely — brush weekly minimum.	Confirm no spinal issues at annual check. IVDD watch continues for life. Adult coat fully established.
<b>BEAGLE WATCHPOINTS</b>	Secure garden before arrival — nose-height gaps. Confirm breeder health tests: MLS, Beagle Pain Syndrome, Factor VII. Bin security essential.	Scent drive already present. Begin name recall indoors now. Carry at vet clinic.	Nose-down behaviour intensifying. Recall training urgent — build habit before distraction wins. Kennel cough before class.	Recall must be trained in very low-distraction settings first. Long-line essential for outdoor exercise.	Food motivation extreme — portion carefully. Counter-surfing instincts developing. Do not leave food accessible.	Scent distraction at peak. Recall regression likely — do not punish. Long-line remains the safe outdoor tool.	Weight check important — Beagles gain easily. Confirm feeding amount is still appropriate for current weight.	Off-lead in open unsecured areas remains high risk. Long-line for decompression walks. Recall in enclosed spaces only.	Recall reliability slowly improving. Enclosed off-lead exercise now safer if recall is solid indoors.	Long-line habit should continue in open spaces unless recall is 95%+ reliable. Foreign body ingestion risk lifelong.

COLOUR KEY: ■ Health ■ Vaccines & Parasites ■ Training Focus ■ Behaviour & Development ■ Corgi Watchpoints ■ Beagle Watchpoints

# FIRST YEAR: QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE - *A companion to the timeline — key schedules, emergency signs, and breed notes at a glance.*

## VACCINE & DEWORMING SCHEDULE

Age	Vaccines Due	Deworming	Notes
6 weeks (breeder)	DHPPi — 1st dose	Every 2 weeks	Breeder administers
8–9 weeks	DHPPi 2nd dose · Lepto 1st dose	Every 2 weeks	1st vet appointment
10–11 weeks	DHPPi 3rd dose · Lepto 2nd dose	Every 2 weeks	Kennel cough if classes planned
12 weeks	Rabies · Kennel cough	Monthly from 12 wks	Rabies legally required in SA
14–16 weeks	DHPPi — FINAL primary booster	Monthly	Most critical dose — titre test optional
6 months	Health check only	Switch to quarterly	Discuss spay/neuter timing
12 months	DHPPi + Lepto + Rabies	Quarterly	First annual booster

### WHEN TO CALL THE VET

#### CALL IMMEDIATELY:

- ▶ Pale, white, or blue-tinged gums
- ▶ Collapse or seizure
- ▶ Bloated or hard abdomen
- ▶ Difficulty breathing
- ▶ No urination for 8+ hours

#### CALL WITHIN 24 HOURS:

- ▶ Vomiting more than twice, or with blood
- ▶ Diarrhoea with blood or lasting 24+ hours
- ▶ Lethargy unexplained by exercise
- ▶ Refusal to eat for 24+ hours
- ▶ Suspected ingestion of toxin or foreign object

#### BREED ALERTS:

**Corgi:** Hind limb weakness, dragging, crying when lifted, reluctance to jump = call immediately (IVDD).

**Beagle:** Ate something unusual? Watch for vomiting, bloating, or appetite loss. Call if any appear.

### SOCIALISATION & ADOLESCENCE

#### THE SOCIALISATION WINDOW

- Open from ~3 weeks — closes at ~12–14 weeks
- Expose positively: people, sounds, surfaces, animals, environments
- Puppy classes safe from 7 days after first vaccine
- Carry at vet clinic — do not place on floor until fully vaccinated
- Second fear phase at ~8–10 months — keep new experiences gentle

#### SURVIVING ADOLESCENCE (5–10 MONTHS)

- Regression is neurological — not disobedience
- Keep sessions short: 5–10 minutes, high reward rate
- Manage the environment — prevent rehearsal of bad habits
- Do not stop training — consistency now shortens the phase
- Most surrenders happen here — it ends

#### SPAY / NEUTER TIMING

Discuss with your vet at the 5–6 month appointment. Current evidence favours waiting: after first heat for females, 9–18 months for males. Risk profile is lower in Beagles and Corgis than in large breeds, but the conversation is still worth having.

*This timeline is produced by the Pember Diamonds Knowledge Network — Pember Diamonds (Corgis), Tanydd Corgi Crew (Corgis), and Tamboeckey Beagles. It is intended as educational support and does not replace individualised veterinary advice. · [pemberdiamonds.co.za](http://pemberdiamonds.co.za) · [corgicrew.co.za](http://corgicrew.co.za) · [beaglepuppies.co.za](http://beaglepuppies.co.za)*