

# NEW PUPPY Q&A

## Quick Reference Card · Beagle & Corgi · The 10 questions every new owner asks in the first week

These are the questions we hear most often from new puppy families in the first seven days. Read through before your puppy arrives if you can — forewarned is forearmed. Breed-specific notes are highlighted in gold where Beagles and Corgis differ meaningfully.

<p><b>My puppy keeps biting everything — including me. Is this normal?</b></p> <p>Yes, entirely. Mouthing and biting is how puppies explore and play — it is not aggression. The goal is to redirect, not suppress. When the puppy bites skin or clothing, stop play immediately, turn away, and wait a few seconds before re-engaging. Offer a toy as an alternative. Consistency is everything — every person in the household must respond the same way. Biting typically peaks around 12–16 weeks and eases as teething settles and impulse control develops.</p>	<p><b>When should I wake my puppy for toilet trips — or should I let them sleep?</b></p> <p>During the day, let sleeping puppies sleep — waking them to toilet is counterproductive and disrupts the sleep they need for development. Instead, be ready to take them out immediately when they wake naturally. At night, if your puppy is under 12 weeks, set an alarm for every 3–4 hours for the first week or two, gradually extending as bladder control improves. By 12–16 weeks most puppies can last through a 6–7 hour night if they are taken out just before bed.</p>
<p><b>What does normal puppy poo look like — and when should I worry?</b></p> <p>Normal puppy stool is firm, brown, and formed — somewhere between a sausage and a soft log. It should not be liquid, mucousy, or contain blood. A slightly softer stool on the day of arrival is normal (stress). Continued soft stools after 48 hours, any blood (bright red or dark and tarry), obvious worms, or white rice-like segments all warrant a vet call. Black, tarry stool in particular can indicate upper GI bleeding — treat as urgent. Bring a fresh sample to the first vet visit.</p>	<p><b>My puppy isn't eating much. How worried should I be?</b></p> <p>A slight reduction in appetite on arrival day is normal — the stress of a new environment affects almost all puppies. Continue offering the same food the breeder was using, at the same times, and most puppies settle within 24–48 hours. If your puppy is not eating at all after 48 hours, or if reduced appetite is accompanied by lethargy, vomiting, or loose stools, contact your vet. Do not switch foods in the first week — any food transition should be gradual and come after the puppy has settled.</p> <p><i>Beagle note: if a Beagle is not eating, take it seriously — a food-motivated dog refusing meals is a meaningful signal.</i></p>
<p><b>When can I start taking my puppy for walks?</b></p> <p>Not on public ground until one week after the final primary vaccine (typically 15–17 weeks). Before that, carry your puppy to expose them to sights, sounds, and people — the socialisation window is open and exposure still counts even without floor contact. In your own garden, on your own lawn, short toilet trips are fine from day one. When you do start lead walks, keep them short: 5 minutes per month of age, up to twice a day. A 12-week puppy needs 10–12 minutes, not an hour.</p> <p><i>Corgi note: avoid sustained running or jumping on hard surfaces until 12 months — the spine is still developing.</i></p>	<p><b>Should I let my puppy sleep in my bed?</b></p> <p>This is a household decision, but make it consciously rather than by default. The puppy that sleeps in the bed at 8 weeks will expect to sleep there at 8 months — when they are much larger, much more mobile, and potentially disrupting your sleep significantly. If you want the dog in your room long-term, a crate or dog bed beside your bed is a workable compromise — close enough to be reassuring, with boundaries intact. Whatever you decide, be consistent from night one.</p>
<p><b>My puppy cries in the crate all night. What do I do?</b></p> <p>Some crying on the first few nights is normal — your puppy has left their mother and littermates and the crate is unfamiliar. Place the crate in your bedroom for the first week so the puppy can hear you breathing. Put an item of your worn clothing inside. A warm (not hot) water bottle wrapped in a towel can mimic littermate warmth. Do not open the crate in response to crying — wait for a pause, however brief, before any interaction. Crying that is persistent and distressed beyond the first week warrants a review of the crate introduction process.</p> <p><i>Beagle note: Beagles are pack animals and find isolation particularly hard. A gradual crate introduction with meals inside is worth doing before the first night.</i></p>	<p><b>How much sleep does my puppy actually need?</b></p> <p>Far more than most owners expect — 16 to 18 hours per day for puppies under 12 weeks, reducing to 14–16 hours through the first year. An overtired puppy is an overstimulated puppy: bitier, more reactive, harder to settle, and more prone to accidents. If your puppy is manic in the evening, the cause is usually too little sleep during the day rather than too much energy. Enforce naps by putting the puppy in the crate — do not wait for them to self-settle, because most puppies won't.</p>

**When should I start lead training?**

You can introduce the collar and lead indoors from the first week — short sessions, positive associations, no pressure. Let the puppy drag the lead around supervised before you hold the other end. Formal heel work on public pavements waits until after full vaccination, but the habit of having something around their neck and a lead attached can be built safely at home from week one. A puppy that has never worn a collar before their first outdoor walk will find the experience much more stressful.

*Beagle note: introduce a harness alongside a collar — Beagles are powerful pullers and a harness distributes pressure more safely on a lead.*

**My puppy is zooming around like mad and then crashes. Is this normal?**

Yes — this is the FRAP (Frenetic Random Activity Period), known colloquially as the zoomies. It is completely normal in puppies and young dogs and serves as a physical and neurological release. It typically lasts 1–3 minutes and resolves on its own. Do not chase or over-excite the puppy during a FRAP — stand calmly, clear hazards, and let it run its course. If the zoomies happen frequently at the same time each day (often early evening), it is usually a sign the puppy needs more structured exercise or is due for a nap.

*This card is produced by the Pember Diamonds Knowledge Network — Pember Diamonds (Corgis), Tanydd Corgi Crew (Corgis), and Tamboeckey Beagles. It is intended as practical support and does not replace individualised veterinary or trainer advice.*