

# Bringing Baby Home

When you bring your new English Bulldog puppy home, remember that they are still very much a baby—requiring plenty of affection, rest, sleep, and nourishing meals. The move away from their mother and siblings is a major life change and can be quite overwhelming. For the first few weeks, try to minimize any changes to their routine. Feed them in the same spot for each meal and provide a dedicated, comfortable area for their bed. Shower your puppy with love and attention. Within the first couple of days, schedule a visit to your veterinarian, bringing along all records of immunizations and dewormings. Once your puppy is settled in, you can begin to gently introduce them to your household routines.

## Essential Equipment

- Food and Water Dishes: Choose stainless steel with straight sides and a flat bottom. Avoid plastic dishes.
- Collar and Leash: Use a lightweight harness that fits comfortably, leaving a six-inch tail when around the neck. The first lead should also be lightweight.
- Nail Clippers: Trim nails every two weeks for comfort and health.
- Wire Crate: Wire crates are preferred over hard plastic for better ventilation and ease of house training.
- Puppy Pen: Useful for confining your puppy to specific areas, especially helpful for potty training.
- Brush: Flexible rubber bristle brushes work well. The Furminator is recommended for shedding.

## Medicine Chest for Bulldogs

- Coconut oil for nose care and thermometer lubrication
- Real lemon juice to clear phlegm
- Rectal thermometer
- Clear Eyes for irritated eyes
- Neosporin ointment for minor skin issues
- Antimicrobial and antifungal spray for wrinkles, tail pockets, and ears
- Fresh Pet Shampoo and Conditioner for regular cleansing

## Climate Considerations

English Bulldogs are sensitive to extreme temperatures due to their physical traits. In summer, limit outdoor time, provide shade, and keep them cool—ideally indoors with air conditioning. In winter, ensure they have a warm spot, as their short hair offers little

insulation. Temperatures above 90°F can be dangerous; always provide water and wet them down during hot days. Cold conditions also require extra warmth to prevent illness.

## Toys

Never give your Bulldog rawhide toys—they pose a choking risk. Cow hooves are ideal for chewing, and puppies enjoy knotted socks for play. Balls and other toys should be large enough to prevent swallowing.

## Feeding and Nutrition

English Bulldogs love to eat and can easily become overweight. Feed them high-quality dog food on a set schedule, avoiding snacks and foods containing soy. Puppies aged two to four months should be fed four times daily. Adjust feeding frequency as they grow, gradually reducing meals to twice daily by one year of age. Monitor weight and switch to reduced-calorie foods as needed for less active or older dogs. Always provide fresh water.

## Grooming

Brush your Bulldog at least three times weekly with a soft or rubber bristle brush. Brush against the hair first, then with the grain, followed by a rubdown to keep their coat shiny and healthy; the Furminator aids with shedding.

## Bathing

Frequent brushing reduces the need for regular baths; bathe only when necessary. Use a mild, no-tears shampoo and place cotton balls in the ears to protect them from water. Wet the dog thoroughly, apply shampoo, and pay close attention to paws, tail, and genital area. Rinse completely, apply conditioner if needed, and dry with towels. Finish with coconut oil on the nose.

## Nail Care

Trim Bulldogs' nails every two to four weeks, keeping them as short as possible. Avoid cutting into the quick, and use a nail file to smooth rough edges. Make nail trimming a positive experience with treats and regular walks on pavement to naturally wear down nails.

## Wrinkle Care

Clean your Bulldog's wrinkles often, applying coconut oil to the nose. Use a soft cloth, baby wipes, or shampoo for cleaning, and ensure wrinkles are thoroughly rinsed and dried. For tear stains, various treatments may be needed; hydrogen peroxide paste can help.

## **Ear Care**

Bulldogs can develop ear infections. Feed high-quality food and use pH-balanced ear cleaner. Medicated drops from the vet can address dirty ears, and a good probiotic helps maintain ear health.

## **Flea Prevention**

Prevent fleas to avoid skin problems; Nexguard is recommended, while Trefexis is unsafe for Bulldogs.

## **Bedding**

Provide bedding that is warm, comfortable, and easily washable for your Bulldog's rest.

## **Housebreaking Your Bulldog**

Consistency is vital. Crate training is effective and recommended. Take your puppy outside to the same spot regularly, especially after waking, meals, and before bedtime. Praise proper behavior and avoid punishment for accidents. Patience and gentleness are key to successful training.

## **Leash Training**

Begin leash training after your puppy is settled. Use a lightweight collar and lead, encouraging your puppy to walk beside you without pulling or choking. Keep lessons short and positive, using praise and gentle corrections.

## **Exercise**

Bulldogs enjoy playing but tire quickly and do not tolerate heavy exercise, especially in heat. Short walks are best.

## **Choosing the Right Veterinarian**

Select a licensed vet familiar with Bulldogs. Open communication is important, and breed-specific knowledge is crucial for proper care.

## Vaccinations

Maintain current vaccinations, heartworm prevention, and regular de-worming to ensure your Bulldog's health and longevity.

## Common Ailments and Treatments

Monitor your Bulldog daily for changes in eating, playing, or behavior. Treat minor ailments at home when appropriate, but seek professional help when necessary. Join Bulldog clubs for referrals to experienced veterinarians.

- Liquid Medications: Administer with a syringe, targeting the back of the tongue.
- Pills and Capsules: Place at the back of the throat or hide in cheese.
- Vomiting: Use Pepto Bismol for mild cases; seek vet help for persistent issues.
- Diarrhea: Add pumpkin or yogurt to food; use Kaopectate or probiotics if needed.
- Eyes: Rinse with Clear Eyes for irritation; vet attention for serious problems.
- Tail Pocket: Clean and keep dry; use ointments or medicated wipes.
- Temperature: Take rectally; normal is 100.5–101°F.
- Ice: Offer ice as a treat and cooling toy.
- Insect Stings: Administer Benadryl, observe closely, and apply ice; consult vet if symptoms worsen.

## Puppy Obedience Training

Ask your vet for obedience class recommendations. Training will help your puppy thrive, covering everything from housebreaking to proper socialization.

## Do's and Don'ts of Puppy Training

- Give your puppy love and attention
- Feed nutritious puppy formula (no soy or corn)
- Avoid exposing your puppy to new animals until 16 weeks old
- Never pick up by the scruff of the neck or allow rough play
- Follow vet protocol for vaccinations and prevention
- Supervise puppy around stairs and during early weeks
- Train with patience, kindness, and consistency
- Watch for bathroom signals and respond quickly
- Avoid punishing accidents; use praise for correct behavior

