

WALKING YOUR PUPPY

Taking your puppy for a walk can be an exciting and rewarding experience for you both. Walking can keep your puppy both physically and mentally healthy and is a great opportunity to explore and experience the world outside.

Start off on the right paw

Before venturing outside it's important to check with your veterinarian that your puppy is fully vaccinated. If your pup hasn't yet received their full course of vaccinations they can still go into public places, but you should carry them or use a puppy stroller.

Before hitting the pavement take the time to teach your puppy how to walk on a lead in your yard. It is much easier to teach lead skills in a quiet environment without distractions. Teaching your puppy to walk without pulling from the very start means you won't have to worry about having a strong, adult dog that pulls when they grow up.



Have your puppy's back

Your puppy doesn't need to meet every dog you see while out walking. In fact, it's important to try and limit interactions with new dogs to positive



experiences so that your puppy doesn't develop a fear of approaching dogs.

It's perfectly fine to cross the street or work on changing directions when you see an unknown dog approaching. It's your role to advocate for your puppy and that means managing the environment around them if you feel it may not be safe.

3-second greetings

If you do decide to let your puppy meet another puppy or dog on lead, we recommend allowing a quick sniff (count to 3) before calling your puppy away. Talk to your pup and reassure them while greeting and end the interaction on a positive note. Give your puppy a treat when they return to you.

Have fun!

Remember that socialisation is made up of positive experiences and helping your puppy feel safe when faced with something new. Pay attention to your pup and pair new sights and sounds with treats and praise. Walking is a great opportunity to strengthen your relationship by enjoying your time together.

Our Baby Puppy Course provides a safe, fun environment where puppies can learn, explore and make new friends under the supervision of experienced trainers.

Baby puppies can attend RSPCA School for Pets classes from 8 weeks of age, as long as they've received their very first vaccination.

[Visit *rspcaschoolforpets.com.au* to find a class near you.](https://www.rspcaschoolforpets.com.au)