

# PUPPY MILESTONES

What to expect when you're adopting



**C**ongratulations on your new family member! If this is your first puppy or even if it's been awhile since you've had a really young one in the household, here are a few milestones to help you track your dog's progress. Keep in mind these are general guidelines and can vary based on your puppy's breed and other factors.

## 5 PUPPY MILESTONES

**1 Whelp**—A newborn puppy that lacks the ability to see, hear or regulate body temperature.



**2 Neonate, 0 to 13 days**—The pup cannot see, hear, regulate body temperature or eliminate

without stimulation and is totally dependent on its mom.



**3 Transition period, 13 to 21 days**—

The pup's eyes and ears gradually open, and it begins to hear and respond to taste and smell.

**4 Awareness period, 21 to 23 days**—The pup is able to use its senses of sight and hearing. Learning begins.



**5 Canine socialization period, 3 to 7 weeks**—

The pup learns specific behaviors that make it a dog such as barking, chasing, biting and body posturing. The pup also begins to eliminate on its own at 3 to 4 weeks.

## DENTAL DETAILS



**> 3 to 4 weeks**—canine teeth start to erupt

**> 4 to 6 weeks**—full temporary teeth erupt

**> 3 to 5 months**—permanent teeth begin to replace temporary teeth

**> 7 months**—full permanent teeth have erupted

## LIFE STAGES



**Puppyhood ends** between 6 months and 18 months and adolescence begins.



**Adulthood starts** between 12 months and 3 years.



**Seniorhood begins** between 6 and 10 years.