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It will have photos of your puppy as he grew.

Your puppy was born on x/x/xxxx at around xam and weighed just xxxgm.

His dam was ?? (Milkenunny ???) who is a red and white with a natural bob tail, and his sire was ??? (???) who is red and white with a full tail.

We wish you every happiness with your new corgi puppy.

1. We would like to give some information and offer a little advice for the beginning of your time together, which you will find in this booklet.
2. With the purchase of your puppy we have supplied you with a bag of Royal Canin Puppy biscuits to begin him feeding as this is what he is used to having. There is more information on feeding in the Puppy Information booklet.
3. You should have received his vaccination certificate, and his registration papers will be coming soon.
4. You will receive a blanket which has the scent of the puppies mother on it, a home made snuffle mat and toy, a lick mat and treat bag. We have also given you a clicker as your pup has had some initial training with a clicker already and it is an easy and quick method of training. There are a number of books, DVDs and Youtube videos where you can learn more about clicker training.

Please contact us if you have any questions or problems as we fully understand that life does not always go to plan. We care very much about our puppies and will be happy to do all we can to help.

Lydia Howe (or Cathy Howe) (03) 6389 6091, 0403 692 537 or corgis@milkenunny.com

General Reference Information

Sterilisation Information

Sterilisation Date.....

Vaccination Information

Date: Vaccination Used

Date: Vaccination Used

Date: Vaccination Used

Date: Vaccination Used

Date: Vaccination Used

Worming Information

Date: Wormer Used

Date: Wormer Used

Date: Wormer Used

Date: Wormer Used

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What Do You Need to Have?

Wondering what you might need to have so that you are ready for when your puppy arrives home? We hope this list might give you some ideas.

Food and water bowls - your pup will not be fussy about what you use for their food and water. It can be as simple as a used ice cream container or as fancy as hand painted china.

Food - Your puppy will come with a 4kg bag of Royal Canin Medium Puppy biscuits, which is what they will have been eating at that stage. They will also appreciate a little canned food or a chopped up chicken neck with their meal.



Bed - It would be good if your pup has a comfortable place set apart for them to sleep. Our dogs love these dog beds we got from the Reject Shop. The rectangular shape can be an advantage if you want to put one in an airline crate when travelling. One other thing to consider about beds is that some of our corgis do seem to like to pull the stuffing out of them. If you find your pup is like that too, then investing in one of the elevated pet beds might be a better option for you.



Blanket - We have a small blanket for your pup and will make sure that it has mum's scent on it. We will also provide another blanket that has been in the rotation with the litter from the start so it should smell like home. The blankets we use we bought

from Kmart and Best & Less quite cheaply. They call them 'polar fleece throws' and they are 1.27m x 1.52m and come rolled up into a cylinder. They are lightweight but feel nice and warm and are easy to wash and dry quickly.



Pen/Child-proof Gate - It can be helpful to have a small area set apart for overnight that contains a bed and a play area lined with **puppy training pads or newspaper**.



This will make cleaning up after a pup easier to manage until they have matured. There are small pens available of differing quality from cheap light weight ones from shops like K-mart to more solid ones from Bunnings. Either will work at this age.



It can also be helpful to limit the pup's access to just a few rooms at first, until they learn where to toilet and not to chew your best shoes. Child proof gates can be used to help with this, and just keeping wardrobes and doors closed will help too.



Cool Mat - If you are in a hot area you may find that your corgi enjoys having a gel cooling mat to rest on as well. You can purchase them quite cheaply at K-Mart or Shiploads etc.



Collar and Leash - We will provide you with a collar that will fit the puppy when you take them home, but you will want to get a leash as well. You will also need to get a larger collar when the pup gets older. At 8 weeks their necks will be approximately 25cm (10") around, but they will grow. The adult corgi neck is about 40-45cm (16").



Pooper Scooper and Dog Poop Bags - We regularly use a pooper scooper to clean up the yard and take Poop bags with us when we go out and about. We will provide a roll of Poop bags to go in your treat bag.



Puppy Potty - When it comes to toilet training you could try one of these fake grass set ups inside. We have used fake grass as a training tool with the puppies as we found that it made for a smoother transition to toileting outside with previous litters. They are sold in Kmart, and probably many other places as well.



Treat Bag - We will provide a treat bag that has a pouch for treats, a couple of pockets and a spot for the poop bags to feed out from as well. We find them so useful that we take one everywhere we go.

Crate or Harness - When taking our dogs out and about we like to have them travel safely in a crate. The airline crates of size PP40 will fit an adult corgi. Another option for keeping dogs restrained in cars is to use a pet car harness.



Brush - A soft bristle brush is fine for when the pup is young. When they are older we use a self-cleaning slicker brush and a comb to remove the fluff and get our local prickles out.



Nail clippers - A set of clippers for trimming nails is a must, unless you plan to visit a vet or groomer regularly to get it done for you. There are a few different styles of clippers. We will supply a lick





mat which we find to be a great help when clipping nails. Just smear some peanut butter (make sure it does not have xylitol in it) or yoghurt or gravy on the mat and pop it down for the puppy to lick. Gently trim the nails, a paw at a time, while the pup is distracted. We often have one person quietly making sure the pup stays put while the other person does the clipping.



Puppy Shampoo - We do not recommend washing dogs very often, just occasionally is fine and definitely no more than once a week. However sometimes they will roll in something awful and you really have to get rid of that smell! Some gentle dog or puppy shampoo will do the job.

Toys - Your pup will enjoy having a variety of soft, squeaky, crinkly, large or small toys. Balls to chase can be good, as can tug toys. Old socks make good tug toys. Things the pup can chew on are

especially useful, and you can even give them a carrot or some apple to chew on as well.

We will supply a home made snuffle mat and sock toy for when your pup goes home.



Feeding



Always provide fresh water for your puppy.

Your puppy has been eating about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (60gm) of Royal Canin Medium Puppy biscuits three times a day. In the evening meal he has been having a couple of tablespoons of canned puppy food or a raw chicken neck chopped into small pieces as well as the biscuits. You can continue meals 3 times daily for another week or two if you wish before changing to two meals a day of approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ cup biscuits.

We recommend that you continue to feed him the same diet at least until the supplied bag of Royal Canin is almost empty. Should you wish to change the food then, feed a mixture of half the new biscuits and half the Royal Canin for a few days before going on to the new biscuits alone. This will help his belly to adjust to the change and avoid him getting diarrhoea. Sometimes a change in food is good if they get tired of the one they are eating, but if you change food make sure to do it gradually.

When your puppy starts teething he may go off his food a little as his gums will be sore. You can add some tinned sardines to the food to tempt him, and/or a little grated cheese to perk up the appetite. You may also add a little raw mince to the dry food. Sardines are good for dogs and promote a nice shiny coat, but be careful not to add too much of the oil at this young age.

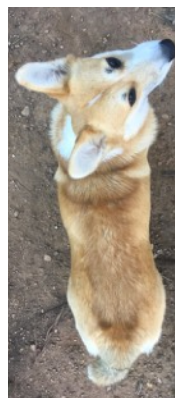


Increase the food very gradually as your puppy grows over the next few months. Before long he will not need the chicken neck chopped up as he will enjoy being able to chew it up himself. As an estimate your pup will be eating about 2 - 2½ cups of biscuits each day by the time he is 6-8 months old.

At around 6-8 months of age your corgi's metabolism will begin to slow down and you should keep an eye on his weight. You will then need to reduce the amount of food you are giving him to keep him nice and trim. It is also worth mentioning that corgis often do not need the full amount of food that is recommended on the dog food packages!

Each dog is an individual and you should feed them enough to maintain a good body condition without becoming overweight. The amount of food they need depends on such things as their age, how large they grow, what their metabolism is like and their activity level.

Aim for a nice hour-glass shape when looked at from above, as a corgi should have an obvious waist in front of their hind legs. Looking from the side the chest should curve up to the tummy before the back legs. The ribs should be able to be easily felt but not easily seen.



By 12 months of age you can change to only feeding once each day. However you can continue to feed twice daily if you wish as we know that our own dogs certainly appreciate twice a day

feeding. Continue to monitor his weight and adjust the food amount accordingly. There is a Royal Canin Dog Condition Chart at the end of this booklet which may help you to correctly judge a dog's body condition.

We know that it can be hard to keep corgis from getting overweight when they are fully grown. They will always tell you they are hungry! If you think that your adult dog seems especially hungry you could try the following recipe that we have used for some of our own dogs. We add a decent amount of it to their biscuits which makes them feel much more contented without increasing their weight.

DIET RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 1kg frozen winter vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower and beans - fresh is fine too)
- 2 cups water
- 2 teaspoons gelatine
- 2 teaspoons beef stock powder or 2 beef stock cubes
- ½ can dog food or equivalent mince or other meat.

Method:

- Boil the winter vegetables in 2 cups of water with the stock powder/cubes added until the vegetables are soft.
- Add the gelatine and stir it in while it is hot.
- Remove it all from the heat then mash the meat and mix it in.
- Keeps refrigerated for up to a week.

Royal Canin makes a diet line of biscuits called “Light Weight Care” which can also help to keep a corgi at a better body weight when they are fully grown.





Things Not to Feed

It is fine to feed dogs vegetables, raw meat and raw bones but there are some foods that you should know are dangerous for dogs.

NO ONION or GARLIC

NO CHOCOLATE and

NO MACADAMIA NUTS as these can all be lethal.

NO COOKED BONES either, as they may splinter, get caught in a dog's throat or damage them internally.

Grapes, raisins and sultanas are also dangerous for dogs, as they can cause kidney problems.

Almonds, cinnamon, caffeine, alcohol, avocados, xylitol and yeast dough are not recommended either.

Worming

Your puppy was wormed at 8 weeks of age with Milbemax, (which covers all worms, including Heartworm).



It is recommended that the pup is wormed again at 12 weeks of age, then every 3 months after that for intestinal worms (roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and tapeworm) or every month if you need to treat for heart worm in your area. Heart worm can be treated with a monthly chew or spot-on product or an annual injection.

Heart worm in the past has not been a problem in Tasmania but it would be best to check with your own veterinarian for their advice as it is far easier to start the treatment when they are young - rather than have to test for heart worm and possibly treat for it when your pup is an adult. You should not put an adult dog on a heart worm preventative without testing that they are not infected first, as this can be potentially fatal.

Fleas and Ticks

We have been blessed by never having had a single flea on our property since we moved to Tasmania, so we don't often think about flea and tick treatments. However it is a good idea for you to consider what flea and tick preventative products you may wish to use once you take your pup home, as they can easily pick up a flea or tick once they are out and about.

There are a large variety of products that can be used, even on pups from 8 weeks of age, such as a collar, a spray and numerous spot-ons and chews that can be used monthly, 3 monthly or even 6 monthly. Some cover for paralysis tick as well, and some for heart worm and/or intestinal worms (roundworm, hookworm and whipworm but not tapeworm). They all claim to be quite safe so long as you use the right product for the weight of your pup. At 8 weeks of age your pup will weigh around 4-5kg, but they quickly grow. An adult corgi weighs around 12-15kg.



We are happy to apply a spot-on or give a chew to your pup before he heads home so that he is covered straight away if you would like us to.

Vaccination



Your puppy's first vaccination was done at 6-7 weeks of age with C3 (for Distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus). The second vaccination is due at 10-12 weeks of age and the third at 14-16 weeks of age.

Note that your puppy WILL NOT be fully protected from disease (e.g. parvovirus), until two weeks after the second vaccination.

This timing can make it difficult because the critical socialisation phase only lasts until a puppy is about 16 weeks of

age, and missed opportunities during this period may put pups at risk of becoming shy, fearful or defensive as adults. When it comes to getting your pup out and about you need to weigh up the potential risks of not being completely covered by the vaccinations with the risk of future behavioural problems that can be avoided with early socialisation and work out a good balance.

We recommend that you do as much as you can by introducing your pup to friends in your own home or theirs, and meet up with other dogs that you know are friendly, healthy and vaccinated. Going for drives and short walks will help him to experience lots of new sights and sounds without putting him at excessive risk too. However do try to avoid dog parks or places that lots of other dogs, especially unvaccinated ones, might go. Puppy socialisation classes can also be a good way to meet with other puppies in a safe place.

We have more suggestions for socialisation later in this booklet.

Sterilisation

It is usually best to sterilise your pup. It is normally done around 6 months of age, but we suggest checking with your own veterinarian to see what they recommend.

There is some research to show that male corgis have a higher incidence of some diseases (vertebral disc disorders) later in life if they are sterilised before 6 months of age, so if possible it would be ideal to leave sterilising male pups until after 6 months of age. Females did not seem to be affected in the same way.

Grooming



Be aware that corgis will shed all year round. We suggest you have a good vacuum cleaner for your home, maybe even a robotic one!

You can brush once a week or when needed with a bristle brush, or a slicker brush when they are older, and a fine toothed comb. It is often recommended to clip or trim the hair between the paw pads if they get too thick with hair.

Try not to bath any more than necessary, just occasionally is best, and definitely no more than once a week. Use a gentle dog or puppy shampoo.



Keep toenails trimmed. The puppies have been having their toenails trimmed about once each week until now, so they are used to this being done. Just be careful not to cut them too short or it will be painful, the nails will bleed and they won't like having it done anymore. Don't forget to clip the dewclaws as well. (There is more on dewclaws on the next page.)

We have found it helpful to use a Lick Mat to distract our corgis when clipping nails. Simply smear some gravy, yoghurt or xylitol-free peanut butter on the lick mat and clip the nails, one paw at a time, while the dog is enjoying licking the mat. We often have one person making sure the dog does not move away while another person trims the nails. We keep our Lick Mat just for this purpose, which makes it a special treat.



Dewclaws

Your puppy has dewclaws on their front legs, a short way up the inside of the leg.



You will need to make a point of clipping the dewclaws at the same time as the other claws as they frequently become overgrown on pet dogs. A vet or groomer can trim nails for you if you are not comfortable doing it yourself.

The image on this page should help you find the dewclaw on your puppy so you can trim it.

Some breeders have the dewclaws on the front legs removed when the pups are only a few days old to prevent potential injuries or overgrowth later, but we have chosen not to. The puppies are extremely vulnerable at that age and while many people state that dewclaws serve no purpose there is some evidence that this may not be the case.

There are some dogs that are particularly prone to injuring their dewclaws. If your puppy has issues then I would encourage you to let us know. If our lines prove to be inclined to injury we may want to change our practices.

You could get the claws removed at the same time as the pup is sterilised if you wish.

Behaviour

We would like our puppies to go to homes where they will be a part of the family. As such we expect them to be allowed

indoors. They will be much more contented dogs if they can be around people as much as possible, and experience the comings and goings of normal life. Your puppy will enjoy learning the routines of his new home and how he can be involved.



When you bring him home your pup is still very much a baby. At first he will sleep a great deal between sessions of energetic play before needing to sleep some more.

Gradually his energetic times will get longer, but even as an adult if there is nothing much

happening he will tend to drift off to sleep, and then bounce up as soon as it looks like something interesting is happening. At this stage he has been used to sleeping with his siblings, and may find sleeping alone a bit difficult and upsetting. If there is another dog in your household who can be trusted then the puppy will be much happier and adjust to his home much more quickly if he can sleep near the other dog. We suggest that you provide a special place of his own to sleep with a comfortable dog bed and a soft toy to cuddle up to and chew on.

Dogs are not the same as humans, they are pack animals at heart. They will be happiest when they know where they fit into the social hierarchy of your family, and it is important that they consider you as “top dog”. This does not mean that



you have to be a domineering, rough or heartless leader. There are easy and non confrontational ways to achieve this status in a dogs mind. One simple thing that you can do quite easily is to make your dog wait a few moments for his dinner until you give him the command to eat. In this way the puppy will learn that you are the wonderful person who provides the food and that you decide when he can have it, which will definitely make him want to be on your good side. It will be good if he understands that everyone in the home can provide food and treats too, so then he will want to please them as well. When going out on walks with your pup you should act bold and confident, rather than timid and uncertain. This will show your pup that you are in control, and that he does not need to worry about anything because you have it all in hand.



While obedience training and agility are great things to do, the **very best** training you can do with your pup is to make sure he is well behaved and easy to live with in the home. It is worth thinking about how you want him to behave around the house, and put in the time



and effort to ensure that he learns what is acceptable while he is young. We suggest that you decide on the rules of what the puppy is allowed to do in your home, and then be very careful to be consistent with what you allow him to do.

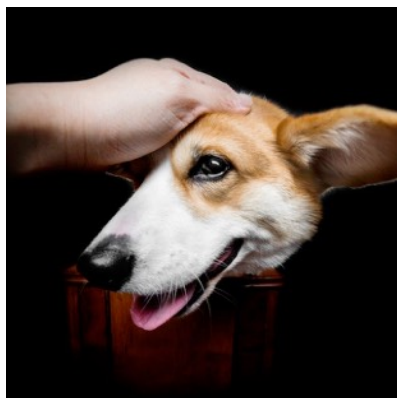
Your pup will get confused if he can get on the couch today but not tomorrow, or if you like him to jump up but your child does not. It is good to discuss the rules with the whole family so that everyone knows what it is okay for the pup to do and what is not okay. Dogs will be happiest if they know clearly what they can and cannot do.

Once the rules are decided you will need to ensure that you can help your pup to learn and follow the rules so that they become ingrained as good habits. That will take time at first. If that means that you need to put a leash on the pup and use treats as a reward to train him not to rush out when you open the door, then do that until he has become good at it. Later perhaps you will no longer need the leash and can just give praise and treats, reducing the treats as time passes until he does it without thinking. A leash and treats as training tools go a long way!

While positive reinforcement is great when it comes to teaching your puppy, if you are anything like us there will be times when you will feel the need to tell him something is not acceptable. Choose a word or two such as No and Ah Ah, and stick to them. You need to correct a puppy *immediately* you find him doing wrong, as he will not remember what he did 20 seconds ago. Use a deep firm voice and frowning face to let the puppy know

he has done something wrong. (Laughing when you say “No” sends rather a mixed message!) If you need to more strongly reinforce your correction, we suggest holding the puppy briefly with a hand either side of his face, looking frowningly into his face while clipping out a strong “No”. He will get the idea.

Be sure to praise good behaviour as much as you can with “Good” and “Yay” in a bright happy voice with plenty of rubs on the head and some treats too. Remember that the puppy should be praised for being good when he is just being quiet around the house as that is definitely the sort of behaviour that you want to encourage! Use a more gentle voice with quiet stroking on those occasions so as not to disturb that good quiet behaviour.



All of this positive training will help to reinforce what a great leader and provider you are, and that it is worth the puppy's time and effort to put his mind to work to find out what things bring attention, praise and (especially for corgis) treats from you.

Be sure to take some time to ensure your pup is used to being handled all over. It is easiest to do this when he is sleepy. Gently stroke him all over including the belly and tail, rub his paws, tap his nails, look in his ears and mouth. Give lots of praise and occasionally give a treat so that he associates being touched with good things. Include some gentle restraint as well which will set him up well for future vet visits.

Chewing

Be aware that puppies will chew everything! They have no inbuilt way of knowing what is a dog toy and what are your best shoes! When you cannot supervise puppy's time then it is probably best to have a puppy proof area to avoid problems. You should also ensure that there are enough chew toys that he is allowed to have around the house, and keep bedroom doors, cupboards and wardrobes closed until he is older and more responsible. Puppies young teeth are very sharp and it will take time, patience and persistence to teach the pup that you are not a chew toy either, which brings us to our next point....



Biting

Along with chewing everything, puppies will bite everyone too with their needle sharp teeth. Biting is the natural way that puppies play with each other, and they have been doing it with their litter mates and mum since they were 2 weeks old, so it is not a sign of aggression, but simply a doggy communication and play method. As the pup is getting more mature you will want to help him to learn that it is not an acceptable thing to do with people.



Suggestions for things to do when he is biting too much are:

Try to avoid getting him so over excited that he stops thinking!

Offer him toys to play with and bite on instead of you. For example you could try to get him to tug on a rope toy or chase a ball.

Say your growly “No” firmly and stop playing or put him away from you, which shows him that he is not going the right way to get the attention he is looking for.

Try ignoring him by turning your head away with your nose in the air in a superior manner and tuck your hands away so he cannot reach them.

A light tap with your finger with a firm “No”.

If you need an immediate break you can always pick him up and face the biting end away from you!

Encourage him to calm down by holding and massaging him.

Give him a little time on his own on his bed to settle.

Motion often makes a pup inclined to bite, so if he is nipping at your heels it can help to stop moving and wait for him to settle before moving on again.

A suggestion that is frequently given is to yelp when you are bitten so your puppy will realise you are hurt and stop. This can be a simple and effective method for some dogs but **BE WARNED** that this does not work on most corgis! You are welcome to try it but if it does not work then **STOP!** It may make your puppy worse rather than better if you become their new living squeaky toy!

You will need to find out what works for you and your pup. Eventually puppies will grow out of wanting to bite everyone but it can be frustrating while you wait, especially if there are children in the home. Children run around a lot, which excites puppies, and they squeal and call out a lot, which excites puppies too. You will probably need to supervise the time that children have with the puppy for a month or two while the pup grows up and everything settles down, but it will be worth it.

Chasing Your Dog



As much fun as you and your puppy might find it at first, we advise you to be cautious about playing games that involve chasing your pup. With our own dogs we are happy to have them run past us, and we encourage them to keep going with a sweep of the arm and saying “whoosh”, but we don’t chase after them. The reason for this is that a puppy can quickly learn that he can evade you when he wants to, because he is much better at running and ducking behind furniture and under vehicles than you are! This will lower your leadership status in his eyes and teach him that he can ignore you by running away.

So if your pup steals something from the table and runs off with it, what should you do?

Silently, with a frown on your face, leaning forward, hands on your hips if you like, all the while glaring at the puppy, stalk after him purposefully at a steady pace. You will be surprised at how much this will unnerve him! Don’t run, don’t wave your arms, don’t yell - just track him down until he is cornered or stops of his own accord, shrinks down and lets you grab him. Once you have him, don’t punish him, just remove the item he has taken and let him go, but be cold and aloof and ignore him for a few moments before returning to your usual friendly self.

If you find that your puppy is constantly staying just out of reach and being impossible to catch, it can be helpful to leave a light piece of rope attached to his collar for a while, something that won’t catch on everything he passes. That will make it much easier for you to catch him and reel him in, until he learns from experience that he has to come to you whether he feels like

it or not. This is not a common problem with corgis as a treat will usually bring them to you as quick as lightning!

Guarding

It is really valuable to train puppies while they are young not to hoard or guard things such as bones, dinner bowls and sleeping locations. We have done some initial training in this area but it would be good for you to reinforce it when you have your pup in his new home. The idea is to train the pup that having something he values taken away is perfectly acceptable. It is best to start this training while the puppy is still young so that if he decides to argue the point he cannot really hurt you.



The way that you train this is to have him chewing on a bone or a favourite toy. You bring along a really scrumptious treat, but keep it hidden (it is not a bribe to do the right thing, it is a reward for doing the right thing). You quietly but firmly remove the bone or toy with one hand, whether the puppy complains or not, and quickly give him the treat with your other hand. Then straight away you return the bone or toy. Once he goes back to chewing the bone, you repeat the process all over again, and do it a few times. It is good to do the same training with his dinner bowl when he is eating. You can also do it with his favourite sleeping place by coming along and moving him over, then giving the treat. Training such as this is a wonderfully easy way to ensure that you have no problems if you need to take things from your dog in the future.

Toilet training

Our puppies learnt at an early age to go to the toilet in a close by area with synthetic turf. They got pretty good at



often (but not always) managing to get there to poo, but peeing often seemed to take them by surprise. Some puppies are able to control their toileting functions quite early in life, but many seem to take a long time to develop enough control to ‘hold on’, sometimes up to 6 months of age or even longer.

It will make the toilet training go smoother if you can take your puppy outside to your preferred toilet area when you know that he needs to go to the toilet. There are a few specific times when your puppy is pretty certain to need to go, so it will be good to quickly take him outside at the following times:

- About 10 minutes after the start of a play session
- About 15 minutes after eating
- Immediately upon waking up
- When he suddenly stops playing or chewing a toy and starts walking off or sniffing
- While they are little - about once each hour or two.

When you are outside in the area you want your puppy to use for his toileting, just wait patiently with him until he does what is required. It can help to have him on a leash so he doesn't go

elsewhere. Do not play with him or do anything exciting, but just be boring and uninteresting so that you don't distract him from what he is there for.

It can be useful to have a verbal cue to help your pup to think about going to the toilet. We use the word "empty" for our dogs, but you could say "go potty", "hurry up", "business time" or whatever you wish. To train the word we say it whenever the pup is in the process of urinating or defecating - "Empty, empty, good dog!" - so that the pup begins to associate the word with the action. When the puppy is older and has a good understanding of what the word means, then you can use it to get him to think about going to the toilet when you want him to, for example just before bedtime or before going for a drive in the car.

It takes time and patience to housebreak a pup but it will happen eventually, and it is important to realise that the pup is not trying to make your life difficult when he has accidents! Getting angry and scolding the pup is more likely to make him try and hide his accidents, rather than mean he doesn't have them, so please just be calm and patient and take him outside often - every hour or two when he is little is a good plan.

Initially, when the puppy is left alone for periods of time (for example overnight, when you are busy or when you are away from home) it can be helpful to set up a small area that contains a bed and a play area lined with puppy pads or newspaper. This will make cleaning up after him easier to manage until he has matured.

Obedience Training

We would encourage you to do some basic obedience training with your new pup, as well as teach him some tricks. Your pup will be stimulated mentally and be much easier to live with if he knows how to sit, come, stay and walk nicely on a leash.



There are a number of useful training methods out there via books and YouTube videos, as well as clubs etc to be a part of. (We have done Absolute Dogs and Spirit Dog Training online and found them helpful)



While he is young make your training sessions only a few minutes long, then give him a break before you think about doing another session. This gives him a chance to internally process what he has been learning. Even

as an adult just 5 minutes of training each day can achieve wonders, and often dogs enjoy the mental exercise as much as physical exercise, and it uses up their energy too.

Corgis are very food focused, and you will find that treats are an excellent stimulus to learning. However, if you are using a lot of treats for training, you may want to reduce the amount of his main meal to compensate, or just use some of his daily food allowance as rewards when training.

Socialising

Socialising is when your puppy learns how to fit into both canine and human society. The idea is that your pup should become used to all sorts of different sights, sounds and smells in a positive way. Your puppy will learn and adapt exceedingly quickly up until about 12-16 weeks of age, and then increasingly slower after that, so it is important for the pup to have good experiences with a variety of places, people, animals and other dogs of all shapes and sizes in the first month or two that you have him. It is particularly useful to introduce him to the types of things he will be doing as an adult. So if you like camping then take him on a short trip in the camper, or if you like swimming then introduce him to the water. Vets, the RSPCA and pet shops often organise puppy socialisation classes that can be a very helpful way to meet other puppies in controlled circumstances. All these positive experiences will help the pup to grow into a well adjusted and confident dog who is less likely to be worried by things he comes across as an adult.



Keep in mind, as mentioned earlier, that the puppy is not guaranteed to be covered for diseases such as parvovirus until after their second vaccination. However, socialisation is extremely important, so it is a good idea to compromise. We recommend doing as much as you can: visit friends, introduce him to other dogs you know, go for walks together; all the while

avoiding dog parks, roadside rest areas and places where you think there may have been unvaccinated dogs or puppies. One more word of caution: just as the pup will learn quickly that something is good if it was a positive experience, so he can also learn quickly that something is scary if the experience goes very badly. So, take all care to give positive experiences and if it is questionable whether an experience will go well or not, it is probably best to opt for safety and not do it until after 16 wks.



We began the socialisation process during the 8 weeks that your pup was with us by exposing him to a variety of surfaces such as carpet, wet and dry grass, gravel, wooden floors and cement; sounds such as music, TV, sudden clangs and claps; toys that squeaked, crinkled, were fluffy or chewy or bouncy; and people with beards, glasses, hats, umbrellas etc. He got to try out stable and wobbly surfaces, tunnels and walking under flaps. He also met and played with “Auntie Oki”, our German Shepherd. We were not able to introduce him to many children, so it would be good if that were possible once he is in your care.



As well as meeting lots of different people and discovering dogs of all shapes and sizes, there are lots of other things you could introduce your puppy to. Some suggestions are vacuum cleaners, umbrellas, mirrors, prams, trolleys, wind, rain and

snow, torch light, other animals, sprinklers, the beach or a lake, bicycles, wheelie bins, TV, lawn mowers or whipper snippers, gunshots, musical instruments of all kinds, odd noises like opening a carbonated drink or ringing a bell, vehicles driving past, crowds of people at the markets or sporting events and dog agility equipment too. The list can go on and on!



Your puppy will not always be fearless, but it is important to encourage in him the ability to recover or bounce back from an initial caution or fear of something. You do this by letting him learn to overcome his fear himself. So if you find he is afraid of something then you don't want to force him to go up to whatever it is that worried him. However you also don't make a fuss of him which might just reinforce his fear. Instead you should just be calm and confident yourself so he can see that you are not scared, and allow him to interact with whatever it is he is worried about in his own time. It can help to make the threat seem less scary (eg. have a chair for him to hide under, move the vacuum cleaner further away, turn down the volume of the TV), and you can also reward any baby steps he makes towards overcoming his fear.





Your puppy does not have to fully overcome a fear all at once. Having a break and a sleep can help him to put things into perspective and you will often find that the next time he experiences it he will be much less concerned.

There are some useful articles about socialisation on the American Kennel Club webpages:

www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/puppy-socialization/

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/greatest-gift-give-your-pup-socialization/>

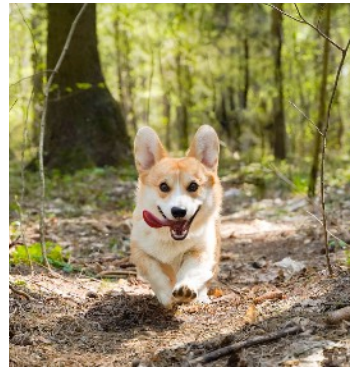
<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/puppy-information/creativity-and-timing-key-to-puppy-socialization/>

Socialisation is something that it is good to keep refreshing over your corgi's lifetime. If they spend most of their time at home they will slowly forget about the variety of things they experienced when they were young, so it can be good to get them out and about every now and then.



Exercise

To begin with your puppy will get all the exercise he needs just bouncing around the lounge room or the yard. As he grows he will appreciate some extra daily exercise. They love to go on walks where they can investigate different smells and see a variety of sights along the way. They also enjoy games like fetch, which can use up some of their energy while not being too hard on you! It is also worth knowing that mental exercise from training can tire your dog out just as much as physical exercise.



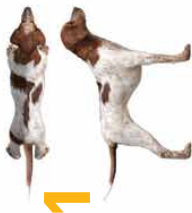
Puppies have soft growth plates in their bones that will not finish maturing for many months. It is recommended that you do not do some of the more physical activities until dogs reach a more mature age. For corgis we suggest that while they are young you do not take them for overly energetic walks and be prepared to finish if they seem reluctant to continue. It helps to allow them to stop and sniff at things along the way. It is also best to try to limit their jumping, and put soft pads (an exercise mat is good) on the ground if they regularly jump down from anything to help to reduce the jarring on their bones.

Don't panic or get mad at them if they run and jump around a lot while playing at home. Any exercise that they initiate themselves should be just fine. You can find out more information about growth plates and recommendations for age appropriate exercise at <https://shoppuppyculture.com/pages/age-appropriate-exercise-1>

BODY CONDITION SCORE - MEDIUM DOG



TOO THIN



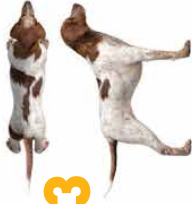
- Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance
- No discernible body fat
- Obvious loss of muscle mass

1



- Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, and pelvic bones easily visible
- No palpable fat
- Some bony prominences visible from a distance
- Minimal loss of muscle mass

2



- Ribs easily palpable and may be visible with no palpable fat
- Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible, pelvic bones becoming prominent
- Obvious waist and abdominal tuck

3

IDEAL



- Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering
- Waist easily noted when viewed from above
- Abdominal tuck evident

4



- Ribs palpable without excess fat covering
- Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above
- Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side

5



- Ribs palpable with slight excess of fat covering
- Waist is discernible when viewed from above but is not prominent
- Abdominal tuck apparent

6

OVERWEIGHT



- Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat cover
- Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail
- Waist absent or barely visible
- Abdominal tuck may be absent

7



- Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover or palpable only with significant pressure
- Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail
- Waist absent
- No abdominal tuck
- Obvious abdominal distension may be present

8



- Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine, and base of tail
- Waist and abdominal tuck absent
- Fat deposits on neck and limbs
- Obvious abdominal distension

9

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

