

# MINI AUSSIE

A photograph of two Mini Aussie puppies sitting in a white fabric basket. The puppies have white fur with brown and black patches. They are looking towards the camera. The basket is placed on a green lawn.

## Essential Puppy Guide

LEIGH BAGGETT

# Pet Information

PUPPY NAME

BREED

REGISTERED NAME

MICROCHIP NUMBER

MICROCHIPED?

YES  NO

STERILIZED?

YES  NO

GENDER

MALE  FEMALE

BREEDER

CONTACT PERSON

CONTACT #

ADDRESS

IMPORTANT NOTES/SPECIAL CARE NEEDED?

ITEMS TO HAVE READY AT HOME

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## Essential Puppy Guide

### *Mini Aussie Care and Training: A Comprehensive Guide*

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*A Comprehensive Guide to Raising a Happy, Healthy Miniature Australian Shepherd*

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## About the Author

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## Puppy Journal

### Introduction

Welcome to the wonderful world of Miniature Australian Shepherds! This guide is designed to help you navigate the journey of raising a Mini Aussie puppy, from the moment they join your family to the years of love and companionship you'll share. Mini Aussies are a unique and intelligent breed, known for their loyalty, energy, and adaptability. Whether you're a first-time dog owner or an experienced dog lover, this guide will provide you with the tools, tips, and insights to ensure your puppy thrives in their new home.

At our breeding program, we take immense pride in raising Miniature Australian Shepherds registered with the [American Stock Dog Registry \(ASDR\)](#). We have chosen not to move our dogs over to the [American Kennel Club \(AKC\)](#) as Miniature American Shepherds—a decision we did not make lightly. When AKC chose to close the stud books early, they limited the genetic pool for Mini Americans, which could eventually lead to issues such as inbreeding and an inability to maintain genetic diversity. Additionally, AKC does not permit the crossing of Australian Shepherds with Mini Americans to allow for new bloodlines, even though other countries recognize and support such practices to diversify the breed. Mini Aussies are essentially smaller Australian Shepherds, and many of our breeding dogs are registered as Australian Shepherds, which further limits AKC registration. Our experience with ASDR has been exceptional. It is a reputable registry that prioritizes the integrity of the breed and offers a wide range of competitions, including conformation, agility, obedience, trick, and family dog events. In contrast, we've found that AKC often prioritizes profit over the welfare of the dogs, with more puppy mills and commercial kennels registered with AKC than any other registry in the world. For these reasons, we believe ASDR aligns better with our values and commitment to the health and future of Mini Aussies.

Raising a Mini Aussie is a joyful but rewarding challenge. This guide will cover everything you need to know, from choosing the right supplies and training your puppy to understanding their health care needs and building a lifelong bond. Whether you're here to learn about their exercise requirements, grooming routine, or how to keep them mentally stimulated, this guide will help you give your Mini Aussie the best life possible.

Thank you for choosing to embark on this journey with one of our puppies. We're excited to be part of your Mini Aussie's story and look forward to supporting you every step of the way!



# Chapter 1: Understanding the Mini Aussie Breed

Miniature Australian Shepherds, or Mini Aussies, are a captivating breed celebrated for their intelligence, energy, and loyalty. Whether you're drawn to their stunning appearance, their sharp minds, or their affectionate nature, it's essential to understand the unique traits and needs of this breed before welcoming one into your home. This chapter will explore the history, temperament, and standout qualities of Mini Aussies, as well as help you determine if they're the right match for your family and lifestyle.

## Breed Overview

The Miniature Australian Shepherd is a smaller version of the standard Australian Shepherd, but don't let their size fool you—they're just as capable, intelligent, and energetic as their larger counterparts.

## History

Despite their name, Australian Shepherds (and their Miniature counterparts) didn't originate in Australia. They were developed in the United States, specifically in the western ranching regions during the 19th century. The breed was bred to work closely with livestock, excelling in herding and farm duties. In the 1960s, breeders began selectively producing a smaller version of the Australian Shepherd without sacrificing its working instincts or temperament, resulting in the Miniature Australian Shepherd.

Today, Mini Aussies are cherished as both working dogs and family companions, thanks to their versatility and adaptability. They've gained popularity worldwide, especially with families and individuals seeking a highly trainable and energetic dog in a smaller package.

## Temperament

Mini Aussies are known for their intelligence, loyalty, and affection. They form strong bonds with their families and thrive on companionship. Their herding background gives them a strong work ethic, making them eager to please and highly trainable.

Key temperament traits include:

- **Loyalty:** Mini Aussies tend to form deep attachments to their families and are known for being protective, especially with children.
- **Energy:** This breed has a seemingly endless supply of energy, making them an excellent choice for active households.
- **Alertness:** They are naturally watchful and can be reserved around strangers, which makes them excellent watchdogs.
- **Sensitivity:** Mini Aussies are highly attuned to their owners' emotions, often acting as emotional support animals.

### Unique Traits

- **Size:** Mini Aussies typically stand between **13 to 18 inches tall** at the shoulder and weigh **20 to 40 pounds**, making them more manageable than the standard Australian Shepherd.
- **Coat and Colors:** They have a beautiful double coat that comes in a variety of colors, including blue merle, red merle, black, and red, often with white or tan markings. Their coats require regular grooming to keep shedding under control.
- **Lifespan:** With proper care, Mini Aussies enjoy a long lifespan of 12 to 15 years.

### Why Mini Aussies Are Unique

Mini Aussies stand out from other breeds due to their intelligence, energy, and strong herding instincts, which can make them both a joy and a challenge to own.

### Intelligence

Mini Aussies are one of the smartest breeds, often ranking among the top in canine intelligence. They are quick learners and excel in obedience training, agility, and problem-solving tasks. However, their intelligence also means they can get bored easily, leading to destructive behaviors if they're not mentally stimulated.

### Energy Levels

Mini Aussies are high-energy dogs that require plenty of exercise and playtime. A quick walk around the block won't cut it for this breed—they thrive on activities like hiking, running, agility training, or even herding sports. If their energy needs are not met, they may develop behavioral issues such as excessive barking, chewing, or digging.

### Herding Instincts

As natural herders, Mini Aussies may try to “herd” children, other pets, or even adults by nipping at heels or circling. While this behavior is instinctual, it can be trained out with proper guidance. Their herding instincts also make them highly focused and task-oriented, which can be channeled into positive activities like training games and sports.

### Is a Mini Aussie Right for You?

Mini Aussies are not a one-size-fits-all breed. Before bringing one home, it's important to assess whether their unique needs and traits align with your lifestyle.

### Mini Aussies Are Ideal for You If:

- **You're Active:** Mini Aussies thrive in homes where they can get plenty of physical and mental exercise. If you enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, running, or agility sports, they'll make an excellent companion.
- **You Have Time to Train:** This intelligent breed requires consistent training and mental stimulation to keep them happy and well-behaved.
- **You Want a Loyal Companion:** Mini Aussies are incredibly loyal and form deep bonds with their families. They'll follow you from room to room and love being part of your daily life.
- **You Have Space to Play:** While they can adapt to apartment living, Mini Aussies do best in homes with a yard or access to outdoor spaces where they can burn off energy.

### Mini Aussies Might Not Be the Best Fit If:

- **You Prefer Low-Energy Dogs:** If you're looking for a couch potato, a Mini Aussie's boundless energy might be overwhelming.
- **You Lack Time for Exercise and Training:** Without proper outlets for their energy and intelligence, Mini Aussies can become bored and destructive.
- **You're Away from Home Often:** Mini Aussies crave companionship and don't do well being left alone for extended periods. They may develop separation anxiety or other behavioral issues.

### Questions to Ask Yourself Before Committing to a Mini Aussie:

1. Do I have time to dedicate to training, exercise, and bonding?
2. Can I provide a stimulating environment to keep them mentally engaged?
3. Does my living situation accommodate an active, energetic dog?
4. Am I prepared for the grooming needs of a double-coated breed?
5. Can I commit to this dog's needs for the next 12–15 years?

### Conclusion

Mini Aussies are an incredibly rewarding breed for the right owner. With their intelligence, loyalty, and energy, they make fantastic companions for active individuals and families who can meet their needs. However, they require a commitment to training, exercise, and attention. By understanding their unique traits and ensuring your lifestyle aligns with their requirements, you'll be well-prepared to give your Mini Aussie the happy, fulfilling life they deserve.

In the next chapter, we'll explore how to prepare your home and life for a Mini Aussie puppy, including essential supplies and tips for setting up a routine that works for both you and your new furry friend.

# Chapter 2: Puppy Schedules

Bringing home a new puppy can feel overwhelming, but establishing a consistent schedule will set both you and your Mini Aussie up for success. Puppies, like children, thrive on routine. A well-planned schedule helps your Mini Aussie feel secure, builds good habits, and prevents behavioral problems. In this chapter, we'll discuss why schedules are vital, outline a sample daily routine, and provide tips for adjusting the schedule as your puppy grows.

## Why Schedules Are Important

Puppies and dogs are creatures of habit, and a predictable routine provides them with a sense of security. Mini Aussies, in particular, are highly intelligent and structured dogs that benefit from knowing what to expect throughout the day. A consistent schedule helps with:

- **Housetraining:** Puppies quickly learn when and where they should potty if taken out at regular intervals.
- **Feeding:** A routine feeding schedule supports healthy digestion and prevents overeating.
- **Behavior Management:** By scheduling exercise, playtime, and rest, you can prevent boredom, destructive behaviors, or excessive energy.
- **Bonding:** A schedule allows you to dedicate specific times to train, play with, and bond with your puppy.
- **Development:** As your puppy grows, a schedule helps with transitioning to their adult needs like fewer meals and longer periods between potty breaks.

## Sample Daily Schedule

Here's a detailed example of a daily schedule for your Mini Aussie puppy. Keep in mind that every puppy is unique, so you can tweak this routine to fit your needs.

### Morning

7:00 AM – Wake-Up and Potty Break

Take your puppy outside as soon as they wake up. Puppies have small bladders and won't be able to hold it for long. Praise them when they potty in the correct spot.

### **7:15 AM – Breakfast**

Feed your puppy their first meal of the day. Stick to a feeding schedule to help regulate their digestion.

### **7:30 AM – Playtime and Training**

After breakfast, spend 15-20 minutes playing with your puppy to burn off some energy. This is also a great time for a short training session to begin teaching basic commands like “sit,” “stay,” and “come.”

### **8:00 AM – Potty Break and Nap**

Take your puppy out again for another potty break before settling them down for their morning nap. Puppies need plenty of rest—up to 18-20 hours per day—so don't skip this crucial downtime.

## **Midday**

### **12:00 PM – Potty Break**

Take your puppy outside for another potty break.

### **12:30 PM – Short Walk and Training Session**

After lunch, go for a short walk or engage in some light play to help your puppy expend energy. Use this time to reinforce training commands or introduce new ones. Keep training sessions short (5-10 minutes) to hold their attention.

### **1:00 PM – Nap**

After exercise, let your puppy rest. Puppies need time to recharge after bursts of activity.

### Evening

#### 5:00 PM – Potty Break and Dinner

Take your puppy outside for another potty break before feeding them dinner.

#### 5:30 PM – Exercise and Bonding Time

This is the perfect time for more vigorous play or exercise. Mini Aussies have lots of energy, so a game of fetch, tug-of-war, or even a short run in the yard is ideal. Follow up with some quiet bonding time, like petting or brushing your puppy.

#### 6:30 PM – Potty Break

After exercise, take your puppy outside again for a bathroom break.

### Night

#### 9:00 PM – Final Potty Break

Before bedtime, take your puppy outside for one last potty trip to help prevent accidents overnight.

#### 9:15 PM – Bedtime Routine

Settle your puppy down for the night in their crate or designated sleeping area. Keep the environment calm and quiet to help them relax. A consistent bedtime routine helps signal to your puppy that it's time to sleep. Adding some light jazz music helps to create a relaxing environment and one your puppy is accustomed to.

### Adjusting the Schedule

As your Mini Aussie puppy grows, their needs will change. Here's how to adapt their schedule:

### Potty Breaks

- **Young Puppies (8-12 weeks):** Puppies need potty breaks every 2-3 hours, as well as after eating, drinking, playing, or waking up.
- **Older Puppies (4-6 months):** As your puppy develops better bladder control, they can hold it for longer periods. By 6 months, most puppies can last 4-6 hours during the day.

### Feeding

- **8-12 Weeks:** Feed your puppy two meals a day (breakfast and dinner).
- **4-6 Months:** Continue two meals a day (morning and evening).
- **6+ Months:** Feed one meal per day as they mature into adulthood.

### Exercise and Training

- **Young Puppies:** Focus on short bursts of exercise and training throughout the day. Mini Aussies have lots of energy but should not engage in intense physical activity until their joints are fully developed (around 12-18 months).
- **Older Puppies:** Gradually increase the duration and intensity of exercise. Introduce activities like longer walks, beginner agility training, or games that challenge their minds.

### Sleep

- **Young Puppies:** Expect your puppy to sleep up to 18-20 hours a day. When your puppy drops, let them sleep. It is important to let kids know not to wake a sleeping puppy.
- **Older Puppies:** As they grow, they'll need less sleep, averaging around 14-16 hours per day.

### Bonding Time

No matter your puppy's age, make time for bonding every day. Whether it's through play, training, or quiet cuddling, this strengthens your relationship and builds trust.



### Final Tips for Scheduling Success

- **Be Consistent:** Stick to the same routine every day to help your puppy learn what to expect.
- **Watch for Cues:** Pay attention to your puppy's signals for when they need to potty, rest, or play.
- **Adjust to Your Lifestyle:** While a set schedule is important, it should also accommodate your daily life. The goal is to create a routine that works for both you and your puppy.
- **Be Patient:** It takes time for puppies to adjust to a schedule. Stay consistent, and your Mini Aussie will quickly learn the routine.

### Conclusion

A reliable schedule is one of the most important tools for raising a happy, well-adjusted Mini Aussie puppy. By providing structure and consistency, you'll help your puppy develop good habits, feel secure, and thrive in their new environment. In the next chapter, we'll dive into the essential supplies you'll need to prepare for your Mini Aussie's arrival and ensure they feel right at home.

# Daily Planner

DATE

DAY OF THE WEEK

(m) (t) (w) (t) (f) (s) (s)

6AM	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12PM	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12AM	

MEALS & TREATS

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

TO DO

<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

TRAINING

<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

NOTES

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### Chapter 3: Essential Supplies for Your Mini Aussie Puppy

Bringing home a Mini Aussie puppy is an exciting time, but preparation is key to ensuring a smooth transition for both you and your new furry friend. Mini Aussies are intelligent, energetic, and curious, so having the right supplies on hand will help you meet their needs and set them up for success. This chapter will cover the must-have supplies, how to choose the right crate and bedding, the best toys and treats for training, and grooming essentials tailored to Mini Aussies. Additionally, we'll include breeder-recommended products to make your shopping easier.

#### Must-Have Supplies for Your New Puppy

Before your Mini Aussie arrives, make sure you have the following essentials ready:

##### Food and Water Bowls

- Choose [stainless steel](#) or [ceramic bowls](#), as they are durable, easy to clean, and less likely to harbor bacteria.
- Look for non-slip bases or [non-slip mat](#) to prevent spills during mealtime.

##### High-Quality Puppy Food

- Mini Aussies thrive on high-quality, nutrient-dense food. Avoid foods with fillers like corn, wheat, or soy.
- We recommend [pawTree's personalized nutrition plans](#), which cater to your puppy's specific needs.

##### Collar, Harness, and Leash

- A lightweight, adjustable [collar](#) is perfect for your growing puppy.
- Use a ["No Pull" harness](#) to prevent strain on their neck, especially since Mini Aussies are active and may pull on the leash.

##### ID Tags and Microchip

- Ensure your puppy has an [ID tag](#) with your contact information. Microchipping has been done for you. Be sure to register your chip using the information provided by your breeder.

### Crate

- A [crate](#) is essential for housetraining and providing your puppy with a safe, comfortable space. (More on choosing the right crate below.)

### Bedding

- Soft, washable [bedding](#) will keep your puppy cozy and comfortable in their crate or sleeping area.

### Toys and Chews

- Mini Aussies are active and love to chew, so provide a variety of [toys](#) to keep them entertained and prevent destructive behavior.

### Training Treats

- Use small, soft treats for training sessions. Look for healthy options with minimal ingredients.

### Grooming Tools

- Mini Aussies have a double coat that requires regular grooming. Invest in a good brush, nail clippers, and other grooming essentials (detailed below).

### Potty Training Supplies

- [Puppy pads, a designated potty area, and cleaning supplies](#) for accidents are a must during the housetraining phase.

### Choosing the Right Crate and Bedding

A crate is one of the most important tools for raising a well-behaved puppy. It provides a safe space for your Mini Aussie to rest, helps with housetraining, and prevents destructive behavior when you're not supervising.

### How to Choose the Right Crate

- **Size:** The [crate](#) should be large enough for your puppy to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably, but not so large that they can use one end as a bathroom.
- **Material:** Wire crates are durable and allow for ventilation, while plastic crates are more enclosed and can feel cozier for some puppies.
- **Adjustability:** Look for a crate with a divider panel so you can adjust the size as your puppy grows.

### Bedding Recommendations

- Choose soft, washable [bedding](#) that fits snugly in the crate.
- Avoid overly fluffy bedding for young puppies, as they may chew or ingest it.
- We recommend [Snuggle Puppy with a heartbeat](#) to help your puppy feel secure and reduce anxiety during their first nights away from their littermates.

### Toys, Treats, and Tools for Training Success

Mini Aussies are highly intelligent and energetic, so providing the right toys and treats is essential for their mental and physical stimulation.

#### Toys

- **Chew Toys:** Durable chew toys like [KONGs](#) or [Nylabones](#) are great for teething puppies.
- **Interactive Toys:** [Puzzle toys and treat-dispensing toys](#) keep your Mini Aussie mentally engaged.
- **Fetch Toys:** Mini Aussies love to chase, so invest in balls or frisbees for outdoor play.

#### Treats

- Use small, soft treats for training sessions. Breeders recommend [Zuke's Mini Naturals](#) or [pawTree training treats](#), which are healthy and easy to break into smaller pieces.
- Avoid treats with artificial additives or fillers.

### Training Tools

- **Clicker:** A [clicker](#) is a great tool for positive reinforcement training.
- **Leash and Harness:** Use a [lightweight leash](#) and [“No Pull” harness](#) for training walks.
- **Treat Pouch:** A [treat pouch](#) worn on your waist makes it easy to reward your puppy during training sessions.

### Grooming Essentials for Mini Aussies

Mini Aussies have a beautiful double coat that requires regular grooming to keep it healthy and free of mats. [Here's what you'll need:](#)

#### Brushes

- **Slicker Brush:** Perfect for removing loose hair and preventing mats.
- **Undercoat Rake:** Helps manage shedding by reaching the dense undercoat.

#### Nail Clippers

Use dog-specific nail clippers or a nail grinder to keep your puppy's nails trimmed. Start trimming early to get your puppy used to the process.

#### Shampoo and Conditioner

Choose a gentle, puppy-safe shampoo for occasional baths. Avoid over-bathing, as it can strip the natural oils from their coat.

#### Toothbrush and Toothpaste

Start brushing your puppy's teeth early to prevent dental issues. Use dog-specific toothpaste (never human toothpaste).

#### Breeder Recommendations

We've put together a list of products we personally use and recommend for raising happy, healthy Mini Aussies. From crates and grooming tools to toys and training essentials, these are items we trust for our own dogs. Visit our [Amazon Storefront](#) for a complete list of carefully selected products.

### **Conclusion**

Having the right supplies on hand is essential for raising a happy, healthy Mini Aussie puppy. From crates and bedding to toys and grooming tools, each item plays a role in meeting your puppy's physical, mental, and emotional needs. By investing in high-quality products, including breeder-recommended items, you'll set your Mini Aussie up for success and make the transition to their new home as smooth as possible.

In the next chapter, we'll dive into the importance of proper nutrition and explore how to choose the best food for your Mini Aussie, including the benefits of personalized plans like pawTree.

# New Puppy Checklist

## Essentials

- Collar and Leash
- ID tag/microchip
- Food & Water Bowls
- Dog Bed & Blanket
- Crate
- Puppy Food
- Puppy Treats
- Clicker
- Baby Gate/Pet Pen
- Puppy Toys

## Grooming

- Puppy Shampoo
- Wash Cloth/Sponge
- Anti Slip Bath Mat
- Towels
- Cleaning Whips
- Tooth Care
- Nail Clippers
- Grooming Brush

## Potty Training

- Puppy Pads
- Poop Bags & Holders
- Odour Remover
- Stain Remover
- Poop Scoop
- Carpet Cleaner

## Medical

- Pet Carrier
- Flea & Tick Preventative
- Heart Worm Preventative
- Pet Insurance
- Choose a Vet
- Parasite Testing
- Vaccines
- Supplements



### Chapter 4: Best Food for Your Pet: A Guide to Optimal Pet Nutrition and pawTree

Proper nutrition is the foundation of your Mini Aussie's health and well-being. As a highly active and intelligent breed, Mini Aussies require a diet that supports their energy levels, growth, and overall health. In this chapter, we'll explore the importance of high-quality nutrition, the dangers of corn in pet food, how to choose the right food for your Mini Aussie, and the benefits of [pawTree's personalized nutrition plans](#). Additionally, we'll discuss feeding guidelines and the exclusive benefits of keeping your puppy on pawTree products, including a \$150.00 credit and an extended health guarantee.

#### The Importance of High-Quality Nutrition for Your Puppy

Your Mini Aussie's diet plays a critical role in their development, energy, and long-term health. Puppies, in particular, need a nutrient-dense diet to support their rapid growth and active lifestyle. High-quality nutrition ensures:

- **Healthy Growth:** Proper protein levels and essential nutrients help build strong muscles, bones, and joints.
- **Energy and Vitality:** Mini Aussies are an energetic breed, and a balanced diet fuels their active lifestyle.
- **Immune System Support:** Vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants strengthen your puppy's immune system, protecting them from illness.
- **Healthy Skin and Coat:** Omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids promote a shiny coat and healthy skin.
- **Digestive Health:** High-quality ingredients support gut health, which is essential for nutrient absorption and overall well-being.

Feeding your Mini Aussie a premium diet from the start sets the stage for a lifetime of health and happiness.

#### Dangers of Corn in Pet Food: Why It's Best to Avoid It

Many commercial pet foods use corn as a filler ingredient, but it's important to understand why this is problematic for your Mini Aussie:

**Low Nutritional Value:** Corn is a cheap carbohydrate that offers little nutritional benefit for dogs. It's often used to bulk up pet food but doesn't provide the essential nutrients your puppy needs.

**Allergies and Sensitivities:** Corn is a common allergen for dogs and can cause skin irritations, digestive upset, and other health issues.

**Weight Gain:** Corn is high in carbohydrates, which can lead to unhealthy weight gain, especially in active breeds like Mini Aussies.

**Digestive Issues:** Dogs have difficulty digesting corn, which can lead to bloating, gas, and other gastrointestinal problems.

When choosing food for your Mini Aussie, look for options that prioritize high-quality proteins and avoid fillers like corn, wheat, and soy.

### How to Choose the Right Food for Your Mini Aussie

Selecting the best food for your Mini Aussie can feel overwhelming with so many options on the market. Here are some key factors to consider:

**High-Quality Protein:** Look for foods with real meat (like chicken, lamb, or fish) as the first ingredient. Protein is essential for muscle development and energy.

**No Fillers or By-Products:** Avoid foods with fillers like corn, wheat, soy, or animal by-products.

**Balanced Nutrients:** Ensure the food contains a proper balance of protein, fat, and carbohydrates, along with essential vitamins and minerals.

**Breed-Specific Needs:** Mini Aussies are active and intelligent, so they benefit from diets that support joint health, brain function, and energy levels.

**Gut Health Support:** Foods with prebiotics, probiotics, and fiber promote healthy digestion.

### **Benefits of pawTree's Personalized Nutrition Plans**

pawTree offers a unique approach to pet nutrition by creating customized meal plans tailored to your Mini Aussie's specific needs. Here's why pawTree is an excellent choice for your puppy:

**Personalized Nutrition:** pawTree takes into account your puppy's breed, age, weight, activity level, and health concerns to create a diet that's just right for them.

**High-Quality Ingredients:** pawTree products are made with real meat, no fillers, and no artificial preservatives, ensuring your puppy gets the best nutrition possible.

**Supplements for Optimal Health:** pawTree offers supplements to support joint health, digestion, skin and coat health, and more.

**Convenience:** pawTree delivers directly to your door, making it easy to keep your puppy's food supply stocked.

### **Feeding Guidelines: How Much and How Often**

Feeding your Mini Aussie the right amount at the right times is crucial for their growth and health.

#### **How Much to Feed**

The amount of food your puppy needs depends on their age, weight, and activity level. Follow the feeding guidelines provided on your chosen food's packaging, or consult your veterinarian for specific recommendations.

### How Often to Feed

- **8-12 Weeks:** Feed your puppy **2 meals per day** to support their rapid growth.
- **4-6 Months:** Continue with **2 meals per day** as their growth slows.
- **6+ Months:** Feed **1 meals per day**, which is the standard for adult dogs.

Always provide fresh water alongside meals and monitor your puppy's weight to ensure they're growing at a healthy rate.

### Exclusive Benefits when choosing pawTree

When you choose pawTree for your Mini Aussie's nutrition, you unlock additional benefits that go beyond high-quality food:

#### \$150.00 Credit

- When you purchase your new puppy from Triple Lake Ranch, you'll receive a \$150.00 credit toward pawTree products. This makes it easy to get started with premium food and supplements for your puppy.

#### Extended Health Guarantee

- If you keep your Mini Aussie on pawTree food and supplements, you'll receive an extended health guarantee for your puppy. This ensures peace of mind and demonstrates our confidence in pawTree's ability to support your puppy's long-term health.

These benefits not only save you money but also provide added assurance that your puppy is receiving the best possible care.

### Conclusion

Feeding your Mini Aussie a high-quality, balanced diet is one of the most important things you can do to support their health and happiness. By avoiding low-quality ingredients like corn, choosing nutrient-dense food, and considering personalized options like pawTree, you'll give your puppy the best start in life. Plus, with the added benefits of a \$150.00 credit and an extended health guarantee, pawTree makes it easy to prioritize your puppy's nutrition and well-being.

In the next chapter, we'll explore the importance of socialization and provide tips for introducing your Mini Aussie to new people, pets, and environments.

Dear New Puppy Family,

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for choosing to stay with pawtree foods for your new puppy. Your decision ensures that your puppy receives the best nutrition possible.

### **Why Proper Nutrition is Important**

Proper nutrition is the cornerstone of a healthy, happy life for your puppy. Just like humans, dogs need a balanced diet to thrive. The right food can strengthen their immune system, support their growth and development, and keep their coat shiny and skin healthy. It can also help prevent health issues down the line, such as obesity, dental problems, and heart disease.

Pawtree foods are designed with this in mind. They use high-quality ingredients and are formulated to provide a balanced diet for dogs of all life stages. By choosing pawtree, you're choosing a food that prioritizes your puppy's health and well-being.

### **Your New Account and EZ Ship Order**

To help you get started, we have set up an account for you, added what you need, and arranged an EZ ship order. All you will need to do is log in and enter your payment information. This will ensure that your puppy's food is conveniently delivered to your doorstep, making it easier for you to maintain their nutritional needs.

Thank you once again for your trust in us and in Pawtree. We're excited to be a part of your puppy's journey and look forward to seeing them grow and thrive.

Warm regards,

Michael & Leigh Baggett

Login:

Password:

First Shipment Date:

# Feeding Schedule

PET'S NAME

BREED

SIZE

WEIGHT

FOOD BRAND

VARIETY

DAY	TIME	PORTION SIZE	NOTES
MON	AM PM		
TUE	AM PM		
WED	AM PM		
THU	AM PM		
FRI	AM PM		
SAT	AM PM		
SUN	AM PM		

ACCEPTABLE SNACKS

FAVORITE TREATS

ADDITIONAL NOTES

# Chapter 5: Socialization: Why It's Important and How to Do It

Socialization is one of the most critical aspects of raising a well-adjusted Mini Aussie. Proper socialization during the early weeks of your puppy's life helps them grow into a confident, friendly, and adaptable adult dog. Mini Aussies, known for their intelligence and sensitivity, require thoughtful exposure to new experiences to prevent fear and anxiety later in life. In this chapter, we'll explore the importance of the critical socialization period, how to introduce your puppy to new people and pets, and how to safely expose them to new environments, sounds, and textures. We'll also discuss why we choose to keep your puppy until 10 weeks of age and provide tips for using positive reinforcement and avoiding public dog parks during this crucial time.

## The Critical Socialization Period (First 16 Weeks)

The first 16 weeks of a puppy's life are known as the **critical socialization period**, during which they are most receptive to new experiences. This is the time when puppies develop their understanding of the world, form relationships with people and other animals, and learn how to behave in unfamiliar situations.

### Why This Period Matters

- Puppies who are properly socialized during this time are more likely to grow into confident, well-mannered adult dogs.
- Lack of socialization can lead to fear, anxiety, and even aggression in adulthood.
- Mini Aussies, in particular, are highly intelligent and sensitive, making early socialization essential to prevent behavioral issues.

## Our Approach: Keeping Puppies Until 10 Weeks

We choose to keep your Mini Aussie puppy until they are **10 weeks old**, rather than the customary 8 weeks. This decision is based on the breed's unique developmental needs:

- Mini Aussies experience a **fear period between 8 and 12 weeks**, during which they are more sensitive to new experiences and may react fearfully to unfamiliar stimuli.
- By keeping your puppy for an additional two weeks, we can help them navigate the early stages of this fear period in a controlled environment.
- Once your puppy joins your family, we'll work together to continue their socialization journey, ensuring they feel safe and supported during this critical time.

### How to Introduce Your Puppy to New People and Pets

Introducing your Mini Aussie to new people and pets is a key part of socialization. However, it's important to do so carefully to ensure positive experiences.

#### Meeting New People

- **Start Slowly:** Begin with calm, friendly individuals who can approach your puppy gently. Avoid overwhelming your puppy with large groups of people and overactive children.
- **Encourage Positive Interactions:** Use treats, praise, and toys to help your puppy associate meeting new people with positive experiences.
- **Expose Them to Different Types of People:** Introduce your puppy to people of different ages, genders, and appearances (e.g., people wearing hats, glasses, or uniforms).

#### Meeting Other Pets

- **Choose the Right Dogs:** Introduce your puppy to calm, well-socialized dogs that are up-to-date on vaccinations. Avoid overly excitable or aggressive dogs.
- **Supervise All Interactions:** Keep introductions short and positive, and always supervise your puppy when meeting other animals.
- **Avoid Public Dog Parks:** Public dog parks can expose your puppy to unvaccinated or poorly behaved dogs. Instead, arrange playdates with familiar dogs in safe, private settings.



### Exploring Environments, Sounds, and Textures

Mini Aussies are naturally curious, and exposing them to a variety of environments, sounds, and textures during their critical socialization period helps them adapt to new situations with confidence.

#### Environments

- Take your puppy to safe, controlled environments such as parks, pet-friendly stores, or friends' homes.
- Gradually introduce them to different surfaces, such as grass, gravel, hardwood floors, and carpet.

#### Sounds

- Expose your puppy to common household sounds like the vacuum cleaner, doorbell, or television.
- Play recordings of outdoor sounds, such as traffic, thunderstorms, or fireworks, at a low volume to help them acclimate.

#### Textures

- Let your puppy explore different textures with their paws, such as sand, concrete, or leaves.
- Provide toys with various textures to stimulate their senses.

### Using Positive Reinforcement During Socialization

Positive reinforcement is the most effective way to encourage your puppy to embrace new experiences.

- **Reward Good Behavior:** Use treats, praise, and toys to reward your puppy when they approach new situations calmly and confidently.
- **Stay Calm:** Your puppy will look to you for cues. If you remain calm and relaxed, they're more likely to feel safe.
- **Take Breaks:** If your puppy seems overwhelmed, give them time to retreat and relax. Never force them into a situation they're uncomfortable with.

### **Preventing Fear and Anxiety in New Situations**

Mini Aussies are sensitive dogs, so it's important to handle new experiences carefully to prevent fear and anxiety.

### **Recognize Signs of Stress**

- Watch for signs of stress, such as trembling, excessive panting, or trying to hide.
- If your puppy shows signs of fear, remove them from the situation and try again later at a slower pace.

### **Avoid Overexposure**

Introduce new experiences gradually. Overwhelming your puppy with too many new stimuli at once can lead to fear or anxiety.

### **Use Private Dog Parks**

Instead of public dog parks, which can be chaotic and unpredictable, consider booking time at private dog parks through services like Sniffspot.com. These parks allow your puppy to explore and play in a safe, controlled environment with familiar friends.

### **Conclusion**

Socialization is one of the most important steps in raising a confident, well-adjusted Mini Aussie. By exposing your puppy to new people, pets, environments, and experiences during their critical socialization period, you'll help them develop the skills they need to navigate the world with ease. Our decision to keep your puppy until 10 weeks of age ensures they receive a strong foundation during the early stages of the fear period, and with your continued efforts, they'll grow into a happy, confident adult dog.

In the next chapter, we'll explore crate training and how to create a safe, comfortable space for your Mini Aussie to rest and relax.

# Socialization

## LOUD NOISES

- SIRENS
- CAR HORN
- MOTORCYCLE
- HELICOPTER
- FIREWORKS
- PLANES
- RADIO
- TELEVISION
- THUNDERSTORM
- LOUD CAR
- SKATEBOARD
- BICYCLE
- CROWD OF PEOPLE
- LOUD MUSIC

## VISUAL THINGS

- CRUCHES/CANES
- WHEELCHAIR
- BIRDS FLYING
- WIND BLOWING
- MOVING CARS
- BICYCLES
- KIDS RUNNING
- OTHER:

## HUMAN INTERACTION

- TOUCHING EARS
- CLEANING EARS
- TOUCHING NOSE
- TOUCHING MUZZLE
- CHECKING TEETH
- BRUSHING TEETH
- TOUCHING COLLAR
- TOUCHING TAIL
- CLIPPING NAILS
- TOUCHING PAWS
- CHECKING PADS
- BETWEEN TOES
- TOUCHING LEGS
- HUGGING
- BRUSHING
- BATHING

## OTHER

- ESCALATOR
- ELEVATOR
- STAIRS
- GRASS
- WATER
- CARPET

# Socialization

## CHILDREN

- BABIES
- IN STROLLER
- 0-2 YEARS
- 3-4 YEARS
- 4-12 YEARS
- 13-19 YEARS

## WOMEN WITH...

- SCARVE
- HAT
- JEWELRY
- SUNGLASSES
- HELMET
- OTHER:

## OTHER ANIMALS

- PUPPIES
- MALE ADULT DOGS
- FEMALE ADULT DOGS
- KITTENS
- ADULT CATS
- HORSES
- CHICKS
- BIRDS

## PLACES TO GO

- MARKET/FAIR
- SHOPPING MALL
- VET/PET CLINIC
- KENNELS
- PET SHOP
- PET HOTEL

## MEN WITH...

- MOUSTACHE
- BEARD
- HAT
- HELMET
- SUNGLASSES
- LONG COAT

## HUMAN NOISES

- LOUD TALKING
- SHOUTING
- ARGUING
- LAUGHING
- CRYING
- CHILDREN PLAYING
- SINGING
- WHISTLING

## Chapter 6: How to Crate Train Your Mini Aussie

Crate training is a valuable tool for raising a happy and well-adjusted Mini Aussie puppy. It provides them with a safe, comfortable space to rest and relax while also helping with housetraining and preventing destructive behavior. At our facility, your puppy has already been introduced to crate training starting at **4 weeks old** within a group setting, and then individually at **8 weeks**, next to their littermates. This early exposure gives them a head start, but keep in mind that every environment is different, so it's normal for your puppy to take some time to adjust once they're in your home.

To make the transition smoother, we recommend continuing their crate training with patience, consistency, and a few comforting touches, such as playing soft jazz music during crate time—a sound they've been exposed to since birth during quiet times. This chapter will cover why crate training is essential, step-by-step instructions for success, tips for making the crate a positive space, and common mistakes to avoid.

### Why Crate Training Is Essential for Puppies

Crate training is not just about managing your puppy's behavior; it also helps meet their instinctual need for a secure, den-like space. Here are the key benefits:

#### Housetraining Made Easier

- Puppies instinctively avoid soiling their sleeping area. A crate helps teach them bladder and bowel control, making housetraining more efficient and less stressful.

#### Prevents Destructive Behavior

- Puppies love to explore and chew, which can lead to damage or even injury if they're left unsupervised. A crate keeps them safe and prevents destructive habits when you can't watch them.

### Provides a Safe Haven

- A crate becomes your puppy's personal retreat where they can unwind and feel secure, especially during stressful situations like traveling, loud noises, or when guests visit.

### Helps with Travel

- Crate training makes car rides and trips to the vet safer and less stressful for your puppy.

### Long-Term Benefits

- As your puppy grows, they'll continue to see the crate as a safe and familiar space, which can help with managing separation anxiety or overnight stays in unfamiliar settings.

### Recommended Crate Size

For a Mini Aussie, we recommend a [36 x 23 x 25 crate with a divider](#). This size is ideal because:

- The divider allows you to adjust the crate's size as your puppy grows, ensuring they have just enough space to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably.
- Too much space may encourage your puppy to use one corner as a bathroom, which defeats the purpose of crate training.

### Step-by-Step Crate Training Instructions

Crate training is a gradual process that requires time and patience. Here's how to guide your Mini Aussie through it:

### Step 1: Introduce the Crate

- Place the crate in a quiet area of your home where your puppy can feel safe and included in family activities.
- Leave the door open and allow your puppy to explore the crate at their own pace.
- Add soft bedding and a familiar toy or blanket to make the crate inviting.

### Step 2: Make It Positive

- Use treats, toys, or a favorite chew to encourage your puppy to enter the crate. Toss a treat inside the crate and praise your puppy when they go in.
- Avoid forcing your puppy into the crate, as this can create fear or resistance.

### Step 3: Start Feeding in the Crate

- Begin feeding your puppy their meals inside the crate to create a positive association.
- If your puppy is hesitant, place the food bowl near the crate entrance and gradually move it further inside over time.

### Step 4: Close the Door

- Once your puppy is comfortable entering the crate, start closing the door while they're inside.
- Begin with short periods (e.g., 1-2 minutes) and gradually increase the duration. Open the door while they're calm to avoid reinforcing whining or barking.

### Step 5: Practice Short Confinements

- Encourage your puppy to rest in the crate during quiet times, such as after meals or play.
- Stay nearby to reassure them, especially during the first few sessions.

### Step 6: Gradually Extend Crate Time

- Increase the amount of time your puppy spends in the crate, both when you're home and when you step out for short periods.
- Use the crate for overnight sleeping and daytime naps as part of their daily routine.

### How to Make the Crate a Positive Space

The key to successful crate training is ensuring your puppy views the crate as a safe and enjoyable place to be.

#### Add Comfort

- - Use soft, washable bedding or a blanket to make the crate cozy.
  - Consider using a [Snuggle Puppy with a heartbeat](#), which mimics the comfort of their littermates and helps reduce anxiety.

#### Play Soft Jazz Music

- Your puppy has been exposed to soft jazz music during quiet times since birth, so playing it while they're in the crate can help them relax and feel at ease.

#### Incorporate Toys and Treats

- Place interactive toys or durable chew toys in the crate to keep your puppy entertained.
- Use treat-dispensing toys, like a KONG filled with peanut butter, to encourage them to spend time in the crate.

#### Use Positive Reinforcement

- Reward your puppy with treats and praise whenever they enter the crate voluntarily.
- Never use the crate as punishment, as this can create negative associations.



### Common Crate Training Mistakes to Avoid

Crate training is most effective when done correctly. Avoid these common mistakes to ensure success:

#### Using the Crate as Punishment

- Never send your puppy to the crate as a form of punishment. This will make them reluctant to use it and associate it with negative experiences.

#### Leaving Your Puppy in the Crate for Too Long

- Puppies have small bladders and need frequent potty breaks. Follow these general guidelines:
  - Puppies under 12 weeks: No more than 2-3 hours at a time.
  - Puppies 3-6 months: No more than 4-5 hours at a time.

#### Ignoring Whining or Crying Completely

- It's normal for puppies to whine during crate training, but it's important to identify the cause. If they need to potty, let them out calmly and take them to their designated potty area.

#### Forcing Your Puppy Into the Crate

- Forcing your puppy into the crate can create fear and resistance. Always use positive reinforcement to encourage them to enter willingly.

#### Skipping Gradual Steps

- Rushing the process can lead to setbacks. Take the time to properly introduce your puppy to the crate and build up their comfort level gradually.

### Conclusion

Crate training is an essential part of raising a well-behaved Mini Aussie. With a [36 x 23 x 25 crate with a divider](#), soft bedding, and familiar comforts like soft jazz music, your puppy will quickly learn to see the crate as a safe and relaxing space. Remember, every puppy is unique, so don't be alarmed if your Mini Aussie doesn't adjust perfectly right away. With patience, consistency, and positive reinforcement, your puppy will thrive in their new environment.

In the next chapter, we'll dive into nurturing your Mini Aussie's health, including the importance of gut health for their overall well-being.

## Chapter 7: Nurturing Puppy Health: The Importance of Gut Health

Your Mini Aussie puppy's health begins in their gut. A healthy gut doesn't just support digestion—it plays a crucial role in maintaining their immune system, energy levels, and overall well-being. Puppies, like humans, rely on a balanced microbiome (the community of beneficial bacteria in their digestive system) to process nutrients, fight off illness, and stay happy and active.

In this chapter, we'll explore why gut health is so important, how to recognize signs of poor gut health, and how you can support your puppy's digestion with proper nutrition, hydration, and supplements. We'll also highlight [pawTree's Gastro Pro Plus](#), a product we highly recommend for maintaining excellent gut health in Mini Aussies.

### Why Gut Health Is Key to Your Puppy's Overall Well-Being

Gut health influences nearly every aspect of your puppy's life. Here's why it's so critical:

#### Digestive Efficiency

- A healthy gut ensures your puppy can properly break down food and absorb essential nutrients like proteins, vitamins, and minerals. This supports their rapid growth and development.

#### Immune System Support

- Approximately 70% of a dog's immune system is located in their gut. A well-balanced gut microbiome helps your puppy fight off harmful bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens, keeping them healthy and resilient.

#### Energy and Vitality

- A healthy digestive system provides your puppy with the energy they need for play, learning, and exploring. Poor gut health can result in lethargy and reduced activity levels.

### Mental Health and Behavior

- There's a strong connection between the gut and the brain, often referred to as the "gut-brain axis." A healthy gut can positively impact your puppy's mood, reducing stress and anxiety.

### Healthy Skin and Coat

- A well-functioning gut helps maintain healthy skin and a shiny coat, two hallmarks of a thriving Mini Aussie.

### Signs of Poor Gut Health and How to Address Them

Understanding the signs of poor gut health can help you take action before minor issues become serious problems. Watch for the following symptoms in your Mini Aussie puppy:

#### Signs of Poor Gut Health

- **Loose Stools or Diarrhea:** Frequent or watery stools may indicate an imbalance in gut bacteria.
- **Vomiting:** Occasional vomiting can be normal, but repeated episodes suggest digestive upset.
- **Excessive Gas:** Persistent flatulence or bloating may result from poor digestion.
- **Lack of Appetite:** A sudden or prolonged loss of interest in food could be a sign of gut discomfort.
- **Dull Coat or Skin Issues:** Dry, flaky skin or a lackluster coat may be related to poor nutrient absorption.
- **Lethargy:** Low energy levels or reluctance to play could stem from digestive issues.

### How to Address Poor Gut Health

- **Consult Your Veterinarian:** If symptoms persist, consult your vet to rule out underlying health conditions.
- **Adjust Diet:** Ensure your puppy's diet is high-quality and free from fillers like corn, wheat, and soy, which can disrupt gut health.
- **Use Supplements:** Adding a gut health supplement, such as **pawTree's Gastro Pro Plus**, can help restore balance to your puppy's digestive system.

### Supporting Gut Health with Proper Nutrition and Supplements

#### Proper Nutrition

A high-quality diet is the foundation of your puppy's gut health. Follow these tips:

- **Choose High-Quality Food:** Opt for dog food that lists real meat as the first ingredient and is free from artificial preservatives, fillers, and by-products.
- **Incorporate Prebiotics and Probiotics:** Look for foods or supplements that include prebiotics (which feed good bacteria) and probiotics (which introduce beneficial bacteria). These promote a healthy balance in your puppy's microbiome.
- **Avoid Sudden Diet Changes:** Switch foods gradually to avoid upsetting your puppy's stomach.

#### Supplements for Gut Health

Gut health supplements can provide additional support for your Mini Aussie's digestion:

- **Probiotics:** Help maintain a healthy population of good bacteria.
- **Digestive Enzymes:** Aid in breaking down food for better nutrient absorption.
- **Prebiotics:** Feed the beneficial bacteria in your puppy's gut.

### pawTree's Gut Health Products for Dogs

When it comes to maintaining excellent gut health, [pawTree's Gastro Pro Plus](#) is one of the best products available. It's my personal favorite for ensuring a happy, healthy digestive system in Mini Aussies.

### Why Gastro Pro Plus Stands Out

#### Comprehensive Formula

- Gastro Pro Plus combines probiotics, prebiotics, digestive enzymes, and soothing herbs into one easy-to-use supplement. It supports complete digestive health while helping to restore balance to the gut microbiome.

#### Supports Immunity

- The probiotics in Gastro Pro Plus help strengthen your puppy's immune system, protecting them from illness.

#### Easy to Use

- This supplement comes in a convenient treat form that you can break up over your puppy's food or give as a treat. It's palatable and easy to incorporate into their daily routine.

#### Benefits for Sensitive Stomachs

- Gastro Pro Plus is especially helpful for puppies transitioning to new foods, recovering from mild digestive upset, or with naturally sensitive stomachs.

Using pawTree's Gastro Pro Plus regularly can help your Mini Aussie's gut stay healthy and balanced, ensuring optimal digestion, strong immunity, and overall vitality.

### Hydration Tips for Digestive Health

Proper hydration is essential for maintaining your puppy's digestive health. Here's how to ensure your Mini Aussie stays hydrated:

#### Provide Fresh Water

- Always keep a bowl of clean, fresh water available for your puppy. Change the water daily to keep it appealing.

#### Watch for Dehydration

- Signs of dehydration include dry gums, lethargy, and reduced skin elasticity. If you notice these signs, encourage your puppy to drink water and consult your vet if symptoms persist.

#### Add Moisture to Meals

- If your puppy is reluctant to drink water, try adding a bit of warm water or low-sodium broth to their food to increase their fluid intake.

#### Monitor Water Intake

- Puppies with active lifestyles, like Mini Aussies, may need more water during hot weather or after exercise. Keep an eye on their water consumption to ensure they're staying hydrated.

### Conclusion

Gut health is the cornerstone of your Mini Aussie puppy's overall well-being. By providing proper nutrition, monitoring for signs of digestive issues, and incorporating high-quality supplements like [pawTree's Gastro Pro Plus](#), you can support their digestive health and set them up for a lifetime of vitality. Remember, a healthy gut means better digestion, a stronger immune system, and a happy, energetic puppy.

In the next chapter, we'll explore the importance of exercise and mental stimulation, and how to keep your Mini Aussie's active mind and body engaged.





## Chapter 8: Ensuring Your Mini Aussie's Well-Being with Trupanion Pet Insurance

Welcoming a Mini Aussie puppy into your family is an exciting and rewarding experience. However, as a responsible pet parent, it's important to prepare for unexpected accidents or illnesses. Veterinary care can be costly, especially for an active and curious breed like the Mini Aussie, but pet insurance can provide peace of mind and financial protection.

In this chapter, we'll explore the benefits of pet insurance, what Trupanion covers, how it can save you money on vet bills, and how to enroll your puppy in a policy. As a partner of [Trupanion](#), Triple Lake Ranch is thrilled to offer a **special Go Home Day Offer** with exclusive benefits for new puppy owners, including **waived waiting periods, no payout limits, and 30 days of free coverage!**

### The Benefits of Pet Insurance for Mini Aussies

Mini Aussies are an active, intelligent breed, which means they're prone to adventurous (and sometimes mischievous) behaviors that can lead to injuries. Additionally, like any other dog breed, Mini Aussies can face breed-specific health conditions or unexpected illnesses. Pet insurance ensures you can provide the best care possible without worrying about the financial burden.

### Key Benefits of Pet Insurance

#### Financial Protection

- Pet insurance reduces the financial strain of unexpected veterinary expenses, allowing you to focus on your puppy's health instead of worrying about costs.

#### Access to Advanced Care

- Veterinary medicine has advanced significantly, offering treatments like surgeries, diagnostics, and therapies. Insurance ensures you can afford these treatments if your puppy ever needs them.

### Peace of Mind

- Knowing that your Mini Aussie is covered in case of an emergency gives you peace of mind as you navigate your journey as a pet parent.

### Coverage for Accidents and Illnesses

- From broken bones to unexpected illnesses, insurance can help cover the costs of diagnostics, treatments, and medications when your puppy needs care the most.

### Helps with Breed-Specific Conditions

- Mini Aussies are generally healthy, but they can be prone to conditions like hip dysplasia, cataracts, or epilepsy. Pet insurance can help cover the costs of managing these conditions if they arise.

### What Trupanion Covers: Accidents, Illnesses, and More

Trupanion is one of the leading providers of pet insurance, offering comprehensive coverage designed to give you financial support when you need it most. Here's what Trupanion covers:

### What's Covered

- **Accidents:** Injuries like sprains, broken bones, or swallowed objects.
- **Illnesses:** From common conditions like ear infections to more serious illnesses like cancer.
- **Hereditary and Congenital Conditions:** Breed-specific conditions such as hip dysplasia or eye disorders.
- **Diagnostics:** Tests like X-rays, MRIs, ultrasounds, and bloodwork.
- **Surgeries:** Costs associated with necessary surgical procedures.
- **Medications:** Prescription medications for treating covered conditions.
- **Hospital Stays:** Coverage for overnight stays or treatments at veterinary hospitals.

### What's Not Covered

- Pre-existing conditions (conditions that existed or showed symptoms before coverage began).
- Preventative care (like vaccinations, flea/tick prevention, and spaying/neutering).

### How Pet Insurance Can Save You Money on Vet Bills

Veterinary care can quickly add up, especially if your puppy experiences an injury or illness. Here's how Trupanion can help you save money:

### Coverage for Big Expenses

- Emergency vet visits, surgeries, or long-term treatments can cost thousands of dollars. With Trupanion, you'll only need to pay a small portion of the bill, significantly reducing your out-of-pocket expenses.

### No Payout Limits

- Trupanion doesn't impose annual, lifetime, or per-condition payout limits, so you can access as much care as your puppy needs.

### Instant Payments to Vets

- Trupanion works directly with participating vets to pay their portion of the bill at checkout, so you don't need to worry about upfront costs or reimbursement delays.

### Enrolling Your Puppy in Trupanion: Steps and Tips

Getting started with Trupanion is simple, and thanks to the **Go Home Day Offer** from Triple Lake Ranch, you can take advantage of waived waiting periods and 30 days of free coverage!

### Steps to Enroll

#### Activate the Go Home Day Offer

##### Time-Sensitive Activation

- The Go Home Day Offer expires 24 hours after your puppy goes home, so it's important to activate it as soon as possible. To ensure coverage is in place, we recommend starting the process the day before pick-up.

##### Customize Your Policy

- Once the 30-day period ends, you can customize your ongoing policy to fit your budget and coverage needs. Adjust your deductible to find the right balance between monthly premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

##### Keep Coverage Active

- Maintaining continuous coverage helps ensure that any conditions diagnosed after enrollment will be covered.

##### Tips for a Successful Enrollment

- **Gather Medical Records:** Have your puppy's health records ready for a smooth enrollment process.
- **Start Early:** Don't wait until your puppy experiences an accident or illness—insurance must be in place before something happens for it to be covered.
- **Ask Questions:** Reach out to Trupanion's customer service team if you have any questions about coverage or enrollment.

#### Special Go Home Day Offer from Triple Lake Ranch

As a trusted partner of Trupanion, Triple Lake Ranch is excited to provide all new puppy owners with an exclusive **Go Home Day Offer** to ensure your Mini Aussie is protected from the start.

### What's Included

- **Waived Waiting Periods:** Coverage begins immediately, providing instant protection for your puppy.
- **30 Days of Coverage with No Upfront Payment:** Enjoy peace of mind during your puppy's first month at home without an upfront financial commitment.
- **No Payout Limits:** Unlimited coverage for eligible conditions, so your puppy gets the care they need.
- **Time-Sensitive Activation:** The offer expires 24 hours after your puppy goes home, so activate it as soon as possible!

By enrolling in Trupanion on or before your puppy's Go Home Day, you'll ensure they're covered for any unexpected accidents or illnesses from Day 1.

### Conclusion

Pet insurance is an invaluable investment in your Mini Aussie's health and well-being. With Trupanion's comprehensive coverage, waived waiting periods, and exclusive **Go Home Day Offer**, you can give your puppy the best start in life while protecting yourself from unexpected veterinary costs. Don't wait—activate your coverage early to take advantage of these incredible benefits and enjoy peace of mind knowing your Mini Aussie is protected.

In the next chapter, we'll explore essential exercise and mental stimulation tips to keep your energetic Mini Aussie happy and healthy.

# trupanion™ Coverage Overview

## What's Covered



## Complementary Care

Available for an additional cost:

- Rehabilitative Therapy
- Acupuncture
- Hydrotherapy
- Chiropractic
- Behavioral Therapy
- Homeopathy
- Naturopathy



## What's Not Covered

- Pre-existing conditions—conditions that show symptoms in the 18 months before enrollment or during waiting periods
- Preventive care (vaccinations, flea and tick control, etc.)
- Spay or neuter
- Exam fees and sales tax, where applicable

### Who?

All dogs and cats under 14 years old can enroll for lifelong coverage.

### What?

One simple plan covers 90% of eligible costs for new illnesses and injuries with no payout limits.

### Where?

Visit any veterinary, emergency care, or specialty hospital in the US, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

### When?

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# Chapter 9: Training Your Mini Aussie Puppy

Training is one of the most important aspects of raising a happy, well-adjusted Mini Aussie puppy. Known for their sharp minds, boundless energy, and strong herding instincts, Mini Aussies thrive when they're given structure, purpose, and mental stimulation. Early training sets the foundation for good behavior, builds a strong bond between you and your puppy, and helps prevent problem behaviors.

In this chapter, we'll cover the importance of early training, step-by-step instructions for teaching basic commands, potty training tips, how to prevent common problem behaviors, and advanced training ideas to keep your Mini Aussie engaged. Additionally, we'll discuss the benefits of group training classes and why they're a fantastic resource for both you and your puppy.

## The Importance of Early Training for Mini Aussies

Mini Aussies are highly intelligent, energetic, and eager to please, which makes them highly trainable—but their intelligence also means they can develop bad habits if left untrained. Early training helps harness their natural abilities and prevents behavioral issues from forming.

## Why Early Training Matters

**Mental Stimulation:** Mini Aussies need constant mental challenges to stay happy and well-behaved. Training provides the mental stimulation they crave.

**Impulse Control:** Early training helps your puppy learn patience and self-control, skills that are especially important for a high-energy breed.

**Prevention of Bad Habits:** Teaching good behaviors early prevents common issues like excessive barking, chewing, or jumping.



**Socialization:** Training introduces your puppy to new people, dogs, and environments, helping them grow into confident, well-rounded adults.

**Strengthens Your Bond:** Training builds trust and communication between you and your puppy, setting the stage for a lifelong relationship.

### Teaching Basic Commands: Sit, Stay, Come, and More

Teaching basic commands is essential for managing your puppy's behavior and ensuring their safety. These commands are the foundation of all future training.

#### Sit

- **Why It's Important:** Teaches impulse control and is the basis for many other commands.
- **How to Teach It:**
  1. Hold a treat close to your puppy's nose.
  2. Slowly move the treat upward, causing their head to follow and their bottom to lower.
  3. Say "Sit" as they sit, then reward them with the treat and praise.

#### Stay

- **Why It's Important:** Builds patience and helps keep your puppy safe in situations where they need to remain still.
- **How to Teach It:**
  1. Ask your puppy to sit.
  2. Hold your palm out and say "Stay."
  3. Step back a small distance. If they stay, reward them immediately. Gradually increase the distance and duration.

### Come

- **Why It's Important:** Recall is essential for keeping your puppy safe, especially off-leash.
- **How to Teach It:**
  1. Call your puppy's name, followed by "Come," in an excited tone.
  2. Use treats or toys as a reward when they respond.
  3. Practice in different environments to reinforce the command.

### Down

- **Why It's Important:** A useful command to calm your puppy and redirect energy.
- **How to Teach It:**
  1. Hold a treat in your hand and lower it to the ground.
  2. Encourage your puppy to follow the treat into a lying-down position.
  3. Say "Down" and reward them when they comply.

### Leave It

- **Why It's Important:** Prevents your puppy from picking up unsafe or unwanted items.
- **How to Teach It:**
  1. Hold a treat in your hand and close your fist.
  2. Say "Leave it" and wait until your puppy stops sniffing or pawing at your hand.
  3. Reward them with a different treat when they look away.

## Potty Training Made Simple: Tips for Success

Potty training is one of the first challenges of puppy ownership, but with consistency and patience, your Mini Aussie will learn quickly.

### Key Tips for Potty Training

**Establish a Routine:** Take your puppy outside at regular intervals, such as after waking, eating, playing, or napping.

**Use a Designated Potty Area:** Choose a specific spot outside and take your puppy there consistently. This helps them associate the area with going to the bathroom.

**Reward Immediately:** Praise and reward your puppy with treats as soon as they potty in the correct spot.

**Supervise Indoors:** Keep a close eye on your puppy to prevent accidents. Use baby gates or a leash to limit their roaming.

**Crate Training Helps:** Puppies naturally avoid soiling their sleeping area, so a crate can be a helpful tool for potty training.

**Be Patient:** Accidents are part of the process—never punish your puppy for accidents. Instead, clean the area thoroughly and focus on rewarding correct behavior.

### Preventing Problem Behaviors: Barking, Chewing, and Jumping

Mini Aussies are energetic and curious, which can sometimes lead to undesirable behaviors. Here's how to prevent common issues:

#### Barking

- **Why It Happens:** Mini Aussies may bark out of boredom, excitement, or to alert you.
- **How to Prevent It:**
  - Provide plenty of exercise and mental stimulation.
  - Teach the “Quiet” command by rewarding silence.
  - Avoid rewarding barking with attention.

### Chewing

- **Why It Happens:** Puppies chew to relieve teething discomfort or boredom.
- **How to Prevent It:**
  - Provide appropriate chew toys.
  - Supervise and redirect your puppy if they chew on inappropriate items.
  - Use bitter sprays on furniture or other items to deter chewing.

### Jumping

- **Why It Happens:** Puppies jump to greet people or seek attention.
- **How to Prevent It:**
  - Ignore your puppy when they jump and only give attention when all four paws are on the ground.
  - Teach the “Off” command and reward calm behavior.

### Advanced Training Ideas: Tricks, Agility, and Obedience

Once your Mini Aussie masters the basics, challenge them with advanced training to keep their sharp minds engaged.

#### Tricks

Teach fun tricks like “Shake,” “Roll Over,” or “Spin” to build your puppy’s confidence and strengthen your bond.

#### Agility

Mini Aussies excel in agility courses. Introduce them to activities like jumping through hoops, weaving through poles, or running over ramps to channel their energy.

### Obedience Work

Enroll in advanced obedience classes to refine your puppy's skills and practice in a distracting environment.

### Herding Games

Mini Aussies are natural herders. Set up herding-style activities in your yard to satisfy their instincts.

### The Benefits of Group Training Classes

Group training classes are an excellent resource for both you and your puppy. They provide structured learning opportunities, socialization, and expert guidance.

### Benefits of Group Training Classes

**Socialization:** Classes expose your puppy to other dogs and people in a controlled environment, helping them learn appropriate social behaviors.

**Expert Guidance:** Professional trainers can provide valuable tips, correct mistakes, and troubleshoot problem behaviors.

**Distraction Training:** Practicing commands in a group setting teaches your puppy to focus in the presence of other dogs and distractions.

**Accountability:** Regular classes keep you on track with your training goals.

**Confidence Building:** Group settings help your puppy develop confidence as they learn to navigate new environments.

### Where to Find Classes

- **City Programs:** Many cities offer affordable puppy training classes through local parks and recreation departments.
- **Private Trainers:** Private trainers often host group classes with a focus on specific skills or goals.
- **Pet Stores:** Chains like **PetSmart** and **Petco** offer group training classes for puppies and adult dogs.
- **Veterinary Recommendations:** Check with your veterinarian for trusted local trainers or classes.

### Tips for Choosing a Class

- Research the trainer's qualifications and methods.
- Look for positive reinforcement-based training classes.
- Visit the facility to ensure it's clean, safe, and well-organized.

### Conclusion

Training your Mini Aussie puppy is one of the most important investments you can make in their future. Early training, combined with group classes, provides the foundation for good behavior, socialization, and a strong bond between you and your puppy. With patience, consistency, and a focus on mental and physical engagement, your Mini Aussie will thrive as a well-mannered and happy member of your family.

In the next chapter, we'll discuss the importance of exercise and mental stimulation to keep your Mini Aussie's active mind and body healthy and happy.

# Puppy Training Cheat Sheet

## Weekly Training

# WEEK 10

### Weekly Focus

This week is all about establishing a routine for your puppy. This will help them feel comfortable and at ease.

## TIPS & TRICKS

Use a “house line”, a thin long leash, to help manage your puppy

Do not use a food bowl, instead hand feed their meals during training.

For now, only use your puppy's name when name training. Otherwise, use a nickname or a phrase like “pup pup pup” to get your dogs attention.

Puppies can focus on things within six (6) inches of their noses. Put your treats right on your puppy's nose and make it obvious, you'll get their attention every time!

**Name** – Say their name and feed them a treat right away. This adds value to their name!

**Lure positions** – Using a treat, lead your puppy into a sit, down, or come. Do not use the command word just yet, this will come in time. For now, introduce them to the positions you will ask for later.

**Potty** – Begin potty training from the first day with your puppy. Take them out immediately when they wake up and every 30 minutes throughout the day. Reward and praise them when they do go to the bathroom outdoors.

**Crate** – The crate should be your puppy's safe space, where they can learn to decompress, rest and recover from the eventful day of being a puppy. Consider having one crate in a central area, like the living room, and another where they sleep. If your dog has a hard time settling at night, put their crate on a table near your bed so they can see you. You can transition to having the crate on the floor or in another room for the night once they settle easily. Crate training isn't just for nighttime though, using the crate while you're home will help avoid separation anxiety. Choke-proof toys can be allowed in the crate.

## TRAINING

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**Bathroom** – Introduce your puppy to the space where they one day will be bathed. Start with the tub empty, and water off. Use treats to reinforce this is a good place, working your way up to standing in the tub with running water. Take baby steps and slow down if your dog shows any signs of nervousness or anxiety. Exposures should be done over the course of several days, not all at once.

**Handling** – Get your pet comfortable with being handled, both down on the floor and up on a tabletop. Touch your puppy's belly, back and rear legs, feeling as you go as if you were looking for a bump or cut. Look in their ears and lift their tail. Reach down low, not overhead, for their collar. Your puppy and their vet will be more comfortable if these feelings and motions are familiar to your dog.

**Fear Period #1** – Puppy go through two fear periods, where they will appear to regress and become less social. The first fear period usually occurs at ages 8 – 12 weeks. To help your puppy through this time, be sure to not overwhelm them or force them to do something they're unsure about. Schedule puppy classes, they can be a great way to build your puppy's confidence in a safe, dynamic environment as well. Avoid introducing your dog to unvaccinated dogs until your pup is fully vaccinated.

## HEALTH

Your puppy will likely sleep approximately 20 hours a day, this time is used to store memories, build strong bodies and grow. It is healthy to sleep a lot, do not limit your puppy's sleep.

10 minutes is a good exercise goal at this age – exercise can be running around the yard or chasing a ball. Avoid structured walks until your puppy is leash trained indoors first.

Weigh your puppy when he or she comes home. You will use this baseline weight to track weight gain in the coming weeks and months. Healthy puppies start to put on weight from the day they're born but it is common for puppies to lose weight as they adjust to their new home.



# WEEK 11

### Weekly Focus

Bond with your puppy this week, build a relationship and show them they can expect reliable, consistent feedback from you

## TIPS & TRICKS

Set your puppy up for success and make it so they can't fail. Preventing them from making bad choices is the first line of defense. Supervise your puppy closely and redirecting them away from trouble and danger.

Bones and antlers are a popular favorite chew toy. Puppies teeth need softer treats, but when they're a bit older you can introduce them to antlers. For now, try pink puppy Kongs or soft fabric toys. Rope toys can be a great chew toy too!

Take pictures of your pup! You'll be glad you have these when they're older!

**Name** – Ask others in your household to call and treat your puppy. Men, women and children are welcome! Their name should be the first thing your puppy learns.

**Lure positions** – Mime a command (still not using words) and give your puppy the opportunity to do the action you're asking for, either sit, down or come.

**Leash** – Practice indoors, walking down a hallway with a treat by your side or knee. Allow the puppy to follow and nibble at the treat. Give them the treat, take a break and repeat!

**Chewing** – Introduce appropriate chew toys to help your puppy channel their energy into a non-destructive toy. Soft fabric toys or soft rubber chews are well suited for puppies. Never leave them unsupervised with a toy or treat they could choke on!

**Classes** – Puppy training is a great resource to help you and your pup. Teachers not only teach your dog, but they will also educate you on how to communicate with your dog. Dog trainers can be well versed in behavioral signs to look out for and reading canine body language. There are several training styles, do your research and pick one that suits you

## TRAINING

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**People** – Try to expose your puppy to men, women and children. These people can give your puppy treats to build positive associations. You can also treat your puppy for looking at different people and not reacting (barking, growling). Try "screensaver" training – watch people or dogs from a distance, letting your puppy soak in the environment before they are fully vaccinated.

**Grooming** – Simulate grooming behaviors by touching your puppy's paws, ears and lips. This will come in handy when they're older and you need to look inside their mouth or check their paw for cuts. For example, begin by putting the nail clippers on a surface where the dog can see them, and feed a small handful of treats. That's day one, done! The next day, hold the clippers in one hand while treating from the other. Day two, done! On day three, have someone else dispense the treats while you hold the clippers in one hand and gently lift one paw with the other. When it comes to socializing for grooming experiences, the slower you go, the faster you'll get there!

**Socialization Period** – 10-11 weeks is a key socialization time for puppies. As your puppy is welcomed into your home, they are invariably exploring new textures (wood, tile, carpet, grass), new people (you, your family) and new scents. If your puppy is uncertain about anything new to them, do not pressure them – give them time and space to learn that, for example, wet grass is not dangerous.

## HEALTH

Take your puppy out to go to the bathroom every 2 – 3 hours at this age. Their bladder is growing but for now, they need frequent potty breaks to encourage good bathroom behaviors. The more often, the better! Take them out to potty when they wake up from a nap, after eating, after playing and before crate time.

Puppies tend to eat frequently since their bellies are small. If you are using their meals for training, then hand feed them continually throughout the day. If you are feeding them from a food bowl, puppies typically eat 3 – 4 meals per day. Ask your vet for feeding guidelines for your specific puppy.

Puppies have growth spurts just like people. Toy breeds have their biggest growth spurt between birth and 11 weeks of age, small and medium sized breed between birth and 16 weeks and large or giant breeds between birth and 5 months of age. Monitor your dog's body shape and adjust their food accordingly.

# WEEK 12

### Weekly Focus

This week your dog will get a sense of what is part of their normal environment. They'll learn who, what, when and where is home.

## TIPS & TRICKS

Consider not feeding your puppy as soon as you wake up. Early morning feeding may encourage early wake ups. Try feeding them after they've been up for about an hour. That way they will not be encouraged to wake up early and you both can sleep in a bit.

Baby gates are a wonderful tool as your puppies begins to gain confidence and explore your home. Baby gates can keep your puppy in a single room, such as a bathroom or living room. Block off the stairs to keep them on one floor too. Circular baby gates called "X pens" can be used as a portable play area for your pup indoors or out!

## TRAINING

**Marker** – You can use a word such as "yes" or a clicker to mark when your dog has done the right thing. When your pup does something correctly, indicate to them right away that it was correct by using your marker word "yes". This is useful in the beginning of training to communicate with your pup and can be phased out as they advance and mature.

**Crate** – Continue crate training and keep their stays brief. Be sure to practice during the day as well as at night. If your dog fusses, whines and does not settle, drape a blanket over their crate to help block out the light and sights. Hard sided plastic crates can feel more like a den for your dog than wide sided crates. Make sure their crate isn't too spacious; if they can lay down on one side and go to the bathroom on the other side, it is likely too large.

**Potty** – It is expected that your puppy needs to pee at least every 2 – 3 hours. Take them out sooner to avoid accidents and build good habits. When in doubt, take them out!

**Games** – Use games to teach skills and bond together. Chase based games are best at this stage, you could even try a flirt pole and hide-n-seek.

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**People** – Your puppy may begin to willingly approach people at this stage. If he or she is still timid, keep exposing them to men, women and children that are offering treats. You can even ask others to walk by your puppy, avoiding eye contact, and toss a treat in their direction. This will associate seeing people will good feelings for your puppy. Be sure to not overwhelm your puppy at this stage. Monitor their body language and stop before they loose interest over get overstimulated, 10 – 15 minutes is likely enough time. A good outing at this age is to bring your dog to a pet-friendly store. Keeping the leash on, place them in the cart with a chew toy and walk around the store. You can let other people pet your puppy if you'd like. Be sure to bring treats and make the outing a positive experience for your pup.

**Things in the neighborhood** – For bonus points, bring your puppy out in your yard or driveway. The moment a vehicle, a stroller or something else catches their attention, give them a treat! Treat them before they react at all. In an ideal world the majority of your puppy's kibble will be used in training, not given in a bowl. This builds up positive associations for your puppy and lays the groundwork of looking to you for cues about what to do next. Keep these socialization opportunities brief and let your puppy rest afterwards to form positive memories.

## HEALTH

Your puppy may start to sleep a little less each day, averaging around 18 – 20 hours per day. This is expected until they're around 4 months old. Some puppies may be able to sleep midnight – 6 am around the 10-week mark. Hang in there and stay strong in your crate training, it will pay off in time! Be sure to encourage sleep but not playing with your puppy during nighttime potty breaks and keep the lights dim to help they stay sleepy. In the morning, listen before waking your puppy up. If they're quietly sleeping, try waking them up 30-minutes later tomorrow. This will help you slowly extend their nighttime sleep length.

Puppies do not need to be bathed often. At this age, try bathing your puppy only if they have rubbed in something smelly. Puppy wipes can be a great way to spot clean between baths. If you do need to bathe them, use a gentle puppy shampoo and make the experience positive for them. Sometimes, a large bowl or the kitchen sink can be less scary than a large tub.

# WEEK 13

### Weekly Focus

The rule of three says after being home for three weeks, your pup will start to settle in for good.

## TIPS & TRICKS

“Puppy Blues” are common at this time – with inevitable potty accidents, early morning wake ups and a lot of puppy energy most owners feel overwhelmed at this stage. This is completely normal! Look for ways to cope; this may include talking to a friend with a dog, reading forums and/ or finding safe ways to get out of the house with your puppy.

Remember to take some pictures! As your puppy changes, try to capture their expressions, mannerisms and physique as they grow and mature.

Practice leads to learning, be patient.

## TRAINING

**Single commands** – With practice, your pup should respond to single commands, such as “down”, “come” or “stay”. It is also good practice to introduce sitting at thresholds to teach patience and impulse control.

**Loose leash** – Practice walking in a heel using a treat to lure. This can progress into a loose leash walk. When your pup looks up and makes eye contact, reward them for checking in. In these early days, encourage them to follow your lead and look to you for guidance.

**Tug-o-war** – Tug and Release is a good variation on the classic game. In this game, start by you and your puppy both pulling on a towel or rope. Then when you want your puppy to release the item, stay very still and look uninterested. They will naturally drop the object and you can resume play again. Later, you can pair the dropping with a command such as “out” or “drop it”.

**Sit** – Teach this skill in a variety of ways. Sit on different textures. Sit to greet people. Sit before going outside. Sit, come, sit, come! Building a strong foundation now will be invaluable later!

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**People** – If your puppy has done well with the members of your home, consider exposing them to more people. Invite friends to go for a walk with you or meet up at a park with some family. Often, dogs can be more protective and uneasy meeting new people inside their homes, so meeting on “neutral ground” is always best for dogs and people alike.

**New experiences** – Keep your exposures short and sweet. Don’t keep going until they’re frustrated, bored, uncomfortable or overwhelmed. When your puppy is having a good time, start to wrap up. Try to always leave on a high note so your puppy wants to go again! One option may be to take some food in a portable bowl and find a nice bench on a sidewalk. As your pup eats (positive feelings) they can notice the pedestrians going by and begin to form a positive outlook on people. This is the foundation to having a dog that is not afraid or overly protective of strangers. This early socialization is particularly important for protective large dog breeds. If your puppy loves people now, do not be surprised if that changes once they reach adolescence.

## HEALTH

Your puppy can likely wait 4 – 6 hours between potty breaks now. Still monitor your puppy’s behavior for sniffing the carpet or floor and keep practicing going outside!

Your puppy may be due for some routine medications. Check with your vet regarding their DHPP vaccine, parvovirus, flu, rabies vaccine and heartworm preventative medication.

Make sure you don’t put your puppy down on the ground in a new place if they aren’t fully vaccinated. If you are struggling to lift them, you might want to invest in a harness, or puppy backpack!

When exercising, watch your puppy for signs that they are tired. Do not over exercise them but be sure they get their fill.

# WEEK 14

## TIPS & TRICKS

Bedtime massages can help sooth a curious puppy. Try rubbing them slowly and massaging their muscles at the end of the day. This is a great way top check for ticks too.

If your puppy is biting a lot, remove them from the situation and place them in a puppy pen. You can mark the moment by saying "Ouch" firmly. Do not reward nipping with excitement, simply remove your dog and give them a appropriate chew toy instead.

See your puppy laying down? Treat them! Did they not jump? Treat them! Frequent rewards for good behavior builds consistent, reliable habits.

**Multiple commands** – You can begin stringing together several commands. "Leave it" + "Look at Me" or their name is a very useful combo to break their focus and get their attention back on you. Fetch paired with "Come" and "Drop it" make for lots of fun for everyone! Don't train "Stay" and "Come" together, it takes the focus off waiting (stay).

**Sniffing walks** – Mix it up by bringing your dog on a leisurely stroll, allowing them more leash length than normal and letting them sniff as they go. These walks do not need to be far but letting your puppy sniff and explore is a great way to encourage them to go potty, exercise, learn, and socialize with their environment.

**Sleep** – The next four weeks should be all about getting your puppy (and you) to sleep through the night.

**Potty** – Your puppy can last 3 hours or so between daytime potty breaks. Continue to set them up for success by taking them out every 3 hours. Fewer accidents means a stronger association with peeing outdoors, not indoors. If they do have an accident, don't make a big deal about it, just be sure to use enzyme cleaner and take your dog out more often.

## TRAINING

### Weekly Focus

This is the week you make potty training and sleep training progress! Stick to a schedule and take water up 90 minutes before bedtime.

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**Other animals** – Once your pet is fully vaccinated, you can introduce them to friendly pets. Avoid chaotic dog parks and seek out friends or family that have cats or dogs that are known to be friendly with other animals.

**Loud and moving objects** – Now is a good time to show your puppy vacuums, doorbells, car rides and other noisy experiences. Always introduce things in baby steps, for instance sitting in the car turned off, idling the car, going for a drive around the block, then finally going for a longer ride. Baby steps ensure short, positive interactions which will be the key to success and desensitization.

**New spaces** – Be sure to take some treats and bring your puppy to different locations. As they notice new things, give them a treat before they can react. Some great leash-friendly stores include are pet stores, Home Depot, Lowes, Bass Pro Shops, Barnes & Noble and the Apple Stores. Always make sure your puppy goes potty before going in any stores. You can walk around the store or find a spot and sit. Sitting and watching is better for shier puppies as it lets them warm up to the environment in their own time. You can also sit out front of stores and watch people going in or out.

## HEALTH

A rule of thumb is to exercise your puppy for 5 minutes for every month of your puppy's age. You can up your puppy's exercise to 15 minutes a day. This could be going on a 15-minute walk or three 5-minute walks. If your puppy starts flopping their feet, slowing down to laying down when you stop, take a break! It is better to spready out the exercise throughout the day, doing a morning and evening sessions. Stay in tune with your dog and adjust as appropriate based on how they feel and behave during the day.

Puppies lose their baby teeth around 3 – 4 months old. They may chew on things a bit more so be sure to have a dog-appropriate chew toy handy to direct their mouthy behavior. A great tool is a frozen face cloth, tied in a knot. This frozen chew toy will sooth your puppy's gums and help the baby teeth come out naturally. When their adult teeth grow in, they'll have 42 in total, 10 more teeth than humans!

# Puppy Training Cheat Sheet

## Monthly Training

# Month 3

## Monthly Focus

This is the month you make potty training and sleep training progress! Stick to a schedule and take water up 90 minutes before bedtime.

## TIPS & TRICKS

Bedtime massages can help sooth a curious puppy. Try rubbing them slowly and massaging their muscles at the end of the day. This is a great way to pop check for ticks too.

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**Other animals** – Once your pet is fully vaccinated, you can introduce them to friendly pets. Avoid chaotic dog parks and seek out friends or family that have cats or dogs that are known to be friendly with other animals.

**Loud and moving objects** – Now is a good time to show your puppy vacuums, doorbells, car rides and other noisy experiences. Always introduce things in baby steps, for instance sitting in the car turned off, idling the car, going for a drive around the block, then finally going for a longer ride. Baby steps ensure short, positive interactions which will be the key to success and desensitization.

**New spaces** – Be sure to take some treats and bring your puppy to different locations. As they notice new things, give them a treat before they can react. Some great leash-friendly stores include are pet stores, Home Depot, Lowes, Bass Pro Shops, Barnes & Noble and the Apple Stores. Always make sure your puppy goes potty before going in any stores. You can walk around the store or find a spot and sit. Sitting and watching is better for shier puppies as it lets them warm up to the environment in their own time. You can also sit out front of stores and watch people going in or out.

## HEALTH

A rule of thumb is to exercise your puppy for 5 minutes for every month of your puppy's age. You can up your puppy's exercise to 15 minutes a day. This could be going on a 15-minute walk or three 5-minute walks. If your puppy starts flopping their feet, slowing down to laying down when you stop, take a break! It is better to spready out the exercise throughout the day, doing a morning and evening sessions. Stay in tune with your dog and adjust as appropriate based on how they feel and behave during the day.

Puppies lose their baby teeth around 3 – 4 months old. They may chew on things a bit more so be sure to have a dog-appropriate chew toy handy to direct their mouthy behavior. A great tool is a frozen face cloth, tied in a knot. This frozen chew toy will sooth your puppy's gums and help the baby teeth come out naturally. When their adult teeth grow in, they'll have 42 in total, 10 more teeth than humans!

# Month 4

### Monthly Focus

Bond with your puppy this week, build a relationship and show them they can expect reliable, consistent feedback from you

## TIPS & TRICKS

The window for socialization typically starts to close around 3 months. In some puppies, this window can last until the end of 4 months, so don't stop socializing your puppy! Keep up the good work!

Fear periods are an evolutionary tool dogs developed to get familiar with what is a harmless stimuli (trees, rocks, birds chirping) and become wary of novel, potentially dangerous stimuli (trains, predators, rapid rivers).

## TRAINING

**Hierarchy** – Puppies will try to figure out who is the pack leader at this age. For the next few months, be sure to provide strong guiding support. Encourage them to look to you for direction and correct them if they are making bad decisions. It is best to not let your puppy be in a position that they could make a bad choice, but if so, redirect them and praise good behavior. When walking, position them next to you and do not let them pull on the leash. If they do, change direction. Reward them for looking up and checking in with you.

**Puppy proof (still)** – Puppies at this age are very curious, but they are also very timid! Remove dangerous or delicate objects from your puppy's area of access. This way they can safely approach and investigate new objects without needing to be redirected or corrected. Praise their initiative and encourage them to explore safely.

**Place** – Teach your puppy to go to a specific spot and stay there. The easiest way to Bordetella grasp this skill is with a mat or dog bed. Lure to dog into their spot, command them to lay down and reward. Wait a few seconds between rewards until your dog inherently remains laying with an implied stay. This is useful when guests are coming over, when you need to vacuum or when you want to eat dinner undisturbed.

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**People** – Try to expose your puppy to men, women and children. These people can give your puppy treats to build positive associations. You can also treat your puppy for looking at different people and not reacting (barking, growling). Try "screensaver" training – watch people or dogs from a distance, letting your puppy soak in the environment before they are fully vaccinated.

**Grooming** – Simulate grooming behaviors by touching your puppy's paws, ears and lips. This will come in handy when they're older and you need to look inside their mouth or check their paw for cuts. For example, begin by putting the nail clippers on a surface where the dog can see them, and feed a small handful of treats. That's day one, done! The next day, hold the clippers in one hand while treating from the other. Day two, done! On day three, have someone else dispense the treats while you hold the clippers in one hand and gently lift one paw with the other. When it comes to socializing for grooming experiences, the slower you go, the faster you'll get there!

**Socialization Period** – 10-11 weeks is a key socialization time for puppies. As your puppy is welcomed into your home, they are invariably exploring new textures (wood, tile, carpet, grass), new people (you, your family) and new scents. If your puppy is uncertain about anything new to them, do not pressure them – give them time and space to learn that, for example, wet grass is not dangerous.

## HEALTH

Your puppy may begin sleeping through the night at this stage! If you've been crate training, it will pay off now!

Consider adding 5 minutes of exercise for the next few weeks. Around 6 months old, they should be active for about 30 minutes at a time. All puppies are different so listen to your pup and monitor how he or she is feeling after exercise. Exercising in the morning and evening can help avoid the heat of mid-day.

Your puppy may be due for some routine medications. Check with your vet regarding their DHPP vaccine, parvovirus vaccine and Bordetella vaccine (optional).

You may notice your puppy's hair changing from fluffy puppy fur to firmer adult hair at this stage.

# Month 5

### Monthly Focus

Prepare for your puppy to transition from childhood to adolescence. Reinforce your bond and practice general obedience.

## TIPS & TRICKS

Group puppy training classes can be a great source for training in a distracting environment. All the dogs in the class will be up to date on vaccinations and safe for your puppy; the trainer will be able to provide guidance and direction for you both.

Keep those chew toys out for your pup! As their adult teeth are coming in, having appreciate chew toys around will feel good for your puppy and spare you some sanity. Molars can be particularly hard for teething puppies, consider freezing a Kong, filling ice cubes with dog treats or even wetting and freezing a plush stuffed animal.

## TRAINING

**Teeth** – Clean your puppies teeth using either a finger brush or puppy toothbrush. Even if you plan to use treats like Greenies, be sure to acclimate your dog to people working with his or her mouth. This will be very important if they eat something dangerous, visit at the vet or get their teeth caught on something like another dog's collar.

**Outdoor obedience** – Take your indoor training outdoors! Practicing sit, down, and come will all be more challenging outside so be sure to have high-value rewards and keep your sessions brief. Leave time for puppy to roam and sniff around.

**Heel/ Follow on walks** – Practice calling your dog to a heel during walks. Allow them to wander a bit further and call them back to a heel. As you resume walking, keep them to the side of you or even just behind. You can lure this position by holding a treat in your hand and allowing your puppy to lick it as you walk. This position of walking at your heels reinforces that you are the leader and discourages pulling on the end of the leash. For toy motivated dogs, hold a tug toy at your side and walk. Your puppy can walk along with you, carrying the other end of the tug toy in their mouth.

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**Environments** – Consider showing your puppy new places and spaces outside the home. Take them to the beach, a park, a pond, trails in the woods, everywhere! Do not do this all at once, spread it out over the course of the next few months. A good goal is 2 new places a week. Let your dog smell these places and do not rush them. The goal is for them to explore and broaden their horizon, so enjoy a nice stroll by the ocean as your puppy sniffs and romps around.

If your puppy is not yet vaccinated, bring them in the car and roll down the window so they can smell the smells, hear the sounds and see the sights without getting their paws dirty (literally). You can let them explore areas where not very many other dogs have been, just be sure to watch them closely and do not let your puppy eat animal feces on the ground.

Bring your puppy swimming at a lake, pond or pool. Somewhere with an easy entry and exit are ideal so the puppy can walk in and walk out of its own, rather than needing someone to lift him or her out of the water. If you don't have any bodies of water nearby, a backyard kiddie pool can bring your puppy tons of fun, while exposing them to a new experience and helping them cool off in the hotter months.

## HEALTH

Dogs typically reach their 50% growth mark around 4 months of age. You can expect your puppy to double in size before it reaches its full adult size. Medium size breeds reach their adult size around 12 – 18 months of age..

It is common to spay or neuter a puppy during the 6 – 9 month old time frame. Some owners choose to wait even longer, as it could possibly contribute to prolonged bone and muscle development. Delayed sterilization may also contribute to the formation of undesirable behaviors due to increased adolescent hormones. Have a discussion with your vet about when is right for your newest family member and plan ahead in the coming months. Ask your vet about any vaccinations that are due as well, possibly their DHPPL and Bordetella vaccines (optional).



# Months 6-12

### Monthly Focus

Reinforce your puppy's early training and enjoy new activities and places with your dog!

## TIPS & TRICKS

Test your dog's recall by throwing his or her favorite toy or treat and telling them to "come" before they reach it. If they leave their favorite item and return to you, be sure to praise and reward them for making a great choice!

Any behavioral issues should be addressed promptly. Do not let bad behaviors develop in this stage, they will last until adulthood if not corrected.

Mental and physical stimulation can help curb boredom in rascal pups. Explore puzzle mats, snuffle mats .or even agility courses to tire them out

## TRAINING

**Boundaries** – Dogs 6 months – 1 year old go through a phase of testing boundaries, much like a teenager. During this time be sure to be consistent and clear in your expectations. Do not allow bad habits to form and discourage the behaviors you would dislike in a full-grown dog.

**Touch** – Place an open hand with a treat between your fingers. Get your puppy to take the treat from your flat, open hand. Overtime, pair this with the word "touch" and phase the treat out. This tool can be useful for getting your dogs attention and bringing them within arms reach of you.

**Advanced skills** – Roll over, catch and crawl are some fun motion-oriented skills you could teach your puppy. Some handy positioning commands include under (a bench or table), between (your legs, common in agility) or backup (walk backwards).

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**Fear Period #2** – Around 6 – 11 months old your puppy will experience their second fear period. Puppies at this stage will often seem to regress and forget all you've taught them about other people and animals. Keep up the good work encouraging them to explore new places, people and animals in a low stress way. Continue to allow your puppy to make space from something that disturbs them, if they check in with you reward that behavior and feel free to use a toy to diffuse the situation.

**Other dogs** – Try visiting the parking lot at the beginning of a hiking trail. You will see lots of other dogs here that you and your puppy can observe from a distance. Try playing a game as the other people and dogs walk around. No need to make a big deal of the other dogs, they are just there in the background and nothing to worry about (that's what we want to teach our puppy).

Unneutered male dogs will mark their territory by peeing on things. Unspayed female puppies may go into heat at around 6 to 8 months old. She can become pregnant at this age if left alone with a male dog and may even try to run off to find a mate. Keep a close eye on her and do not let her out of the house unsupervised.

## HEALTH

You can start to bring your dog with you on longer walks or even short jogs. Your puppy can most likely exercise comfortably for 30 minutes at 6 month and 60 minutes at 12 months. For a long hike, consider bringing a backpack to carry your puppy after a while. They'll be happy to rest and go along for the ride, sniffing all the smells and seeing all the sights from the comfort of your (unzipped) bag. Be careful not to overexercise your pup, as this can lead to joint problems down the road, such as hip dysplasia. This is particularly true for larger breeds of dogs.

As your puppy approaches their adult height, you can begin to switch them from a puppy diet to adult dog food. Toy and small breeds usually reach their adult height within 10 – 12 months old. Medium breed dogs generally reach 75% of their adult height at about 6 – 7 months old and large breeds reach their final height around 18 months of age.

# Puppy Training Cheat Sheet

## Yearly Training

# Year 1

### Yearly Focus

Now that you've developed a relationship, bring your dog's training one step further with obedience and skills training.

## TIPS & TRICKS

Keep crate training! It does not have to be overnight or for several hours but be sure that vet visits aren't the only time your dog sees their crate.

Switch up their toys so they do not get protective or possessive of any one toy.

Check his or her collar, harness, etc. What fit him as a puppy may not fit now. your puppy is likely around 90% of their adult size now, so feel free to invest in a longer-term piece of puppy equipment.

## TRAINING

**Advanced classes** – Now that puppy classes are behind you, you can enroll in more advanced behavioral classes. An honorary distinction for well behaved dog is to earn his or her AKC Canine Good Citizen Award. In class, your pup will learn all the good manners needed to get along well in human society, and at the end of the class, he will be tested to make sure he knows his stuff. If he passes the exam, he will get a certificate and the title of Canine Good Citizen.

**Words** – Average-intelligence dog breeds can learn around 150 words. Very smart dog breeds can learn up to 250 words! Do not underestimate your dog and use your words wisely. If you'd like to, try out some Doggie Buttons, such as FluentPet or VocalPups. These are the Staples Easy Button equivalent for dogs, when your dog presses the button to request a bathroom break, the word "outside" will be spoken aloud by the button.

**Service** – Dogs can learn service behaviors even if they are not qualified service dogs. Here are some skills common to service training that all dogs can benefit from: advanced impulse control, retrieving named items (leash, keys, phone), placing items in a bin, trash or recycling and opening or closing doors.

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**Competitions**- If you are interested in getting into any canine competitive activities, now is a great time! At one year old, your dog will have the necessary maturity and attention span to successfully participate. Check out local groups for agility or rally events. Rally is a cross between agility and obedience. Still other events, like flyball, dock diving and tracking, can be plenty of fun for both dogs and their owners.

**Playdates** – If your dog enjoys the company of other canines, consider setting up some doggie playdates. If you have friends with dogs who also like to play, get together and let the dogs frolic. If you don't know any other dogs for your 1-year-old to play with, find a social dog group or a doggie daycare facility near you and sign your doggie up. Encouraging him to spend time playing with other dogs helps with his ongoing socialization. It also enables him to burn off some energy. When he or she comes home after spending the day at doggie daycare, they will sleep like a baby.

## HEALTH

Some dogs will feel tired and well exercised after running or walking. Other dogs, typically herding breeds, need more mental stimulation to feel satisfied. If your pup likes to run, they can build up to eventually joining you on a 2 – 5 mile run in the coming 12 months. At this age, your dog can likely join you on hikes, hiking on his or her own. Still monitor your dog for signs of fatigue and rest when needed!

Medium size dogs typically reach their final height around 15 months old. As your puppy reaches their approximate adult height, you can begin to switch them from a puppy diet to adult dog food.

Brush your dogs' teeth and groom their fur routinely. Between daily to twice a week works for most breeds.

Your puppy may be due for their annual rabies vaccine, consult with your vet about your puppy's schedule.

# Year 2

### Yearly Focus

Enjoy life with your dog and remember, learning is a lifelong activity for dogs and people both.

## TIPS & TRICKS

For puppies, turning 2 years old is like a teenager turning 18 years old! It's an exciting time as they leave behind puppyhood and are formally young adults. Celebrate this milestone and reward yourselves for all the hard work you've both put in in the past 24 months.

Take pictures of your dog and compare them with your puppy pictures. This will highlight just how far they've come and remind you of their puppy days!

## TRAINING

**Maintaining** – At 2 years old, your dog is emotionally mature and will no longer demonstrate the same behaviors he or she did as a puppy. They will be far less likely to chew up your shoes or have accidents in the house. Your dog will be less rambunctious and more attentive to training. Have fun with your dog, this is a wonderful age!

**Games** – Just because your dog is more mature it does not mean they don't want to have fun like a puppy. Introduce some fun games, here's a few examples.

**Find the Treats:** Toss some treats in the grass and let your dog hunt them down!

**The Cups Game:** Place 3 cups upside-down. Put some treats under one cup and mix the cups up. Let your puppy guess which cup holds the treats. If they get it right, reward them by giving them the treats under the cup!

**Clean Up:** Teach your dog to put away their toys. This is helpful for you and good mental stimulation for your dog. Spread out toys and teach them how to put them in a basket on command.

## SOCIALIZATION & EXPOSURES

**Seek professional guidance** – If you have any concerns about behavior at this stage, do not hesitate to enroll in more classes, sign up for a board and train or set up a standing appointment with a dog behaviorist in your home. Your dog is nearly fully grown and approaching their full strength. If you have any suspicions your dog is nervous, protective or scared of anything seek assistance! The longer you wait to address growling around children or feeling nervous around bicycles, the harder it will be for your dog to re-learn a new behavior. Help them out by giving them the support, guidance and education they need to be their happiest, healthiest self, both inside and out!

**Show your dog the world** – Once fully trained, bring your dog everywhere you can! Show them the mountains, a wide-open field, low tide at the beach and everything in between. Bring them along with you and be sure to respect stores policies. If your dog is not a service dog, do not bring them in a food store, but you can certainly take them on your next trip to Home Depot! Sharing your life with your dog will be exciting for your pup and enriching for you. Dogs can show us a new way of looking at situations or places and keeping them home limits their exposure and your enjoyment with them.

## HEALTH

Medium size dogs typically reach their final height around 12-18 months old. As your puppy reaches their approximate adult height, you can begin to switch them from a puppy diet to adult dog food.

Once two years old, the growth plates in their body have found their fixed position and will not longer grow. This means the calcium and minerals surrounding his bones have hardened, making him better able to tolerate strenuous exercise without injury to his legs. This is the age when you can start increasing their exercise to include them on long hikes, increase their agility training or run further with them.

Your dog may be due for their annual rabies vaccine, consult with your vet about your puppy's schedule.

## Chapter 10: Your Puppy's Voice

Your Mini Aussie puppy has a unique way of communicating with you, and understanding their “voice” is key to building a strong bond. Puppies use a combination of body language and vocalizations to express their emotions, needs, and concerns. As their owner, it's your responsibility to listen to their voice, respond appropriately, and teach others to respect it. This includes setting boundaries for children and ensuring that everyone in your household understands how to interact with your puppy in a way that makes them feel safe and respected.

In this chapter, we'll explore how puppies communicate through body language and vocalizations, how to interpret barking, whining, and growling, how to respond to your puppy's needs, and how to recognize signs of stress, fear, or illness. Most importantly, we'll emphasize the importance of protecting your puppy's voice and teaching others (especially children) to respect their boundaries.

### How Puppies Communicate: Body Language and Vocalizations

Puppies primarily communicate through two channels: **body language** and **vocalizations**. Learning to “read” your puppy's signals will help you understand their emotional state and meet their needs.

#### Body Language

Your puppy's body language can reveal a lot about how they're feeling:

- **Relaxed and Happy:** Loose body posture, wagging tail, soft eyes, and open mouth.
- **Excited:** Wiggling body, rapid tail wagging, jumping, or play bows (front legs lowered, rear end up).
- **Nervous or Submissive:** Tucked tail, crouched posture, licking lips, avoiding eye contact, or rolling onto their back.
- **Fearful:** Ears pinned back, tail tucked, body trembling, or attempts to hide or escape.
- **Alert or Curious:** Ears forward, tail held high, and focused attention.
- **Aggressive or Threatened:** Stiff body posture, raised hackles (fur along the spine), growling, showing teeth, or intense staring.

By observing your puppy's body language, you can better understand their emotions and respond accordingly.

### Vocalizations

Just like body language, your puppy's vocalizations provide clues about their needs and feelings:

- **Barking:** Often used to alert, get attention, or express excitement.
- **Whining:** A sign of discomfort, anxiety, or a request for attention.
- **Growling:** A warning signal that your puppy feels threatened or uncomfortable.
- **Howling:** Less common in Mini Aussies, but can signal loneliness or an attempt to communicate with other dogs.

### Understanding Barking, Whining, and Growling

Knowing the reasons behind your puppy's vocalizations is essential for responding appropriately and addressing their needs.

#### Barking

Mini Aussies are naturally alert and vocal, so barking is a common behavior. However, it's important to identify the cause of the barking:

- **Excitement or Play:** Short, sharp barks while playing or greeting people. This is normal and harmless.
- **Alert Barking:** Barking at unfamiliar sights or sounds, such as a stranger approaching the house. This is instinctual but can be managed with training.
- **Demand Barking:** Persistent barking for attention, food, or play. Avoid rewarding this behavior to prevent it from becoming a habit.

### Whining

Whining can indicate a variety of emotions:

- **Discomfort:** Your puppy may whine if they're cold, hungry, or need to go outside.
- **Anxiety:** Whining often occurs when a puppy feels nervous or overwhelmed, such as during crate training or when left alone.
- **Attention Seeking:** Puppies quickly learn that whining gets your attention. While it's important to address their needs, avoid reinforcing unnecessary whining.

### Growling

Growling is often misunderstood as aggression, but it's usually a form of communication:

- **Playful Growling:** Common during play, especially with toys. This is harmless and part of normal puppy behavior.
- **Warning Growling:** Your puppy may growl to express discomfort or fear, such as when they feel cornered or their boundaries are being violated. Respect this growl as a warning and address the root cause of their discomfort.

### Responding to Your Puppy's Needs

Learning to effectively respond to your puppy's communication is key to building trust and ensuring their well-being.

#### Tips for Responding

**Stay Calm:** Your puppy will pick up on your energy. Respond to their signals calmly and confidently.

**Acknowledge Their Needs:** If your puppy barks or whines to go outside, address the need promptly to reinforce communication.

**Reward Quiet Behavior:** Teach your puppy that calm, quiet behavior is rewarded with attention, treats, or playtime.

**Redirect Problem Behaviors:** If your puppy is barking excessively or growling out of frustration, redirect their energy with a toy or training exercise.

**Respect Their Voice:** If your puppy growls or shows signs of discomfort, take a step back and evaluate the situation. Never punish a growl—it's their way of warning you that they're feeling uncomfortable.

#### Recognizing Stress, Fear, or Illness in Your Puppy

Your puppy's behavior and body language can also signal stress, fear, or even illness. Recognizing these signs early allows you to take action and help your puppy feel safe and healthy.



### Signs of Stress or Fear

- Trembling or shaking
- Tucked tail and pinned-back ears
- Avoiding eye contact or retreating
- Excessive drooling or licking lips
- Panting (not related to heat or exercise)
- Hiding or trying to escape

If your puppy is showing signs of stress or fear, remove them from the situation and provide comfort. Gradually reintroduce them to the trigger in a controlled, positive way.

### Signs of Illness

- Lethargy or lack of energy
- Loss of appetite or vomiting
- Diarrhea or changes in potty habits
- Excessive scratching or biting at their skin
- Coughing, sneezing, or difficulty breathing

If you notice signs of illness, consult your veterinarian promptly to ensure your puppy receives the care they need.

### You Are Responsible for Your Puppy's Voice

As a pet owner, it's your responsibility to protect and advocate for your puppy. This includes teaching others to respect their boundaries and ensuring your puppy feels safe in all interactions.

### Teach Children to Respect Your Puppy

**Set Boundaries:** Teach children to give your puppy space, especially while they're eating, sleeping, or in their crate.

**Gentle Touching:** Show children how to gently pet your puppy and avoid pulling on their ears, tail, or fur.

**Recognize Stress Signals:** Teach children to recognize when your puppy is feeling overwhelmed or fearful and to give them space.

**Supervise All Interactions:** Always supervise children when they're interacting with your puppy to prevent accidental harm or stress.

### **Advocate for Your Puppy**

- Speak up if someone is handling your puppy inappropriately or ignoring their signals.
- Avoid overwhelming your puppy with too many new people or situations at once.

By respecting your puppy's voice and teaching others to do the same, you'll help them feel secure and build their confidence in new environments.

### **Conclusion**

Your Mini Aussie puppy's "voice" is their way of communicating their needs, emotions, and boundaries. By learning to interpret their body language and vocalizations, you'll strengthen your bond and ensure they feel safe and understood. Remember, you are your puppy's advocate. Teach others—especially children—to respect your puppy's boundaries, and always respond to their voice with patience and care.

In the next chapter, we'll cover how to meet your Mini Aussie's exercise and mental stimulation needs to keep their active minds and bodies happy and healthy.

## Chapter 11: Exercise and Mental Stimulation

Mini Aussies are an energetic, intelligent breed that thrives on both physical activity and mental engagement. Without sufficient exercise and stimulation, they can quickly become bored, frustrated, and even develop problem behaviors like excessive barking or chewing. Meeting your Mini Aussie's needs for activity and mental challenges is essential for their overall well-being and happiness.

In this chapter, we'll explore how much exercise your Mini Aussie puppy needs, fun ways to incorporate physical activity into their daily routine, and strategies for providing mental stimulation to keep their sharp minds engaged. We'll also highlight the benefits of puzzle toys, training games, and interactive play, and emphasize the importance of balancing activity with proper rest for your growing puppy.

### How Much Exercise Does a Mini Aussie Need?

Mini Aussies are a high-energy breed with a natural drive to stay active. However, the amount of exercise they need depends on their age and developmental stage.

#### Puppies (8 weeks to 6 months)

- Puppies' bodies are still growing, so their exercise should be moderate and age-appropriate to avoid overexertion or damage to developing joints.
- A general rule of thumb for puppies is **5 minutes of exercise per month of age, twice a day**. For example, a 3-month-old puppy should get about 15 minutes of structured exercise twice a day, in addition to playtime.
- Focus on short, gentle play sessions and avoid activities like long runs or jumping that may stress their growing bones.

### Adolescents and Adults (6+ months to adulthood)

- As they grow, Mini Aussies require **at least 1-2 hours of physical activity daily** to meet their energy needs. This can include walks, play sessions, and training exercises.
- Incorporate a mix of high-energy activities like fetch and more structured mental exercises, such as obedience training.

### Fun Ways to Exercise Your Puppy: Games and Activities

Exercise doesn't have to mean just walks around the block. Mini Aussies love variety and thrive on fun, interactive activities that keep them engaged physically and mentally.

#### Fetch

- A classic game that satisfies your puppy's natural instincts to chase and retrieve.
- Use soft or lightweight balls for puppies to avoid injury, and keep sessions short to prevent overexertion.

#### Tug-of-War

- A great way to burn energy and strengthen your bond with your puppy.
- Use a durable tug toy and teach your puppy to release the toy on command to make the game safe and controlled.

#### Chase Games

Encourage your puppy to chase you in a safe, enclosed area. This is a fun way to get them moving and reinforce their recall ("Come") command.

### Puppy Playdates

Socializing with other well-behaved, vaccinated dogs provides both exercise and important social skills. Ensure play sessions are supervised and safe.

### Walks and Hikes

Take your puppy on short walks or hikes to explore new environments. Start with shorter distances and gradually increase as they grow.

### Mental Stimulation for Intelligent Breeds

Mini Aussies aren't just physically energetic—they're also incredibly smart. Mental stimulation is just as important as physical exercise for this breed. Without enough mental challenges, they may resort to undesirable behaviors like chewing, digging, or barking to entertain themselves.

### Why Mental Stimulation Is Important

- Keeps their minds sharp and prevents boredom.
- Channels their intelligence into positive activities.
- Strengthens your bond through shared experiences and problem-solving.

### Puzzle Toys, Training Games, and Interactive Play

#### Puzzle Toys

Puzzle toys are an excellent way to challenge your Mini Aussie's mind while keeping them entertained:

- **Treat-Dispensing Toys:** Toys like KONGs or puzzle feeders encourage your puppy to work for their food or treats, engaging their problem-solving skills.
- **Interactive Puzzles:** Toys with hidden compartments or sliding pieces challenge your puppy to think critically to access the reward.

### Training Games

Incorporating training into playtime provides both mental and physical stimulation:

- **Hide and Seek:** Hide treats or toys around the house or yard and encourage your puppy to find them. This engages their sense of smell and natural curiosity.
- **Name Game:** Teach your puppy the names of their toys by saying the name and rewarding them for retrieving the correct one.
- **Obstacle Courses:** Set up simple obstacle courses with household items like cushions or boxes and guide your puppy through them.

### Interactive Play

Interactive play strengthens your bond while providing mental stimulation:

- **Follow the Leader:** Encourage your puppy to follow you through different movements (e.g., walking, running, spinning). Reward them for staying engaged.
- **Training Sessions:** Practice obedience commands like “Sit,” “Down,” and “Stay,” or teach new tricks like “Spin” or “High Five.”
- **Herding Games:** Mini Aussies are natural herders. Simulate herding by rolling a large ball for them to “corral” in an enclosed area.

### Balancing Activity with Proper Rest

While exercise and mental stimulation are important, it's equally essential to ensure your puppy gets enough rest to support their growth and development.

### Why Rest Is Important

- Puppies need downtime to recover from physical activity and process new experiences.
- Overexercising or overstimulating your puppy can lead to stress, irritability, and even physical injury.

### How to Ensure Proper Rest

**Crate Time:** Use the crate as a safe space for your puppy to relax and recharge.

**Nap Schedule:** Puppies need lots of sleep—up to **18-20 hours a day**. Encourage regular naps throughout the day.

**Limit High-Impact Activities:** Avoid activities that put stress on their joints, like jumping or running on hard surfaces, especially while they're still growing.

**Watch for Signs of Overexertion:** If your puppy seems overly tired, uncoordinated, or disinterested in play, it's time for a break.

### Conclusion

Meeting your Mini Aussie's needs for exercise and mental stimulation is key to raising a happy, healthy, and well-behaved dog. By incorporating fun activities like fetch, training games, and puzzle toys into their daily routine, you'll keep both their body and mind engaged. Remember, balance is essential—ensure your puppy gets plenty of rest and downtime to support their growth and recovery. With the right mix of activity and rest, your Mini Aussie will thrive as an active, intelligent, and loving companion.

In the next chapter, we'll discuss the importance of regular veterinary care, vaccinations, and preventative health measures to keep your puppy healthy.



# Chapter 12: Grooming and Health Care

Keeping your Mini Aussie healthy and well-groomed is an essential part of being a responsible pet owner. Mini Aussies are a double-coated breed that requires regular grooming to maintain their coat and overall health. In addition to grooming, proactive health care—including dental hygiene, vaccination schedules, and preventative care—is key to ensuring your Mini Aussie lives a happy, healthy life.

In this chapter, we'll cover grooming essentials, tips for maintaining your puppy's dental health, how to prevent breed-specific health issues, and the importance of choosing the right veterinarian. We'll also discuss why you should never shave a double-coated dog and how to find a vet who will work with you to provide the best care for your Mini Aussie.

## Grooming Essentials for Mini Aussies: Brushing, Bathing, and Nail Care

Proper grooming keeps your Mini Aussie's coat and skin healthy while also helping you bond with your puppy. Mini Aussies have a beautiful double coat that requires regular upkeep to prevent matting and excessive shedding.

### Brushing

**How Often:** Brush your Mini Aussie at least 2-3 times per week to remove loose fur, prevent matting, and distribute natural oils across their coat. During shedding seasons (spring and fall), you may need to brush daily.

#### Tools to Use:

- - A [slicker brush](#) is great for removing tangles and loose hair.
  - An [undercoat rake](#) helps remove the dense undercoat during shedding seasons.
  - A [steel comb](#) can be used for finer detailing, especially around sensitive areas like the ears and tail.

**Benefits:** Regular brushing reduces shedding, prevents mats, and keeps your puppy's coat clean and healthy.

### Bathing

**How Often:** Mini Aussies only need baths every 4-6 weeks or as needed if they get particularly dirty. Bathing too often can strip their coat of natural oils, leading to dry skin.

**Shampoo:** Use a [gentle, dog-specific shampoo](#). Avoid human shampoos, as they can irritate your puppy's skin.

**Drying:** Towel dry your puppy thoroughly and, if needed, use a blow dryer on a low, cool setting to dry their coat completely.

### Nail Care

**How Often:** Trim your puppy's nails every 3-4 weeks or as needed. Overgrown nails can cause discomfort and affect their gait.

**Tools:** Use [dog-specific nail clippers](#) or a nail grinder for gentle trimming.

**Tips:** Start trimming your puppy's nails early to get them comfortable with the process. Reward them with treats and praise to make nail care a positive experience.

### *Never Shave a Double-Coated Dog*

Mini Aussies have a double coat consisting of a soft, insulating undercoat and a protective outer coat. While it may be tempting to shave your dog during hot weather or shedding seasons, this can actually harm their coat and overall health.

### Why You Should Never Shave a Double-Coated Dog

**Regulates Temperature:** The double coat helps regulate your dog's body temperature by keeping them warm in winter and cool in summer. Shaving removes this natural insulation.

**Protects Skin:** The outer coat protects your Mini Aussie from harmful UV rays, reducing the risk of sunburn.

**Can Damage Coat Growth:** Shaving can permanently damage the coat, causing it to grow back unevenly or not at all.

**Doesn't Reduce Shedding:** Shaving won't stop shedding—it will only make the shed hair shorter and more noticeable.

Instead of shaving, keep your Mini Aussie comfortable with regular brushing and proper grooming to manage their coat effectively.

### Dental Hygiene: Keeping Your Puppy's Teeth Healthy

Dental health is a critical but often overlooked aspect of your puppy's overall well-being. Poor dental care can lead to gum disease, tooth loss, and even systemic health issues.

### How to Care for Your Puppy's Teeth

**Brush Their Teeth:** Use a [dog-specific toothbrush](#) and toothpaste to brush your puppy's teeth 2-3 times per week. Start slowly to get them used to the process.

**Plaque Control:** pawTree's delicious, easy way to help [control plaque](#) and tartar on your pet's teeth, promoting normal periodontal health. Plaque Control's key ingredient is organic kelp which is sustainably harvested in the pristine waters off the Scandinavian coastline.

**Dental Chews:** Offer [dental chews](#) or toys designed to help clean teeth and reduce tartar buildup.

**Regular Vet Checks:** Include dental exams as part of your puppy's regular vet visits.

**Watch for Signs of Dental Problems:** Bad breath, red or swollen gums, and difficulty eating may indicate dental issues that require a vet's attention.

## Vaccination Schedules and Preventative Care

Keeping up with vaccinations and preventative care is essential for protecting your Mini Aussie from illness.

### Vaccination Schedule

- **6-8 Weeks:** Distemper, Parvovirus (DHPP)
- **10-12 Weeks:** DHPPL booster, Bordetella (optional, based on lifestyle)
- **14-16 Weeks:** DHPPL booster, Rabies
- **Annually:** Boosters for DHPPL, Rabies, and Bordetella (if needed)

### Preventative Care

**Flea and Tick Prevention:** Use vet-recommended flea and tick preventatives year-round.

**Heartworm Prevention:** Administer monthly heartworm preventatives, as recommended by your vet.

**Regular Vet Visits:** Schedule annual check-ups to monitor your puppy's overall health.

## Finding the Right Veterinarian

Choosing the right veterinarian is one of the most important decisions you'll make for your puppy's health. While corporate vet clinics are becoming more common, independent veterinary clinics are often a better choice for personalized, community-based care.

## Why Choose an Independent Vet Over Corporate Chains

**Community Connection:** Independent vets are members of your community and are often more invested in building long-term relationships with their clients.

**More Reasonable Pricing:** Independent clinics are often more affordable than corporate chains, which may have higher overhead costs.

**Personalized Care:** Independent vets are more likely to take the time to listen to your concerns, discuss treatment plans thoroughly, and provide care tailored to your puppy's individual needs.

### Tips for Choosing a Vet

**Ask for Recommendations:** Talk to friends, family, and your breeder for vet recommendations.

**Research Reviews:** Look for online reviews to learn about other pet owners' experiences.

**Visit the Clinic:** Schedule a visit to meet the staff and observe how they interact with clients and pets.

**Ask Questions:** A good vet will answer your questions without judgment and ensure you understand your puppy's treatment options.

### Tips for Long-Term Health and Wellness

**Healthy Diet:** Feed your Mini Aussie high-quality food to support their growth and overall health.

**Exercise and Mental Stimulation:** Regular exercise and mental challenges are essential for keeping your Mini Aussie fit and happy.

**Routine Grooming:** Stay consistent with brushing, bathing, nail trimming, and dental care.

**Preventative Care:** Stay on top of vaccinations, flea/tick preventatives, and annual vet visits.

**Watch for Changes:** Monitor your puppy for any changes in behavior, appetite, or energy level, as these could signal health issues.

### **Conclusion**

Grooming and health care are vital components of your Mini Aussie's well-being. From brushing their double coat to keeping up with vaccinations and finding a trusted veterinarian, your efforts will set the foundation for a happy, healthy life. Remember, never shave your Mini Aussie's double coat, and choose an independent vet who will work with you to provide personalized care for your puppy. With proper grooming, proactive health care, and a trusted veterinary partner, your Mini Aussie will thrive for years to come.

In the next chapter, we'll explore fun activities and games to keep your Mini Aussie physically and mentally engaged.

# Grooming Record

PET'S NAME

BREED

DATE	GROOMER	CARE DETAILS	FEE

ADDITIONAL NOTES

# Immunization Record

PET'S NAME

BREED

BIRTH DATE

VACCINATION	DATE	VET/CLINIC	NEXT DUE
RABIES			
PARVOVIRUS			
CORONAVIRUS			
HEPATITIS			
KENNEL COUGH			
DISTEMPER			
BORDETELLA			
HEARTWORM			
LEPTOSPIROSIS			
LYME DISEASE			
PARAINFLUENZA			



# Preventative Medication

## HEART WORM MEDICATION

DATE	BRAND	ADMINISTERED BY

## FLEA & TICK TREATMENT

DATE	BRAND	ADMINISTERED BY

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

### Conclusion

Bringing a Mini Aussie puppy into your life is a joyful and rewarding experience. These intelligent, energetic, and loving dogs have so much to offer, and the journey you're embarking on together will be filled with laughter, learning, and unconditional love. As your puppy grows, the bond you share will deepen, and with proper care, training, and attention, your Mini Aussie will thrive as a cherished member of your family.

In this conclusion, we'll celebrate your journey with your Mini Aussie, share final tips to ensure their happiness and health, and reflect on the lifelong commitment and responsibility both you and I share as partners in your puppy's life.

### Celebrating Your Journey with Your Mini Aussie

Welcoming a Mini Aussie into your home is the beginning of an incredible adventure. From the first time they wag their little tail in excitement to the countless moments of play, cuddles, and shared experiences, your puppy will bring endless joy to your life.

Mini Aussies are more than just pets—they're loyal companions, enthusiastic playmates, and lifelong friends. They will make you laugh with their quirky personalities, amaze you with their intelligence, and comfort you with their unwavering love. Every moment, from their first steps in your home to their golden years, is an opportunity to celebrate the unique bond you'll build together.

### Final Tips for a Happy, Healthy Puppy

As you continue this journey with your Mini Aussie, keep these final tips in mind to ensure their well-being:

**Stay Consistent:** Your puppy thrives on routine and consistency. Stick to a regular schedule for feeding, training, exercise, and grooming.

**Keep Them Active:** Mini Aussies are high-energy dogs that need both physical exercise and mental stimulation to stay happy and healthy.

**Prioritize Health Care:** Visit your vet regularly for check-ups, keep up with vaccinations and preventative care, and monitor your puppy for any signs of illness.

**Provide Training and Socialization:** Continue reinforcing good behavior, teaching new skills, and introducing your puppy to new people, pets, and environments.

**Offer Love and Patience:** Puppies are a lot of work, but the love and companionship they provide are worth every effort. Be patient, and enjoy the process of watching them grow and learn.

**Stay Connected:** Share milestones, questions, and concerns with your breeder (that's me!) and your vet. You're never alone in this journey.

### Building a Lifelong Bond with Your Dog

The bond you build with your Mini Aussie is one of the most rewarding parts of pet ownership. It's built on trust, communication, and respect, and it grows stronger with time. Your puppy will look to you for guidance, love, and companionship, and in return, they'll offer you loyalty and joy that lasts a lifetime.

### Ways to Build a Strong Bond

- Spend quality time together daily, whether it's through play, training, or simply relaxing.
- Communicate clearly with your puppy, using consistent commands and body language.
- Celebrate successes, big or small, with treats, praise, and affection.
- Be patient and understanding as your puppy learns and grows.
- Include your Mini Aussie in your family's activities to make them feel like a valued member of the pack.

### Our Shared Responsibility

As the breeder of your puppy, I take my responsibility to them—and to you—very seriously. While you are now their primary caregiver, I remain a part of their life in spirit and support. Together, we share the commitment to ensuring your puppy has a happy, healthy, and loving home. **Please remember:**

- **Reach Out Anytime:** For any reason at all, whether you have questions, need advice, or just want to share updates, don't hesitate to contact me. I love staying in touch and seeing how your puppy grows and thrives in their new home.
- **Stay Connected:** Share photos, milestones, and stories about your Mini Aussie. It brings me immense joy to see the puppies I've raised grow into beloved family members.
- **We'll Always Take Them Back:** If, for any reason, you find that you can no longer care for your Mini Aussie, I will always take them back. No questions asked. My priority is their well-being, and I want to ensure they always have a safe and loving home.

### Conclusion

Your Mini Aussie's journey began with me, and now it continues with you. Together, we are responsible for shaping their life and ensuring they grow into the confident, happy, and healthy dog they were meant to be. This is more than just ownership—it's a lifelong partnership between you, your Mini Aussie, and me as their breeder.

As you celebrate the wonderful moments ahead, remember that you're never alone in this journey. Whether it's a simple question, a challenge you're facing, or just a story you'd like to share, I'm here to support you and your puppy every step of the way.

Thank you for giving your Mini Aussie the loving home they deserve. Cherish every moment, and enjoy the incredible bond you'll share for years to come.

Here's to a lifetime of love, laughter, and adventures with your Mini Aussie!

### About the Author

The author of this guide is a passionate and dedicated breeder with years of experience raising and caring for Miniature Australian Shepherds. Driven by a deep love for this intelligent and energetic breed, the author is committed to producing healthy, well-socialized puppies that thrive in their new homes.

As a breeder, the author believes in going above and beyond to ensure that every puppy has the best possible start in life. From early socialization and exposure to a variety of environments to introducing basic crate training and fostering positive behaviors, every effort is made to prepare puppies for success with their new families.

The author's philosophy extends beyond the breeding process. As a lifelong advocate for their puppies, the author believes in building lasting relationships with puppy owners, offering guidance and support long after the puppies go to their new homes. Whether it's answering questions about training, health care, or simply celebrating milestones, the author is always a resource and partner in the journey of raising a happy, healthy Mini Aussie.

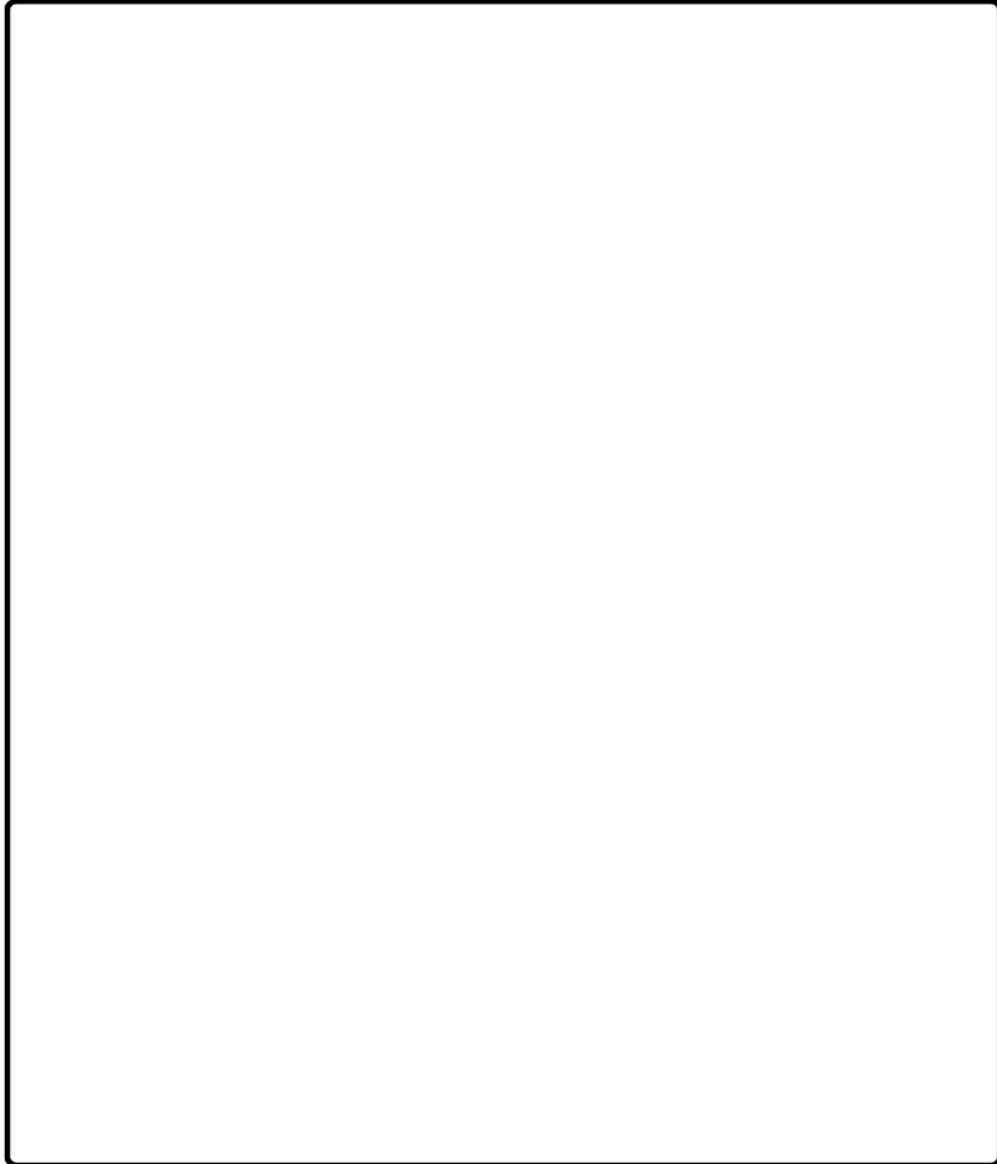
The author also firmly believes in the responsibility that comes with breeding. Every puppy is a lifelong commitment, and the author remains dedicated to their well-being. If a puppy's owner is ever unable to care for them, the author is prepared to take the dog back, ensuring that no puppy is ever without a safe and loving home.

Through this guide, the author hopes to share their knowledge, experience, and love for Mini Aussies, helping new puppy owners navigate the joys and challenges of raising this incredible breed. By working together, the author and new puppy owners can create a bright future for every Mini Aussie—one full of love, trust, and unforgettable memories.

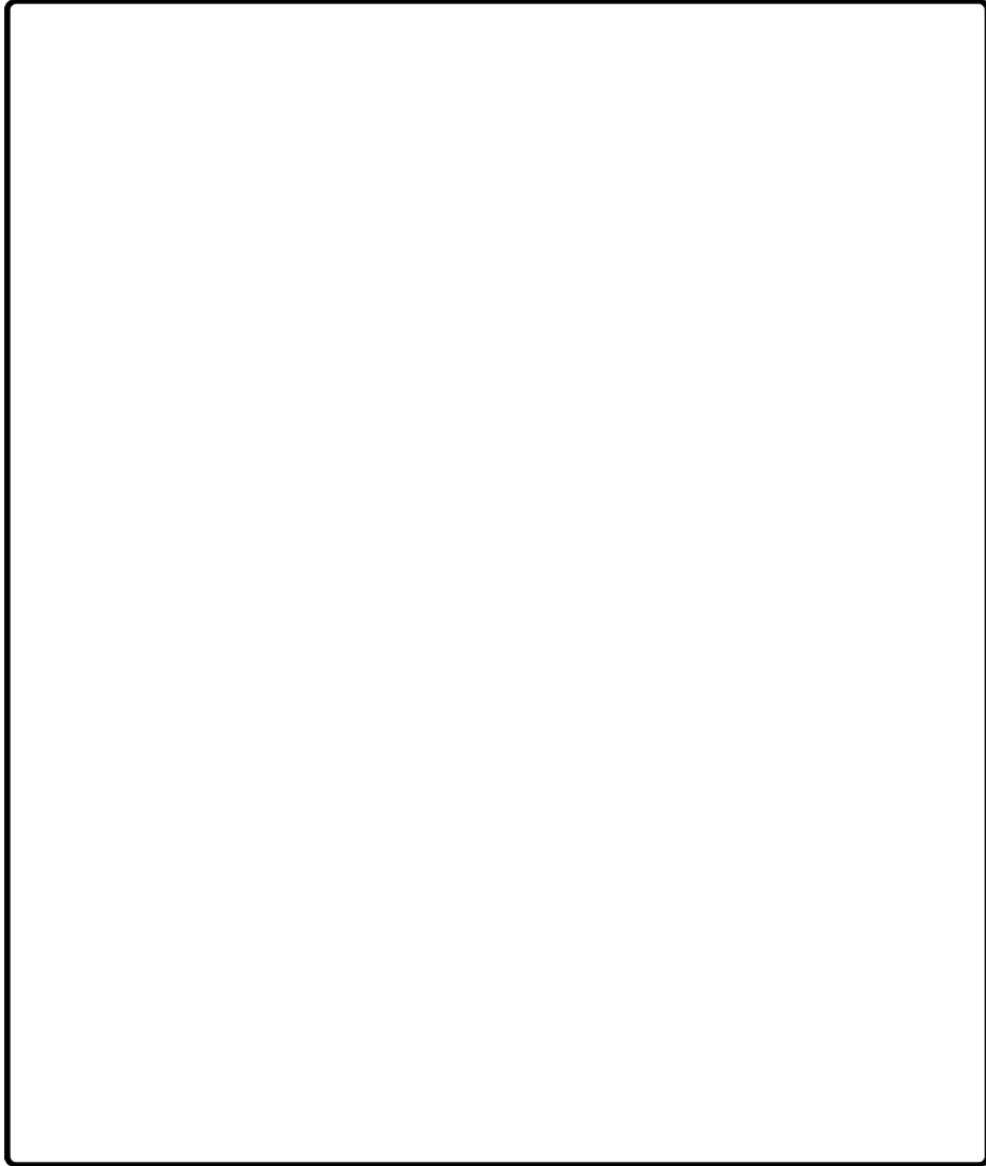
When not caring for their dogs or helping families with their new puppies, the author enjoys spending time outdoors, exploring the world with their own dogs by their side, and continuing to learn about advancements in dog care, training, and health. Their commitment to Mini Aussies is more than just a passion—it's a lifelong calling.

Thank you for allowing the author to be a part of your journey with your new Mini Aussie.

# Puppy Journal

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# Puppy Journal

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**Raising Your Mini Aussie: A Complete Guide** to Life with Your New Best Friend Bringing home a Miniature Australian Shepherd is the start of an incredible journey filled with love, loyalty, and endless adventures. This guide is your go-to resource for raising a happy, healthy Mini Aussie puppy, offering expert advice on training, grooming, health care, and more. Inside, you'll learn how to: Build a strong bond through early training and socialization. Address common puppy challenges like barking, chewing, and potty training. Keep your Mini Aussie healthy with grooming tips, nutritional advice, and preventative care. Understand how your puppy communicates to meet their needs and ensure their happiness. Whether you're a first-time dog owner or a seasoned pro, this book is packed with practical tips, step-by-step guidance, and heartfelt advice to help you navigate life with your Mini Aussie. From the author: "As the breeder of your puppy, I am here to support you every step of the way. Together, we share the responsibility of giving your Mini Aussie the best life possible. If you ever have questions or if life takes an unexpected turn, I'm always here to help. Let's celebrate the joy of raising this incredible breed together!" Your Mini Aussie is more than a pet—they're family. Let this book guide you in creating a lifetime of love, trust, and unforgettable memories.