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The First Months with Your Staffy Puppy

A practical guide for new owners



The Staffy is not just a dog: it's a family member.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Kennel since 2013 - Ostellato (FE) Italy
L2HGA and HC genetic testing clear - ENCI Pedigree - Italian Champions

MONTH 1 - Arriving Home

Preparing the house

Before the puppy arrives, prepare: **crate/bed** (safe place), **bowls** (fresh water and food), **pee pads** (for needs), **toys** (Kong, ropes, balls), **baby gates** (to limit areas). Remove electrical cables, toxic plants, small objects and chemicals.

The first nights

It's normal for the puppy to cry: they just left mom and siblings. Put the bed near yours, add a shirt with your scent and a warm water bottle. Don't bring them to your bed (creates habit). Gradually move the bed.

Initial feeding

Continue with the same food from the kennel for 2 weeks. **8-12 weeks:** 4 meals/day - **3-4 months:** 3 meals/day - **From 6 months:** 2 meals/day. To change food, do it gradually over 7-10 days.

Potty training

Take outside: when they wake up, after meals, after play, every 2-3 hours. When they go in the right spot, reward immediately! Never punish for accidents.

MONTH 2 - Vaccinations and Socialization

Vaccination schedule

6-8 weeks: first vaccination - **10-12 weeks:** booster + leptospirosis - **14-16 weeks:** final booster + rabies. Until vaccinations are complete, avoid unknown dogs and frequented areas.

Home socialization (3-16 weeks = critical period)

Expose to: different people (men, women, children, elderly), noises (vacuum, hairdryer, doorbell), surfaces (tiles, grass, gravel), objects (umbrellas, bikes, strollers). Every experience must be positive!

First commands

Short sessions (5 min), lots of rewards: **Name** (reward when they look), **Sit** (treat above head), **Come** (call enthusiastically), **No** (firm voice, then redirect).

Managing alone time

The Staffy is very attached to family. Start with 30-second absences, increase gradually. Don't make a big deal of leaving/returning. Leave a stuffed Kong. Never alone more than 4 hours.

MONTHS 3-4 - First Outings

The first walk

After complete vaccinations. Short walks (10-15 min), let them sniff, avoid busy roads, if they freeze don't pull. Always bring treats.

External socialization

Find balanced adult dogs, consider puppy classes. Expose to traffic, markets, cafes. **Note:** Staffies can be dominant with same-sex dogs, always supervise.

Leash and harness

Use H-harness (no collar for puppies). If they pull, stop: resume only with loose leash. Reward walking beside you. Never use jerks or choke collars.

Mental games

Stuffed Kong, search games (hide treats), **snuffle mat, boxes/bottles** with rewards. 10 min of mental games = 30 min of running!

MONTHS 5-6 - Adolescence

Behavioral changes

May seem to forget all commands, test limits, be more distracted. **Don't panic!** It's normal. Stay consistent and patient.

Growth nutrition

Must stay lean: feel ribs (not see them), waist from above. 2 meals/day. Switch to adult food around 12 months.

Safe exercise

5-minute rule: 5 min walk per month of age, twice daily. Avoid jumps and repeated stairs. Swimming is great. Too much exercise = joint problems as adult.

Common mistakes to avoid

Physical punishment (ruins relationship) - Inconsistency in rules - Garden isolation - Too much exercise - Skipping vet checks

Get ready to receive more love than you can imagine.

NEED HELP? CALL US FOR A NO-OBLIGATION CHAT!

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