Lake Pine Animal Hospital
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Your Puppy's First-Year Development Timeline

> **The first year of your puppy's life is full of rapid physical and behavioral changes. Understanding what to expect helps you provide structure, training, and preventive care at the right time.**

8–12 Weeks

- Critical socialization period begins
- Learning bite inhibition
- Beginning crate and housetraining
- Initial vaccine series starts
- Short, positive exposure to new people and environments

12–16 Weeks

- Continued socialization is essential
- Teething begins
- Increased confidence and curiosity
- Reinforce basic cues: sit, come, leash walking

4–6 Months

- Completion of core vaccine series (16–20 weeks)
- Teething intensifies
- Increased chewing behavior
- Testing boundaries
- Transition from 3 meals to 2 meals daily
- Discuss spay/neuter timing

6–9 Months

- Adolescent phase begins
- Possible selective hearing
- Energy levels increase
- Reinforce consistency in training
- Maintain structured routines

9–12 Months

- Physical growth slows (may vary by breed)
- Behavior may stabilize with consistent training
- Continue social exposure and enrichment
- Transition toward adult diet when appropriate
- Annual wellness planning begins

Throughout the First Year

- Maintain parasite prevention year-round
- Monitor body condition and growth
- Practice handling and grooming desensitization
- Provide daily physical and mental stimulation
- Address behavior concerns early

Every puppy develops at their own pace, and breed differences can influence growth and behavior. Lake Pine Animal Hospital is here to guide you through each stage of your puppy's development