

Life Stages of a Dog



Study*ladder*

Puppies are quite helpless when they are born. They are blind and deaf and rely on their sense of smell to wriggle to their mother. They do not have enough muscle strength to walk.



Their brains and bodies are still developing. This is why they are born with their eyes firmly shut. They will open them in 1-2 weeks when they are fully formed.



Puppies are fed milk by their mothers until they are able to begin eating solid food. After a period of time they are weaned, which means they stop taking milk. Puppies are generally fully weaned by about 7-8 weeks.



Did you know that puppies have baby teeth just like we do?

Their first teeth start appearing at about 2 weeks of age. By the time they are 8-10 weeks old, puppies will have grown a full set of 28 teeth. These first teeth are sometimes called 'milk teeth'.

A puppy's milk teeth begin falling out when they are about 4 months old. Each baby tooth is gradually replaced by a larger adult tooth. By the time a dog is 7- 8 months old it has a full set of 48 adult teeth.





From Puppy to Adult Size

Small breeds of dogs will grow for about 9 months to reach their full size. Larger breeds can take 1-2 years to grow to full size. When they are adults they are able to reproduce.