



Your Puppy Growth Chart

This folder contains the information for you and your veterinary team to monitor the growth and development of your puppy, to help your puppy grow into a healthy adult.

Using a growth chart appropriate for your puppy's predicted adult body weight (Table 1) will enable tracking of your puppy's growth relative to a reference population of healthy puppies of a similar age, sex and final adult size.

Abnormal growth as a puppy can have a lifelong impact on your dog's health.



Table 1:

Predicted Adult Body Weight
Less than 6.5kg
6.5 - 9kg
9 - 15kg
15 - 30kg
30 - 40kg

Your dog's details:

Puppy's Name:	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth:	<input type="text"/>
Microchip No.:	<input type="text"/>
Your Name:	<input type="text"/>
Your Telephone No.:	<input type="text"/>





Why the charts are important:

Growth chart assessment will help determine if your puppy is following the expected pattern for growth, growing too quickly, or too slowly. These charts may help to identify any potential nutritional or health problems. By identifying problems early, you and your veterinary team can work together to intervene before your puppy's health is compromised.

- A puppy growing too slowly may have developmental problems leading to stunted growth.
- A puppy growing too quickly may be at risk of developing obesity or skeletal abnormalities such as osteochondrosis.

Science behind the charts

Scientists at WALTHAM analysed growth records from thousands of healthy weight puppies to create the growth charts for each sex and size of dog so you can see what healthy growth looks like for your puppy.



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The next two pages are for use by your puppy's veterinary care team...



WALTHAM™ Puppy Growth Chart

Veterinary Practice Instructions For Use

This section is for the use of veterinary professionals who will record and interpret your puppy's growth chart data.

How:

Key actions for monitoring growth in an individual puppy

1. Calculate age using the WALTHAM™ Pet Age Wheel.
2. Accurately measure weight.
3. Plot measurements on the appropriate growth chart.
4. Discuss the puppy's growth pattern with the owner.

1. Calculate age using the WALTHAM™ Pet Age Wheel

- See Pet Age Wheel for instructions.

2. Accurately measure weight

- Puppies should be weighed without any excess items such as clothing, collar or harness.
- Make sure the puppy is sitting/standing as still as possible with all feet on the scales.
- Use electronic weigh scales that are regularly calibrated and appropriate for the puppy's size.
- Be as consistent as possible in the weighing technique and, ideally, take measurements at the same time of day.



3. Plot measurements on the appropriate growth chart

- Plot first weight for the puppy's current age on the appropriate growth chart for the anticipated adult size (see FAQs if the puppy's current age or anticipated adult size is unknown). This should be done as follows:
 - Find the puppy's age on the horizontal axis and the appropriate weight on the vertical axis.
 - Make a small dot where the two lines intersect.
- Monitor and plot weights monthly until puppy is six months old.
- After six months, monitor every three months until the puppy reaches adult size.

4. Discuss the puppy's growth pattern and potential interventions with the owner, if needed.

- Normal growth will result in weight measurements that will either be situated on, or lie between two centile lines and will follow that growth pattern over time. This normal growth can be used as a basis for conversations with owners around lifetime healthy nutrition, weight monitoring, and preventative care.
- If the puppy's individual growth crosses more than two centile lines, it could indicate an abnormal growth pattern (see FAQs), and can be used to start conversations about the need for adjustments in feeding or investigations into overall health status.
- The growth charts are designed to accommodate neutering during growth and a space is provided on the growth chart to record the date of neutering (see FAQs for more details).



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why are there no centiles before 12 weeks?

The growth charts have been validated from 12 weeks of age. Many people get their new puppy earlier than 12 weeks and it would be helpful to start tracking weight as early as possible.



What if the puppy's growth crosses centiles or displays a flat growth line?

Both can be signs of growth disturbances and indicate the need to consider some form of intervention. If the puppy's individual growth crosses centiles in an upwards direction, especially if two or more centiles are crossed, it could suggest the puppy is becoming overweight. Alternatively, crossing centiles in a downwards direction could indicate a possible developmental disorder, especially if two or more centiles are crossed. In either condition, assessing the puppy's body condition using a validated scoring system can help to guide your decision. Note whether the puppy has recently been neutered, as this can affect growth, also take into account parental weight, sibling growth rates and nutritional intake wherever possible. Consider performing investigations into overall health status, and/or adjustments to feeding and activity, together with monthly weight monitoring in order to rectify the problem.

What if the anticipated adult size/breed of the puppy is unknown?

Pick a chart where the puppies current weight sits between the 9th and 91st centile lines. Plot three serial measurements to determine if the puppies' growth continues to follow a centile line or interval on the chart.

What if the age of the puppy is unknown?

Whenever possible, the exact age should be used. However, a reasonable estimate of age can be ascertained by looking at the eruption times of permanent teeth. Since this age will only ever be an estimate, growth should be interpreted with more caution.

Will neutering affect puppy growth?

Neutering can result in a reduction in energy requirements, and if the amount fed is not reduced accordingly this may result in the upward crossing of more than two centile lines. We recommend that neutering is marked on the growth chart using a different coloured pen and the date recorded in the box provided on the chart. After neutering you should monitor body weight monthly and then every three months until adulthood.

For more information please go to: www.waltham.com

