

# Alegria Havanese Puppy Information and Checklist



You'll be bringing home your Alegria Havanese Puppy in a few weeks! There's lots to do to prepare, so here are a few things to look for and keep in mind:

## **Food and treats:**

The puppies are being weaned on Royal Canin Puppy for Small Breeds, which can be purchased at most pet food stores. When you first bring your puppy home, they should be fed three times per day. You can put down the food and leave it for 15 minutes or so, then pick it up until the next meal. Feed the amount suggested on the bag and adjust as needed. Stainless steel food and water bowls are recommended.



Nina Ottosson or other puzzle toys can be a fun way to occasionally give them their meals or treats. Puzzle toys engage their minds and if you have a hesitant eater, can be the added bit of fun to get them to eat. Puzzle toys can be found in most pet stores or ordered online.



*Nina Ottosson Puzzles are a fun way to engage your puppy's mind.*

For training treats they absolutely love the 100% duck that can be purchased at Canadian Tire. I also like little bits of cut up meat, freeze-dried liver, or sometimes just a bit of kibble works too. Some dogs also love cheese but others find it causes stomach upset, so it's best to go easy on cheese until you know how your puppy responds.



## **Chew Toys:**

Puppies will be teething and need things to chew on. Bully sticks, pig/cow hooves, pig ears, or beef tendons, are always popular. Keep in mind, bully sticks are high in fat and should be fed in moderation. Rope toys, and other soft toys also work. Kongs and other toys you can stuff are great stuffed with frozen yogurt, canned dog food peanut butter, apple sauce, canned pumpkin etc. The cold can help their little gums feel better as they are teething. Rawhide is generally not recommended, as heavy chewers may eat too much and it can cause intestinal blockage. Remember that puppies will chew whatever they find, so it's important to eliminate any wires or other dangerous items that they can come across, and provide them with safe alternatives.



*Cow Hooves*



*Bully Sticks*



*Kong*



*Cow Ears*



*Rope Toys*

## **Collars and apparel:**

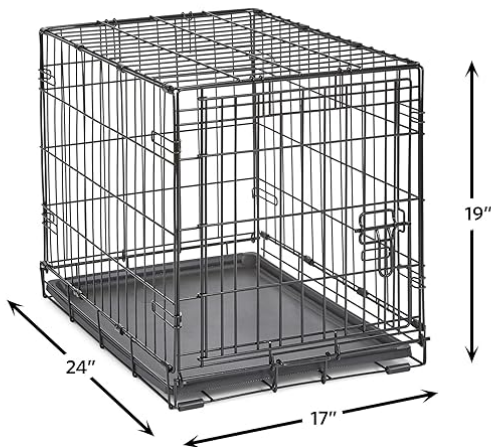
Your puppy will still be small still when you take them home. A small 7"-9" collar should fit your puppy when you first bring them home. As they grow, their collar may need to be replaced with something bigger. Some people prefer harnesses to collars, and if your puppy is prone to pulling on a leash, a harness can be preferable. The JettaJacks Fluid Motion Harness is a suitable harness. They would likely start in the smallest size available and grow from there. I've also heard good reviews on the Rogz fast-fit harnesses for cats (a good transitional harness for when they are still tiny puppies).



Hurrta is my favourite winter jacket brand as they are both warm, and fit well. At full size most Havanese will be the 12" size, but they will be smaller at first of course. If you live in an area where they salt the sidewalks, it's recommended to use boots on them. Getting them used to this early on is a good idea. I prefer Pawz balloon style boots in size extra small.

## **Crates and Exercise-Pens:**

Crate training is a great way to house train your dog, and can be a safe haven for them to be when you aren't able to watch them. For sizing, 22-24" long by 18" wide is approximately the right size crate for a Havanese. You don't want the crate so big that they can use part of it as a potty area.



An exercise pen is also important, so your puppy has a safe place to be if you are too busy to supervise them.

## **Housetraining:**

When you first bring your puppy home, they will be young and needing to go the bathroom frequently. I use potty trays to train them. They work if you have to leave them for long periods of time, but I don't recommend relying on them too much. It's best to get them in the habit of going outside right away, as it will cause less confusion in the long run. Take your puppy outside to pee when it wakes up, after a play, and after a meal. I like to take them outside at least once every 60 minutes at first. Signs they need to go include sniffing, circling or approaching the door. The effort you put in in the beginning will pay off.

\*NOTE: One of the biggest mistakes people make is letting their puppy have too much freedom too early on. Do NOT let your puppy have full run of the house until they are 100% housebroken (some may be there by 6 months but others may take closer to a year). If your puppy starts peeing in a spot in the home, it can be very hard to break this habit. The best thing to do is prevent that from happening in the first place. You will need a crate or an ex-pen to keep your puppy in when you can't watch them. If you need to leave your puppy home for an extended amount of time, you can leave a potty tray in an ex-pen with them, but I don't recommend using potty trays as a general rule, as this can confuse them in the long run. You can also gate off a carpet-free area of your home, such as the kitchen. If your puppy does have an accident indoors, clean it up well and use an urine odour remover to eliminate the scent. If you see your puppy go potty indoors, a gentle but stern "no" is enough (don't yell, hit or scare your puppy), then bring them outdoors and show them where to go. NEVER physically punish your puppy for going indoors, this will just make them afraid to go potty in front of you indoors or out.



*It's important to keep your puppy safely confined when you can't watch it. An ex-pen is a great way to achieve this.*

When your puppy goes potty outdoors, praise them like crazy and give them a high value treat. I also like to add a verbal cue. You can use "go potty" or "hurry up" or whatever you feel comfortable with.

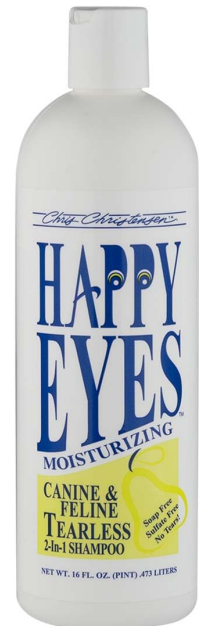
Your puppy may also need to go potty at night when you first bring them home. Sometimes they sleep through the night from day one and other times it will take a couple weeks. If you do take your puppy out at night make sure it's just to go pee then right back into his or her crate. Havanese are smart and if you start to give them snuggles, playtime or food at night, they will decide that's a great thing and they will train you to do it more often ;)

## **Puppy-Proofing:**

Take a look around the space that the puppy will be spending time in and make sure there are no hazards. Make sure any toxic plants are off the ground, wires are not accessible to them (they are particularly fun to chew) and there is nothing else they can get into.

## **Grooming:**

I personally love Chris Christensen grooming products, which can be ordered online from Wheatley Wares. (Wheatley Wares store is both online and in-person located in Ancaster, Ontario). The tear-free shampoo “Happy Eyes” is great for puppies. You will also need a hair brush, nail clippers, and a toothbrush. If you intend on having a professional groomer groom your dog, it’s a good idea to book early as they are often booking several weeks in advance. If you plan on grooming your own dog, you can get some good tips from the book “From Nose to Tail” off the Havanese Fanciers of Canada website.



## **Vet:**

Vets are also booking quite far in advance, and depending on your location it may be hard to find one who is taking new clients. Your puppy have had their first set of shots at around 8 weeks of age. Your puppy will need their second set 4 weeks later, so you may want to book this now. Some vets will do titres, looking at blood antibody levels, instead of the full set of vaccines. This is more expensive than the vaccines, but can avoid over-vaccination. Some vets also push early spay/neuter, which is not in the best interest of the dog, and can cause all sorts of issues. It’s best to wait until your puppy is fully grown and growth plates have closed, so around 12 months of age, to have them spayed or neutered.

I am personally not a huge fan of preventative tick and flea medication unless you live in a particularly high risk area. It’s best to treat on an as needed basis, but this can be discussed with your vet.

## **Socialization:**

Your puppy will go home with their first set of shots, but may not be fully immune yet, so you still need to be careful. However, the critical socialization period is 8-12 (and to a lesser extent up to 16) weeks of age. It's vital to get your puppy out and exposed to new things in this period. Your puppy should get in the car and go somewhere new every day, or at the very least have a new experience every day.

To do so safely, you can take them to places like Canadian Tire, Winners, Staples etc. Place a blanket in a crate and let them watch all the different people and sights. Bring some treats and if anyone shows interest in your puppy, you can offer to give them a treat to give to your puppy. If you see another dog, they don't need to "meet" the dog directly, but let them see it, and give them treats to make it a positive experience.



Here is a list of stores that allow pets (avoid the pet stores until fully vaccinated) <https://www.bringfido.ca/attraction/shops/state/ontario/?amp=on>

Take them out on garbage day and treat them as the noisy truck passes by (you may need to keep them in your arms if you live in a high traffic area, to keep them safe from germs until vaccinated). You can invite as many people over to your home to meet puppy. People of all ages, sizes, colours etc etc. You can even just take them to a grocery store or other busy store and hold them while letting them watch people go by.

## **Other:**

Your puppy will be sent home with a small blanket and toy with their littermates scent on it. Some people like to use a Snuggle Puppy to help your puppy feel comforted at night. Snuggle puppies come with a heartbeat that many puppies find comforting. If you would like to use a Snuggle Puppy and would like it to smell of its littermates, you are welcome to bring one when you come for your puppy visit, or you can have one sent to my address.

I will put your snuggle puppy in the whelping pen before your puppy goes home, so it smells like its mom and siblings.

If you have any other questions before or after you bring your puppy home, feel free to email [alegriahavanese@gmail.com](mailto:alegriahavanese@gmail.com), or call 705-706-4883.

## **Puppy Checklist:**

- Food (Royal Canin Small Breed Puppy)
- Stainless Steel Food and Water Bowls
- Treats (liver, duck etc)
- Chews
- Toys
- Crate
- Urine Scent Remover (for any accidents)
- Soft Bedding
- Potty Pads (if you'll be using them)
- Ex-Pen
- Brush
- Dog Shampoo and Conditioner
- Nail Clippers
- Toothbrush
- Collar
- Leash
- Jacket and Booties if needed

## **Puppy To-Do:**

- Book Vet appointment
- Book Grooming (if using a groomer)
- Puppy-Proof Your Home