



Daily Puppy Raising Guide

Airedale Terrier Puppies (8–12 Weeks) applies to all Dogs

Welcome to King Dales

Congratulations on your new Airedale Terrier puppy. This guide reflects the daily routines, structure, and training principles we use at **King Dales** to raise confident, stable, and well-mannered dogs. Airedales are intelligent, sensitive, and strong-willed—proper guidance from day one is essential.

Sleeping Arrangements for Puppies

Puppies should not sleep in bed with their owners. While allowing a puppy to rest on your lap while you are awake and supervising is perfectly fine, sleeping together—especially during the early weeks—can pose safety and hygiene risks.

Young puppies are small and fragile, and there is a real risk of accidental injury if an adult rolls over during sleep. Additionally, puppies are still developing bladder and bowel control, which increases the likelihood of accidents in bed that can go unnoticed until morning.

From a training and developmental standpoint, puppies benefit most from having their own designated sleeping area, such as a crate or puppy bed. This helps establish healthy boundaries, supports house-training, and teaches the puppy independence and appropriate routines. Clear structure builds confidence and trust, and it reinforces that humans provide guidance, safety, and leadership.

Creating consistent rules early on sets your puppy up for long-term success and a balanced relationship as they grow.

First Day Home: Comfort & Transition

When your puppy comes home, begin by giving him a gentle bath using a *high-quality puppy shampoo and conditioner*. Dry thoroughly with a clean towel, then wrap him in a second dry towel and hold him calmly. This close contact helps the puppy feel *safe, secure, and bonded* during the transition to his new home.

Potty Training Foundations

Consistent potty training is critical and one of the most important habits to establish early.

First Few Days

- Take your puppy outside *every 30 minutes while awake (always carry dog out to prevent accidental elimination on his way out the door)*.
- This teaches that *outside is for potty; inside is for rest and play*
- Gradually increase time between potty breaks as consistency improves

Morning & Overnight Routine

- First activity every morning: *outside immediately*
 - Longer overnight sleep helps build bladder control
 - Expect overnight potty breaks every *3–4 hours at 8–10 weeks (never wakeup a dog to go potty, If they are sleeping, they are fine)*.
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Immediate Outdoor Routine (Critical)

Any time your puppy:

- Wakes up
- Comes out of the crate
- Has been resting on your lap
- Finishes eating or playing

➡ *Take him outside immediately*

For young puppies, carry them directly outside to prevent accidents before reaching the potty area.

What to Expect Outside

- Puppy usually urinates first
 - If you stay out longer, bowel movement often follows
 - Puppies may poop before eating and again after eating—this is normal
- Be patient:* bowel movements can take up to 20 minutes.

Encouraging Elimination

- Keep the puppy calmly walking and sniffing
 - Do not allow sitting, playing, or interacting
 - Calm movement encourages faster elimination
- Consistency and patience are the keys to success.
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Crate Training & Housebreaking

Crate training is essential for potty training and emotional security.

Crate Guidelines

- Crate should be *appropriately sized* (no extra room)
- Crate = *safe den*, never punishment
- Covered on three sides
- Located in a quiet but connected area

Dogs naturally avoid soiling their sleeping area. A correctly sized crate helps the puppy learn control and reinforces that *the house is living space—not a bathroom*.

Important Rule

If puppies are allowed to eliminate indoors early, they may view the house as a large kennel. Early structure prevents long-term problems.

Nighttime Routine and Crate Training

Always keep kennel clean with using soap and water and washing any soiled items in kennel. Creating a Comfortable Sleeping Environment

Place a thick towel or soft bedding in the kennel for your puppy to lie on. Include a safe chew toy to help him relax and self-soothe. If available, add an item that carries the scent of his littermates or mother, as familiar scents can be very comforting during the transition to a new home. You may also place one of your worn T-shirts in the kennel so he can recognize your scent.

These familiar smells help your puppy feel calm, secure, and at home, making it easier for him to settle and sleep comfortably.

At bedtime, take your puppy outside for a final potty break. Once he has relieved himself, place him in his kennel positioned next to your bed. Being close to you helps your puppy feel safe while still learning to sleep independently.

If your puppy cries after being placed in the kennel, allow him time to settle. This is normal during the adjustment period. Remain calm and lie in your bed. You may gently place your fingers through the crate openings so he can smell you and feel reassured that you are nearby. Avoid picking him up or removing him from the crate unless necessary.

With patience and consistency, most puppies will settle and fall asleep. If your puppy wakes and cries again later in the night, give him a few minutes to see if he resettles on his own. You may again offer your hand for reassurance.

If the crying continues for approximately five minutes and does not decrease, take him outside for a brief potty break. Do not play, talk excessively, or stimulate him. Once he has gone potty, return him directly to the crate and repeat the same calming routine.

Most puppies begin sleeping through the night within a few days when this routine is followed consistently. Allowing the puppy adequate time to settle helps prevent the development of unnecessary nighttime waking habits.

Handling Accidents

Accidents are normal during training.

If an accident occurs:

- Calmly say: say “*No potty. Outside.*”
- Pick the puppy up immediately and go outside
- Use consistent language every time

Never punish accidents—this delays learning.

Bell Training (Optional but Helpful)

Hang a bell on the door used for potty breaks.

Every time you go outside:

- Hang a bell on the door, Ring the bell
- Say: “*Outside, go potty.*”

Puppies may ring the bell simply to go out—that’s normal.

Puppy Biting & Nipping (8–10 Weeks)

Biting at this age is *developmentally normal*, not aggression.

Why Puppies Bite

- Teething discomfort
 - Exploration and play
 - Learning bite inhibition
 - Overstimulation or fatigue
 - Attention-seeking
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How to Respond to Biting

Best Practices

- Redirect immediately to an appropriate chew toy
- Stop play briefly if biting continues
- Praise calm chewing and gentle play
- Enforce regular naps—most biting is exhaustion

What NOT to Do

- No yelling or physical corrections
 - No holding the mouth shut
 - No dominance-based techniques
- Calm redirection builds trust and control.
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Bite Types: How to Tell the Difference

Play Biting (Normal)

- Loose body, bouncy movement
- Stops with redirection

Overstimulation Biting (Most Common)

- Zoomies
 - Harder bites
 - Ignoring toys
- ➡ End interaction → potty → crate nap

Problem Behavior (Rare at This Age)

- Stiff body
 - Hard eye contact
 - Snarling
 - Biting without play context
- ➡ Seek professional evaluation early
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Airedale-Specific Guidance

Airedales are:

- Intelligent
- Confident
- Energetic
- Emotionally sensitive

They respond best to:

- Clear structure
- Mental stimulation

- Calm, consistent leadership
- Predictable routines

Over-coddling or inconsistency leads to frustration and nipping.

Showing Love, the Right Way

Dogs do not experience love the way humans do.

To a dog:

Love = safety, structure, guidance, and trust

What Dogs Understand as Love

- Calm, predictable routines
- Clear expectations
- Positive reinforcement
- Gentle, respectful touch
- Shared activities and engagement

Treating a dog like a stuffed animal often creates anxiety and behavior problems—especially in Airedales.

Dog food and what to do

Feeding Routine & Resource Safety

- Dogs wait calmly for a release cue (“OK”) before eating
- Each dog eats only from their own bowl
- Supervise meals in multi-dog homes
- Teach calm pauses during feeding to build trust.

Building Calm Behavior and Trust During Feeding

Teaching your puppy calm behavior around food is an important part of building trust and preventing future resource guarding. This should always be done using gentle, controlled, and positive methods.

Begin by asking your puppy to sit and remain calm before placing the food bowl down. You may briefly lift the bowl or pause the meal if your puppy becomes overly excited, then reward calm behavior by allowing him to eat. This teaches patience and self-control.

As your puppy becomes more comfortable, you can practice gentle food-bowl handling by calmly placing your hand near the bowl, then briefly touching the bowl and petting him while he eats. If he remains relaxed, quietly praise him. If he becomes tense or uncomfortable, slow down and return to an easier step. The goal is to teach him that human hands near his food are safe and predictable—not a threat.

During feeding, the puppy is trained that when my hand is placed on or in his food bowl, he must immediately remove his mouth from the bowl and pause. He remains calm and waits until a clear release cue—“OK”—is given before reengaging with his food.

When the puppy responds correctly by stepping back or lifting his head, he is calmly praised. This teaches him that pausing is expected, safe, and always followed by permission to continue eating. The food is never taken away as a punishment; instead, the pause reinforces impulse control and attentiveness.

This routine helps the puppy understand household rules and expectations while building trust, reliability, and polite behavior around food. With consistency, the puppy learns that calm cooperation results in positive outcomes. Once this is understood it no longer needs to be done daily but should be continued 4-5 times throughout the year, reminding him that this is acceptable.

If any signs of food aggression appear (stiff body, growling, snapping), stop the exercise immediately. Remove the bowl calmly without scolding and give the puppy a short break before reintroducing the meal at a lower level of difficulty. Persistent or escalating aggression should be addressed with the guidance of a qualified trainer or behavior professional.

Consistent, calm feeding routines help your puppy feel secure, prevent guarding behaviors, and reinforce trust and cooperation.

Children and guests should *never place hands in food bowls*.

Post-Meal Potty Expectations

Most puppies will need to have a bowel movement shortly after eating, though they may not always need to urinate at the same time. If your puppy does not poop immediately, remain patient and continue walking with him calmly. Gentle movement helps stimulate digestion and encourages him to go.

Avoid rushing the process. Giving your puppy adequate time and consistency after meals supports successful house training and helps him learn what is expected.

Daily Schedule (8–12 Weeks)

Airedales thrive on structure and rest.

General Rule:

- 45–60 minutes awake
- 1.5–2 hours nap
- Repeat throughout the day

Most problem behaviors come from overtired puppies.

Key Success Rules

- Consistency beats intensity
- Structure prevents problems
- Calm humans create calm dogs
- Sleep fixes most puppy issues

Final Takeaway

Your puppy does not need dominance.

Your puppy does not need indulgence.

Your puppy needs *leadership they can trust*.

That trust is the deepest form of love a dog can feel.
