

Helpful Tips for Introducing your Puppy to Your Home

Some useful information and a suggested schedule to help with your puppy's smooth transition.

1. Consistency is Key

- a. Be consistent in the boundaries you set for your puppy. Your pup will only know what you allow him/her to experience with you in your new home. Please take your time with your new pup so neither of you are overwhelmed or frustrated. Instilling good behavior will take months, but remember prevention is much better than correction. When your puppy enters your life you'll be introducing them to many firsts, so maintaining a consistent schedule as well as consistent behavioral expectations, corrections, and diet, will aid in a smooth transition and overall contentment of your pet.
- b. For a great informative yet enjoyable book to read, I suggest, **The Art of Raising a Puppy**, by the Monks of New Skete. The techniques we learned from this book is what we continue to use with our puppies and dogs. If you implement this information for the first year of your puppies life, you will have a fantastic life long companion.

2. Boundaries

- a. Your puppy will feel more safe and secure with boundaries until they learn the "rules of the house".
- b. Do not let your puppy have free run of your house or yard for the first couple of weeks.
- c. Keep him/her on leash in the house at all times
- d. If not on leash, place your puppy in a comfy crate or a designated exercise pen.

3. Crate Training

- a. Help your pup adjust by getting them tired before placing them into the crate. A spray water bottle can be used to stop them from barking by startling them with a squirt. Or, if you are close to the crate you can bang on the top and say, "No" or, "Quiet". A treat in the crate could be used to keep it a positive place.
- b. Having a small area for your puppy, allows you to know where he/she is at all times and will help them in forming good habits while avoiding the possibility of starting bad ones.
- c. A well adjusted puppy will be more than content to sleep in the crate and feel like it's their safe space. But that only comes from consistent training on your part.

4. Food and Nutrition

- a. *On top of feeding high quality food we recommend **NuVet Plus** which is a nutritional supplement that helps build the immune system. (Please see attached document for more details).*
- b. We feed NutriSource, a grain-free kibble that is high in probiotics and protein.
- c. We like feeding the pups three times a day for the first couple of months.
- d. Start with ½ cup each feeding and increase as they grow. (Adding warm water makes it easier to digest).
- e. If you'll be feeding something besides NutriSource please let us know and we'll send you home with a bag of our food to help with the transition. Slowly transition by adding more of your food every day until all of ours is gone and they are solely on your new kibble.
- f. We recommend to stay away from treats at the moment as you want your pup to connect with you and your family, not the treats.

5. Daily Schedule:

- a. **MORNING:** Wake up, carry them to the relieving area, puppy stays there until they've "done their business". Supervised playtime while food is soaking. Feed and offer clean water. Quiet time, cuddle, groom, and enjoy. Nap time in crate.
- b. **NOON and late AFTERNOON:** repeat morning routine.
- c. **NO WATER** after 7 or 8pm. (May need to remove the water bowl). Let your puppy out before you go to bed.
- d. **MIDNIGHT:** If you can, let your pup out again around midnight. This will help them sleep through the night.

6. What to Do Right When You Bring Them home

- a. When you leave here, take your puppy directly home and introduce them to their designated relieving area. Carry them there, and allow 10-15 minutes of exploration. They should at least pee.
- b. Have a section of your house prepared for them. Limit their play area to either the kitchen or a smaller room with baby gates. This is where you'll feed them, play with them, and give them a safe place for them to explore and feel comfortable in.
- c. Follow the Daily Schedule with consistency and you should be all good!

7. What to Have Ready at Home for the Big Day

- a. **Leash and Collar:** As your pup grows you'll have to get different size collars and and perhaps even leashes that are the appropriate size for your pup as he/she grows.
- b. **Water and Food Bowls:** Again, you might want to buy appropriate sized bowls as your puppy grows.
- c. **Dog Crate:** There is no standard when it comes to sizes of dog crates. Your puppy will range anywhere from 30 to 45lbs. We would recommend asking your local pet store for their advice as they know the sizes of the crates they sell.
- d. **Baby Gate or Fencing:** We recommend anywhere from 2 to 3ft tall temporary fencing or exercise pens. If you are just wanting to section off a room, using a baby gate between a door frame would work great.
- e. **Toys:** We recommend nothing with a squeaker in it. Rope toys or any toy made by the company Kong are great. (Avoid plastic as that can get stuck in their throat if torn up).
- f. **Food:** We recommend any high quality pet food. It is worth the extra money.
- g. **Supplements:** We recommend NuVet Plus. It is an immune system builder that can be used on all ages. This specific nutritional supplement was recommended to us by other credible breeders and we have used it on our adult breeders and have been happy and satisfied with the results. (Please see attached document for more details).