

New Puppy Care Sheet



CARING FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY

Puppies MUST eat whether they want to or not. A "he'll eat when he's hungry" mentality may work for a Labrador or Shepherd puppy, but not small breed puppies, who can get into serious trouble quickly with just one or two missed meals.

Remember, even though your puppy is weaned, he/she may not like eating in a new environment, especially without litter mates. You are now both a litter mate and mother to this puppy. ALWAYS confine the puppy to his/her crib, with food. A baby playpen such as a Pac 'N Play available at Walmart, works well for meals and naps. New puppies are very infantile in their development and haven't sufficient focus to locate food and eat properly without aid.

FEEDING:

The most dangerous event for baby is hypoglycemia. Puppies have very few calories in reserve and blood sugar can deplete quickly. If baby isn't eating, call us immediately and we will guide you through syringe feeding if necessary. It's a good idea to have honey on hand in the rare case puppy starts to deplete.* Your baby was weaned on a raw diet and this must not be changed. Organ meat such as liver, mixed with raw beef should be fed a.m. and p.m. Aim to give baby all he wants but when he stops eating, pick up food and keep refrigerated. A 12 week old baby should eat about 1 cup per day of hamburger mix. In addition to raw food, keep dry kibble available in puppy's playpen to nibble on between meals. We recommend Merrick Raw Infused puppy kibble which has freeze dried meat in it. We also feed Orijens freeze dried chicken in between meals.

WATERING:

NEVER PUT WATER OR OTHER LIQUIDS IN PUPPY'S MOUTH!!!

Your puppy should have a small, clean crock of water or water bottle available at all times. Please remember that even the most ill dog will still drink water, so never force fluids. Doing so could cause puppy to aspirate, choke, develop pneumonia or die. If you feel your puppy is dehydrated, rush to a veterinarian who may administer SQ or IV fluids.

STOOLS:

Check your puppy's bottom for stool sticking every day. Some puppies will develop a loose stool and/or contract giardia or coccidiosis from the stress of leaving his/her familiar home and family. This does not mean your puppy came from an unclean environment or "bad" kennel. These common maladies can be inexpensively treated with medicine from your veterinarian.

VETS:

A good rapport with your vet is paramount. We are happy to help you find a reputable veterinarian who will honestly represent his/her services and have your puppy's best interest at heart. Please be aware that veterinarians differ greatly in philosophies and practices and even from human doctors. After all, your human doctor doesn't try to sell you shampoo or food. Veterinary Clinics are a business at the end of the day, and most truly want what's best for our pets. On the other hand, you needn't be victimized or guilted into unnecessary procedures or products. If you are not comfortable for any reason, move on. Your veterinarian is your best ally in your pet's health and wellness. Be choosy!



POTTY TRAINING:

The best way to potty train a puppy is to control the potty area. A folding round expen set up on your lawn, which clips together at each end to form a circle, is helpful to keep puppy focused on his/her "job". Dogs naturally sniff out an area's perimeter before going potty. If you keep the area small, this process will go much faster, and with fewer distractions running a whole yard may impose.

Every time you pick up your puppy, take him/her outside first. Some people take their baby out every hour or so. If your puppy has been napping, take him/her out immediately upon waking. First thing in the morning and last task before you go to bed are important "out" times. Above all, patience. Puppies are unpredictable and have accidents just like human babies. The younger the puppy, the more frequently they potty. Just remember that this too shall pass. All puppies grow up to be dogs, who only potty a few times per day.