

Congratulations on becoming a new puppy owner!

We hope you enjoy this experience with your new pet.

As a pet owner, we understand the importance of giving our furry friends the best care possible.

Here is some information we thought may be helpful to you as you adjust, train and care for your new puppy.

**The Adoption process:** A puppy is available to go to its new home when it is 9 weeks old. He/she will be fully weaned at this time, and will have all proper vaccinations, deworming medication up to date, health certificate from our veterinarian, pedigree (if applicable) and registration papers (if applicable). We accept deposits on puppies only after they are born. Typically, a potential puppy owner can visit when the puppy is 6 weeks old. Generally, a puppy is beginning to show some signs of disposition/personality at 6 weeks old. When the puppy is 9 weeks old, they normally are ready to go to their forever homes. We welcome potential puppy owners to visit us by appointment.

**Vaccinations:** Your puppy will receive a 5 way shot at 8 weeks of age when he/she is taken to our veterinarian. He/she will need another 5 way shot at 11 weeks and 14 weeks. Be aware that your puppy will NOT be fully immuned from some deadly puppy diseases until at least a month following your puppy's third set of shots. Avoid taking your pet to public areas such as parks, pet shops, or any public places where the possibility of exposure is high.

**Deworming:** We give our puppies three types of de-wormer starting at 6 weeks, 8 weeks, and 10 weeks old. They receive Pyrantel for a general dewormer, Albon for Coccidia, and Fenbendazole for giardia. You will want to continue to deworm your puppy monthly with a general dewormer. You will want to include a dewormer for heartworms starting around 4-5 months. Your local veterinarian is a great resource for advice and information.

**Food:** We feed our puppies NutriSource dog food. We feed the grain free puppy food to them. We have small 5.5 lb. bags that we sell here that can be purchased at the time you come for your puppy. It is also available through select pet stores. We feed our adult dogs Nutri Source dog food as well. If you have your own particular food of choice, we will send a small bag of dog food home with them. Mix the two kinds of food together so your puppy won't get an upset stomach from the diet change.

**Feeding Schedule:** 8-16 weeks feed ¼ cup morning and evening. 17-52 weeks feed ½ cup twice a day.

**Potty training:** Consistency will be your best friend if you can get your puppy into a regular routine. We recommend the crate training method. Immediately upon removing a puppy from its crate, carry your puppy to the designated potty place (outside). Let he/she explore the area for 5 minutes or so. If they are successful, give them play time in the house. After playtime, crate them again. Repeat the cycle. If they are not successful, do NOT give them playtime. Rather, put them back in the crate for 15-20 minutes and try again. Once they are successful, they can have playtime. They will quickly associate going potty is followed by fun time in the house, and maybe even a treat will be coming! Every two hours is a good practice for this exercise, as their bladder expands. Suggestion is given to take your puppy out around 11 PM and then at 6 AM. Normally, a puppy will be able to hold its bladder over that time.

**Spay or Neuter:** It is important to have your puppy spayed or neutered at the proper time. Male puppies should be neutered between 4-6 months of age to prevent unwanted male habits. We suggest neutering as early as possible. A female should be spayed around 6 months old. Your local veterinarian is a great resource.

**Adjustments:** Your puppy will be totally weaned from its mother around 7 weeks old. They usually are playing with their litter mates and are being taken care of by humans. Our puppies spend lots of time with our children and love running and romping around. When a puppy is taken to its new home, it may cry as it misses its litter mates. At night, place the puppy in its crate with a favorite toy, keep it in an area where it feels safe and can sense the presence of humans. Usually a puppy will settle down and fall asleep quickly.

**Traveling:** Here are a few suggestions for when you come to pick up your puppy, or want to travel with your puppy. Have a small travel crate available with some blankets and toys. Be prepared with some wipes/paper towels as he/she may get carsick. Have a small harness/collar and leash available for potty breaks. Depending on distance, keep a small food and water bowl in your vehicle. Keep some treats on hand to help entertain the puppy.