



How To Take Care Of A New Puppy
Puppy Information Booklet

Pure Breed Kennels

Nassau, New Providence, The Bahamas

(242) 437-1553

www.purebreedkennels.com

Introduction

We would like to congratulate you on the purchase of your new puppy! Owning a dog can be an extremely gratifying experience, but it also requires a lot of responsibility. There will be a period of adjustment when you bring home a new puppy. Your goals are to help your puppy adapt quickly to its new family, and to minimize the stress associated with leaving its mother, littermates, and former home. If there are already dogs in the new home, transition may be a little easier as the puppy is able to identify with its own kind.

We hope this document gives you the information needed to make the best decisions regarding your new puppy. The following recommendations tell you what you need to know about taking care of your puppy. If you have any questions concerning any subject related to your new puppy, please feel free to contact us. We are happy to help you!

When Should My Puppy Be Vaccinated?

There are many diseases that are deadly to dogs. Fortunately, we can prevent many of these diseases by using very effective vaccines. To be effective, these vaccines must be given as a series of injections. Ideally, they are given at about 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, and 16-17 weeks of age. Rabies vaccine is given at 16 weeks of age. Booster shots are given at 12 months old.

The routine vaccination schedule will protect your puppy from diseases such as distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvovirus, coronavirus, and rabies.

What Should I Feed My Puppy?

Diet is very important in the growing months of a dog's life. There are two essential criteria that should be met in selecting food for your puppy. We recommend a *Name-Brand Food* made by a national dog food company,

and food that is made *for puppies*. Depending on its breed and size, this should be fed until your puppy is about 12-18 months of age.

We recommend that you only buy food which has the AAFCO certification label. The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) is an organization that oversees the entire pet food industry and it certifies that the food has met the minimum requirements for nutrition.

Feeding a dry, canned, or semi-moist form of dog food is acceptable. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. Most veterinarians will recommend dry food for your puppy because it helps maintain your pet's dental health. Chewing the dry food helps to scrape the plaque off their teeth.

Should I Discipline My Puppy?

Harsh punishment should be avoided. Disciplining a young puppy may be necessary if its behavior threatens people or property. A verbal "no," hand-clapping, or other loud noises can be intimidating enough to impede undesirable behavior and redirect the puppy to correct behavior. Your puppy should associate the punishment with the undesirable act and not with you.

How Do I Prevent My Puppy From Doing Damage?

Supervise your puppy at all times until it has learned what is allowed and not allowed at home. Keeping your puppy on a 10-foot leash is an excellent way to keep it in sight, and to train it not to wander off. At any time that the puppy cannot be supervised, such as throughout the night or when you need to go out, house it in a secure area. An escape-proof crate, a dog run, or a portable pen is simple, highly effective, and safe.

When selecting your dog's confinement area, it is useful to consider several factors. The dog will adapt fastest to the new area if it is associated with rewards. Have the puppy enter the area for all its treats and toys. The area should have warm, dry, comfortable bedding and should never be used for punishment. Each time your puppy needs to be

confined, it should be first well exercised and given the opportunity to excrete.

What Must I Do To Provide For My Puppy's Needs?

Play, chewing, exercise, exploration, feeding, social contact, and excretion are basic requirements of all puppies. By providing appropriate outlets for each of these needs, few problems are likely to arise. Puppies should be given chew toys that interest them and occupy their time. When supervised, you can allow your puppy to investigate and explore its new environment. Play, exercise, affection, training, and handling must all be part of the daily routine.

What If I Find Stool Or Urine In An Unsuitable Area?

There is no point in punishing or pointing out the problem to the puppy. Only if the puppy is in the act of excretion will it understand the consequences (rewards or punishment). Therefore, it is important to supervise your puppy at all times.

Puppies have a strong urge to excrete after sleeping, playing, feeding, and drinking. Prepare to take your puppy to its selected excretion area within 30 minutes of each of these activities.

Fleas And Ticks Prevention Options

Fleas are parasitic blood-sucking insects that can transmit many diseases in your pets. Adult fleas live on the pet; however, immature forms are in the pet's environment. Ticks are ectoparasites (external parasites) by living on the blood of mammals. Ticks are important vectors of several diseases, including Lyme disease.

The following are brief descriptions of preventions we recommend:

Flea and Tick Collar – provides safe and effective control of ticks for up to three (3) months. They are water resistant and fits dogs of almost any size.

NexGard Chewables – soft beef-flavored chewables that kills and prevents flea and tick infestations. Give once a month.

Frontline Plus – easy-to-apply topical treatment that offers thirty (30) days of protection against fleas and ticks. Must be applied directly to the skin.

Veterinarians

A few veterinarian offices we recommend:

- Central Animal Hospital
Tenwich Street
Nassau, The Bahamas
Phone: (242) 325-1288
- Bahamas Humane Society
#35 Dunmore Avenue
Nassau, The Bahamas
Phone: (242) 323-5138

Pet Food and Supplies

- Modernistic Garden and Pet Supply
Madeira Street
Nassau, The Bahamas
Phone: (242) 322-2868