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New Puppy Care Sheet

Nutrition plays an important role in your new friend's life. Complete nutrition will improve your pet's quality and longevity of life. Proactive health care like nutrition, yearly exams, vaccines and deworming protocols can help you prevent diseases and health issues further down the line. Picking a good quality food is important to help your puppy to reach its full potential size, and health wise. We recommend Royal Canin Development Small, All, or Large dog, depending on what size your puppy will be when they are grown. It is scientifically based nutrition that has years of research behind it making sure it is a complete and balanced food for your puppy to grow up on. (Royal Canin also comes in Adult, Dental, Mature, Weight Control as well as therapeutic diets)

Note: It is VERY important to have large breed puppies on a formula that is specifically designed for Large Breed Puppies as they can do 50% of their growing in their first 4 – 6 months!! For this reason. Large Breed Puppies need specific amounts of energy, protein, calcium, and phosphorus in their diet to account for their extra growth, and then be sure that they don't grow too quickly for their bones and joints to fully develop.

How to Feed Your Puppy:

Puppies have very small and sensitive stomachs so if possible feed the same thing that the breeder was feeding for the first week or two. Gradually introduce them to new food over a period of 2 weeks by mixing small amounts of new food into their old food. To avoid diarrhea and vomiting don't spoil your puppy with lots of treats. For training purposes, you can use affection or use their food as a reward.

It is best if you can split your puppy's food up into 3-4 meals per day. Their small stomachs and GI tracts can not tolerate large meals. How much you feed your puppy should be based off of how much they weigh. Most foods have a guide on the side of the bag to help you decide. It is very beneficial to measure out their food as then you know exactly how much they are eating. Be sure to re weigh your puppy every 2-3 weeks to make sure they are getting enough food.

Meal Feeding:

Now is the perfect time to start meal feeding your puppy. Meal feeding is beneficial because it gives you some insight on how your puppy is feeling. It also allows you to control the amount of food your puppy is getting and it makes it easier to keep them in adequate body condition. If you have multiple dogs in the house it also allows you to make sure that your puppy is actually eating what it is supposed to.

Pick times that work into your schedule that you can stick to for meal times (3 times for young puppies). Split their daily allowance up into 3 equal portions. Give meal and allow 10-20 minutes for your puppy to eat. After that time frame pick food up, do not leave it for them to munch on all day. If they do not eat any of their breakfast do not add their next portion. At their next feeding time simply set the food down that they didn't eat. They will catch on quickly that they eat when the food is put down.

**Some breeds or individual dogs may always appear hungry, even though their caloric needs are being met. EX: Labs!!!! Keep track of weight and Body Condition Score (See Sheet) to ensure that puppy is on the right track. Ask our staff on some tips to help with begging, if they always seem hungry.

Obesity in puppies opens them up to all sorts of dangerous health issues later on in life. It is easier to prevent them from getting too large than it is to lose the weight.

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Training:

Kennel: Kennels are marvelous things when used properly and when the dog has been trained to use them. It basically becomes your puppy's bedroom, their own private space that they can escape to. The kennel should be just big enough that they can stand up and turn around in. Having a kennel too big may encourage them to relieve themselves in their kennel as they can still get away from it. Blankets are not a necessity they are a privilege and until your puppy proves they can make it through the night consistently without soiling their kennel they do not need one. Just like everything else a kennel is most likely new to your puppy so start slow. Start by tossing food or toy in the kennel and encouraging them to go in and get it. Once they willingly go into the kennel on their own you can start adding the command "kennel". This is called claiming a behavior; you basically take a behavior that the puppy is doing on its own and give it a name and then reward them for doing it. After they are willingly walking into the kennel start shutting the door and give them food through the bars in the kennel or leave a stash of food around the kennel for them to find. Walk away and leave them in the kennel until they are quiet. They will most likely cry, scream, howl, bite, scratch, and throw themselves at the kennel door. **WALK AWAY!!** Go outside, go for a drive, go work in the garden, just walk away. Once they are quiet for longer than two seconds let them out and praise them. "Good Kennel, Good boy" Have a party and celebrate that they were quiet. Eventually you should be able to leave them in there for longer periods of time with them being quiet

Be firm and stick with it! They will eventually learn to love their kennel. Some puppies accept it easier than others. Keep playing kennel games that encourage them to go in their kennel. Covering their kennel with a blanket and leaving music on for them may also help them settle.

House Training: Puppies have extremely small bladders and bowels which means they have to empty them all the time! Never leave your puppy unsupervised in the house. If you can't be watching them closely, put them in their kennel or if you have a secure area outside for them, put them outside.

When to take them out: First thing after they wake up from a nap, after eating or drinking, after playing, if they had been sleeping in their kennel peacefully, wake up and start fussing and just about once an hour in between all of those.

"Pee" Command: Teaching them to go to the bathroom on command is very beneficial. First thing in the morning or after a nap when you know they should have to go take them out on a leash. If you have a designated spot you want them to go take them to that spot and linger there. Some puppies are shy and may not want to go with you on the end of the leash, just wait them out. When they finally do decide to go claim that behavior, "Go Pee or Go potty." When they are done throw a potty party and celebrate that they just went bathroom outside! Now that they are relieved they have earned some free time out of their kennel exploring.

Just like blankets, space and exploring your house is a privilege. It is best for the first while if you can keep them confined to a small area (spare bedroom, bathroom, closet ETC.) Smaller areas are easier to keep an eye on them and see if they are thinking of messing in the house. Once they have proved themselves they can be graduated up to being allowed in other areas of the house. Beware of carpets, mats, towels or clothes left on the floor, to a puppy they are the perfect place to pee.

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Tricks and General Commands

Puppies have very short attention spans, therefore training them can be a little tricky. Start slow and reward them as soon as they do the behavior, slowly working up into making them sit for 5 seconds before they get their reward.

Re-call: The first thing you should teach every puppy is their name! Say their name when they are looking at you, then reward them with a treat. Wait for them to get distracted and say their name again when they look at you reward them. If they don't want to look at you when you say their name, clap or whistle to get their attention, say their name, then reward. Slowly make this game harder to the point where they are across the room and you can say their name and they should come to you.

Restraint: Puppies need to learn that when you are holding them or doing things to them they cannot just leave. Start from the day you bring your puppy home by practicing laying them down on their side, on their back, play with their feet, open their mouths, lift their tail and check their ears. Accustom your puppy to having every inch of their body checked over. It will help you when you need to start grooming your puppy, and it helps us when they come in if they are used to you examining them. Dogs respond well to pressure and release. Start by getting your puppy to lie over on its side with legs facing away from you. Make sure you hold on to the bottom feet because, if they get their bottom feet under them it is easy to get up. Have your forearm resting on their neck to encourage them to stay down. If they struggle to get loose, you tighten your grip or put more pressure on their body with yours. When they relax you can relax as well. Practice this daily in all sort of different positions. Once they figure out this game you will be able to trim nails, groom, and brush teeth with little or no restraint or help.

Sit: Using a treat hold it above their nose and lure them into a sit. Do not let them get the treat until their butt touches the ground. Give the treat and say "Good Sit". Use a happy upbeat tone of voice. Once they know how to sit start to challenge them by making them stay in a sit before they get their treat. If they lunge at your hand to try and steal the treat use stern voice and say "no" and ask them to sit again.

Down: Using a treat, have your puppy sit, and say 'good sit'. Then lower the treat down in front of them until you have it on the ground, under your hand. He probably won't lay right away, but be patient and as soon as he does, move your hand and allow him to take the treat while you say 'good down'.

Wait: Teaching a dog to wait is probably one of the most useful commands they will have. Use a sit wait or a down wait before letting them outside or inside, before letting them have their food, before getting in or out of the car. To teach waiting at the door put them in a sit say wait and open the door. Block their path until they stop trying to escape and get them to sit and wait again. Once they are sitting waiting patiently say okay and step out of their way. Do this every time you let them in and out and soon they will not need to be told to do it. Also make them sit and wait when you feed them, let them out of their kennel, are going outside, etc.

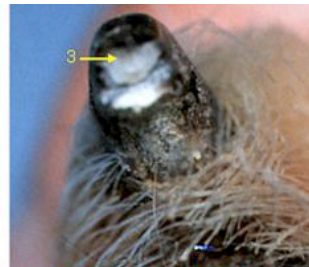
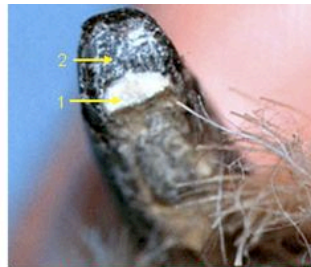
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Nail Trimming: Use the restraint method described above. You may need 2 people for the first few times, 1 to hold, and 1 to trim the nails. Eventually the dog should know well enough that when you lay them on their side, they need to stay there until their nail trim is done. Trim the nails as often as there is some to take off until they are completely use to it.



How to cut a dogs nails when they are black

1. light tissue is the curved bottom part of the nail
2. mottled light and dark tissue is the top part of the nail
3. gray to pink oval starting to appear at the top of the cut surface -- STOP CUTTING



Always have **Qwick Stop** or **Corn Starch** handy just in case you clip too far. Both will stop bleeding by applying while using slight pressure. Trim the nail litt by litt until the oval part starts to show like in step 3. Sometimes the oval will be black instead of gray or pink.