**PUPPY INFORMATION**

**Here is some information that you should read before picking up your puppy.**

Before taking your puppy home there are a few preparations that need to take place.

**Puppy proofing your home:**

Create a safe environment for your new puppy by following this checklist.

Make sure all poisonous household items are securely stored out of puppy’s reach.

Look at your house from a puppy’s point of view and remove hazardous items including plants.

Don’t leave your shoes where they can get them!!

Check that they can’t get any wires, computer cords, phone chargers…

Puppies will go for items that have your scent on them, it’s not because they are trying to destroy your stuff, but by having your scent near them actually brings them comfort. So if you have an old shirt you can wear for a little while they will love to sleep on it, play with it, and carry it around.

**Supplies you will need:**

There are certain things your puppy will need from day one so it’s best to purchase them in advance if possible.

**Food and water bowls** (heavy ones that won’t tip over) wheaten puppies will sometimes dig the water or food out of the bowl and either lie in the water or sometimes in the bowl. It’s a phase but can be messy. I wrap a towel around the water bowl if this starts happening. My older dogs like to push their bowls around if they are empty.

**Collar and leash** You will need a small thin adjustable collar 8”-13” and a thin (skinny) leash to start. The idea when leash training is not to let them know they are on a leash so no heavy clip, it will distract them.

**Brush and comb** The puppy coat is easy to manage, I use a people brush for mine, but when their adult coat comes in it is a little more work. A metal comb and a slicker brush work best for the adult coat. [www.petedge.com](http://www.petedge.com) has a good selection.

**Groomers** I try to keep the puppy coat for as long as possible because it’s cute and easier to manage. Around 4-5 months they may need grooming but not a full cut. When you take them to the groomers say you want a puppy cut. When they do get their first full hair cut you will say “where’s my dog?” They go in brown and come out wheat…Also if you prefer not to have the standard wheaten cut with their hair over their eyes and beard say you still want a puppy cut. I personally don’t like the wheaten cut, their eyes are so pretty I hate to cover them up and the beard is so messy, it goes in their water bowl and makes the water dirty then it gets your pants wet when they come say hi…Also ask the groomer to be sure and cut their nails and pluck their ears to avoid ear infections.

**Toys** Safe appropriate dog toys (As a general rule if they can fit it in their mouth its too small) They love fuzzy squeaky toys, kongs, ropes, balls and plastic water bottles with the tops off. I get most of my supplies online at [www.lambertvetsupply.com](http://www.lambertvetsupply.com/) or [www.drfostersvetsupply.com](http://www.drfostersvetsupply.com/) they have good toys at good prices.

**Crate** I would recommend getting a crate with an adjustable divider that will hold a dog up to 40lbs. I like the ones with two openings. I got mine at Job Lot, best price and the same quality as Petco.

**Puppy/baby gate** I also like those little play pens that I keep the puppies in outside.

**Food** I strongly recommend feeding your new puppy high end holistic dog food. I feed my puppies Fromms gold for puppies. I order my food online from [www.Chewy.com](http://www.Chewy.com) they have free delivery and it’s cheaper than the stores. Never feed your dog any food that contains soy, wheat, gluten or corn in it, wheatens can be allergic to these things. If your wheatie suddenly gets really itchy try changing it the food to grain free.

**Consistency** Feed your puppy the same food at the same time every day. Small amounts often in the beginning, as they grow you will increase the amount and feed just morning and night. My dogs seem to eat the most at night. When house breaking your puppy don’t feed them after 5 or 6 at night, depending on when you go to bed, and no water after or 8pm. You want them to go to bed with an empty bladder and empty bowel.

Fresh water should be available at all times except after or 8pm when training.

**Don’t overfeed** Studies indicate that avoiding overfeeding may help a puppy’s development. Follow the feeding guidelines given by your vet.

**Don’t be alarmed if your puppy’s appetite changes** Occasional loss of appetite or digestive upset is normal in growing puppies.

**The first few days:**

Make the transition easy for your new puppy with these helpful tips.

Decide on a name and use it consistently.

Limit visitors the first few days.

Do not expose your puppy to other dogs right away, like taking them to a dog park, ect…until you see your vet.

Keep your puppy in your line of sight at all times for their safety and to establish correct behavior.

Never disturb a sleeping puppy! They need their sleep. They play hard for a while and then crash for a few hours.

Your puppy is like a one year old child when they first come home. They don’t know about heights, stairs, choking, chewing, going potty and being left alone. It’s up to you to teach them and keep them safe.

Teach your family the proper way to hold a puppy by placing one hand under the hindquarters and the other hand under the chest. Never pick a puppy up by the front paws or scruff of the neck.

If you don’t know where the puppy is look down and behind you before walking. They are always underfoot and this can be dangerous. I have tripped over more puppies than I care to tell you and also stepped on a few. Not good.

Do not leave a puppy unattended with small children or other family pets until you are sure everyone is ready.

Your puppy may not want to eat the first day home or may have some diarrhea from stress, they are nervous being away from their litter mates and have to get used to their new home.

**House training**

This is the most important training efforts you’ll ever make but it doesn’t have to be difficult.

Establish a routine and stick to it. Take your puppy out first thing in the morning, last thing at night and within 15 minutes of eating. Try to prevent accidents before they happen.

**If you want to crate train your puppy** the general rule is, during the day a puppy can safely be left in a crate for the numbers of hours that equal his/her age in months plus one hour up to 7 months. You should never leave your dog crated for more than 8 hours.

Designate a potty area and take your puppy to this spot every time. You can carry them in the beginning. They will smell their urine or poop from before and will go there again. Use a command like “go potty”. Don’t talk to them or play with them until they have gone, praise your puppy when they have finished.

Correct your puppy’s mistakes only when you catch them in the act. With a firm “NO” pick your puppy up and take him/her to the designated potty area. Accidents will happen so remember to be patient.

**There are many different training techniques**, crate training may not work for you and your schedule, so do some research and decide what is best for your lifestyle. A recent article I read said that having bells on the door helps the dog signal when it wants to go out.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU NEED TO DO IS FIND A GOOD VETERINARIAN. IF YOU DON’T ALREADY HAVE ONE PICKED OUT ASK AROUND TO FIND ONE THAT PEOPLE LIKE. YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR A HEALTH CHECK FOR YOUR PUPPY WITHIN 3-5 DAYS FROM WHEN YOU TAKE IT HOME. YOUR PUPPY WILL BE UP TO DATE ON ALL SHOTS AND DEWORMING I WILL GIVE YOU A COPY OF THE HEALTH RECORDS. YOU WILL WANT TO VERIFY THE PUPPIES HEALTH AND SET UP A VACCINATION SCHEDULE.**