

Welcome Home Puppy!

We are so glad to be sending this little fluffy ball of fur home into your arms today! Thank you for entrusting us with your puppy for the first 8 weeks of his or her life. We have thoroughly enjoyed cuddling, training, and caring for your puppy throughout this first crucial stage. Many new owners have questions regarding the care and keeping of their new bundle. It is our hope that this page full of information will help guide your new adventure. Please note that a puppy information and puppy training and caregiving book would also be a wise idea to purchase or borrow from a library. We hope this paper provides a wealth of information, including commands we've begun using to train your puppy and some basic care your puppy dog will need as he or she enters your home. We hope this is a very smooth transition for both you and your new puppy! Many wet kisses are in your future!

Training:

In hopes of making this a pleasant training experience, we have taken the first steps for you!

We began day #1 with ENS (Early Neurological Stimulation), a series of five daily exercises that prepare your puppy for the stimulations of his or her life ahead. From days 1-16, the process includes:

1. Gently laying the puppy on it's back for 5 seconds,
2. Then touching each puppy paw pad for 5 seconds,
3. Then holding your puppy vertically with head up 5 seconds,
4. Then holding him or her vertically with head down for 5 seconds,
5. Then finally setting puppy on a cold wet cloth for 5 seconds.

Then at 4-5 weeks of age, we began litter box potty training to benefit you both in any situation where taking the puppy outdoors is not an option.

At 6 weeks we began grass potty training, using the words, "Good Potty" every time a puppy successfully eliminates on the grass. It is very important to only use those words "Good Potty" while your puppy is actually relieving himself as this forms a word association between going potty and the words "Good Potty". Later in life, you will be able to go outdoors and say "Go Potty" and the dog will immediately know what you mean and begin searching for a place to do his business.

At 7 weeks of age, we began dog door potty training. This was a huge success and puppies now automatically take themselves outside through our doggy door to go potty on their own! Yeah! We also just minimally have begun training puppies to the word "Space". As we use this command with all our puppies and our own dogs because we have very young children ages, 1 and 3 years, in our home. This helps our children and any other visitor who doesn't feel comfortable with a dog jumping up on them to give them space and NOT jump up onto or knock into little or unstable people or just plain people who do not want an exuberant pup up on their body.

We also began kennel training during weeks 5-7. Puppies will do best if they learn how to sleep inside their own kennel at night and during nap times. Puppies sleep a lot! This helps them grow both physically and mentally, they need rest just the same as an infant child needs many naps. Your puppy may still sleep most of the day after high energy play surges. This is normal. Your puppy will do best sleeping inside a kennel at night near the foot of your bed or in whichever room you desire puppy to sleep until he or she is around 1 year old. This will help create a calm and expected sleeping routine that will keep anxiety at a minimum for your puppy.

There is a shift that happens around 1 year old that best allows for a switch to sleeping on your bed at that time if you wish this change. If not, then kennel sleeping at night throughout the dog's life is a very healthy option. This creates a "safe space," "den" or "calming zone" as some like to call it. When the dog feels overwhelmed at any time, it knows where to go and you will likely see your dog run back to his or her kennel when needing a "break time." Many dogs do this to help regulate their energy and calm down, thus you end up with a dog with less anxious energy. If you need to leave your puppy for an extended period of time (1-4hrs) in your home, please also use this kennel safe space as it will foster healthy energy and relieve your dog of possible separation anxiety.

Puppies need to go potty a minimum of every 4 hours. Naturally, this may mean middle of the night quick potty sessions. This is not a time to play. If puppy won't go potty within approximately 5 minutes, please place him or her back in the kennel. This is so your puppy learns that night time is for continued sleeping, not play time, as tempting as this can be with a cute little fur ball licking your cheeks at 3 am in the morning. The kennel should be covered with a blanket in order to train your puppy not to whine and cry. It may also help to give your puppy something to chew on while inside the kennel, such as a stick, bully stick, chew toy, stuffed animal, etc. Whatever it is that your specific puppy enjoys, that should be his treat for entering the kennel when you tell him the command "Kennel".

I know there is a lot to learn, but there is also a lot of fun and love to be had with your new little furball. We hope this is a smooth transition for you both, as we've tried our hardest to make it. If at any point you have questions, please feel free to ask. We are here for you in your new puppy journey! And we LOVE puppy pictures of our pups in your new homes. Thank you for picking our Dogs of Love for Today as you venture into a joy-filled tomorrow.

Commands:

- "Good Potty" - while pottyng
- "Kennel" - when putting your puppy into his "safe zone kennel"
- "Space" - when you want the puppy to give you space or to not jump up on you or a visitor.
- "Puppies!!" - If you want your puppy to come running and follow you.
*We use this command in a high pitch voice and all puppies run after, follow with tails wagging.
- "Touch" - when you want your pup to come all the way back to within your reach. The dog is to come and touch your open hand. This is something we teach all our adult dogs so that in any situation, we can safely grab and hold our furry critters. Whether it be just for fun and relational interaction with our dogs, or if we want our dogs during off leash walks to come back to us. This also works well if an emergency situation arises, such as a dog headed toward a moving vehicle.

We aim to have the most control we can of our dogs atvll times, which keeps them safe. It also gives them the best shot at a life of longevity, after genetics of course. We also have accounted for health in our breeding program via accepting only health tested dogs in our breeding program.

Puppy Care Information:

Many people do not realize that poodles do not obtain their full curly locks until 1 year old. This will be a mile-marker for you! Your dog is growing up! Also, poodles are known to be prone to ear infections. This means, anytime your puppy gets wet, make sure to dry the ears well and wipe the ear canal dry with a cotton ball, tissue, or other soft, absorbent item. If you smell your puppy's ears, they should smell normal. If you identify a foul smell or if the puppy keeps rubbing his ears on the floor or furniture, or paws at ears, please contact your vet as you may need to treat a newly developing ear infection. Also, a poodle's hair keeps growing just like human hair, so they will need to have a haircut every 2-3 months depending on the growth rate of your dog. Also, please make sure to pluck the hair out from the inside of your puppy's ear canals every time they get a haircut. If you go to a groomer, be sure to specify you want their ears plucked. It actually is not painful to the dog, and some even enjoy the process. All dogs will feel better after having ears plucked. The hair inside of ear canals builds up as it continually grows and can be another easy trigger for ear infections that result from bacteria and fungus growth in warm dark places. These are the biggest poodle care-giving needs to be aware of for your new puppy.

Rabies vaccinations begin at week 14. Please see your vet for this injection and receive a proof of rabies tag. Most cities require it of dog's that live in town. Your vet will also recommend certain vaccine boosters for your area as certain illnesses are more prevalent in specific regions.

Socialize! Socialize! Socialize!

A well rounded adult dog has been socialized heavily as a puppy. We've started this process for you by having our puppies interact with 500 people on Halloween as our church put on a Trunk N' Treat for our community here in Twin Falls, Idaho. Do NOT take your puppy to dog parks, rest stops, or other places until they have been vaccinated yet. Socializing is best done with family and friends you know, or with humans who have washed their hands before petting your puppy. Parks with children are actually a great place to socialize your puppy as most who come are people who love and care for dogs! Plus, you will enjoy lighting up a child's face with a smile by bringing your puppy to be share some snuggles.

Puppies at 8 weeks old are still babies. They have learned a lot already and have a good base on them, but learning and regression of learning is perfectly normal in such young dogs. Your dog will begin to calm down in energy once females have 1-2 heat cycles and once males are neutered. An unneutered male will jump, dig, and go through fences if they smell a female in the middle of her heat cycle. It is a design in male dogs, not a flaw in behavior or training. Hormones do that to dogs, and they just follow their noses. Also, intact males will begin lifting their hind leg to pee and start marking their territory with urine around 6 months of age. If you plan to neuter your male, under 6 months of age would be a good time to do so. Most female dogs actually calm down even more if you allow them to have one litter of puppies after they turn 2 years old. However, you will need to be ready for a lot of work if you decide to go that route! It's fun! And full of cuteness! But this will take a fair amount of research and dedication to do well.

We are so glad you chose a healthy puppy from us!

We are here for you for the lifetime of your canine companion. Please reach out throughout the years with questions, concerns, or just to say "hi." We would also love it if you would send us a picture of your furry pet! We love love love pictures and we would love to add your puppy to our website as he or she grows (with your permission of course). Thank you for trusting us as we aim to serve you with integrity.

1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us."

Holly Brenda | Dogs of Love | dogsoflovetogether.weebly.com