



GOING HOME INSTRUCTIONS

- 🌸 How exciting! It's your new puppy's first night in your home. This can be a little challenging, but before long, your puppy will feel like she's lived with you forever. Here are some suggestions and tips to make this big transition easier for everyone involved:
- 🌸 Please make a vet appointment in the next 3 days so that your pup can be checked over. This appointment activates your warranty. Your puppy has been wormed three times (at 3, 5 and 7 weeks) and has received its initial vaccination (see medical record at time of pickup for more information) at 7 weeks of age, and has a microchip implanted for identification if the puppy is lost. A copy of her medical records is included in your puppy paperwork. This includes the microchip identification number.
- 🌸 Your puppy has ridden in a crate in the car. You can certainly put her in the crate for the ride home to your house, but she may be more comfortable in someone's arms for this first time away from her brothers and sisters. She may whimper, but respond in a calm, soothing voice without making too big a fuss. If you act like everything's fine, she'll quickly pick up on your cues and think it is, too.

BEGINNING POTTY TRAINING

- 🌸 Once you're at home, you will want to carry the puppy outside to her new "potty spot". Don't put her down yet, because she still urinates frequently, and will most likely go very quickly after you get out of the car. Carry the puppy to her spot for the first week or so, or until she gets the idea that this is the only appropriate place for her to relieve herself. Letting her walk there is something that can wait for a week or so.
- 🌸 Tethering is a great method for teaching your puppy that you are its leader and to really bond it to you, as well as let you be very responsive to its needs to go outside. To tether, keep the pup on a leash tied to you and the pup goes where you go, unless in the crate sleeping, actively sleeping, eating or eliminating. That way you will learn your puppy's cues and she will learn to stay out from under your feet. When you notice circling, sniffing or pacing, pick up the pup and take it outside pronto and have treats in your pocket to give when finished. This takes a while, but the mistakes are very few- a great way to go.
- 🌸 Normally, a good rule of thumb is the pup's age in months plus one equals the number of hours she can go between pit stops. If she's been asleep for a few hours and wakes up suddenly, she probably needs to go out.

- 🌸 Take your puppy out every ½ hour to 1 hour at first. When your pup is not in an exercise pen or other confined area, or tethered to you with a leash, you must really keep an eye on her; if you see her sniffing, circling, or pacing back and forth, the time is imminent. Immediately take her outside to her spot and use whatever word you've chosen as a cue.
- 🌸 Take the puppy out immediately upon waking, after every nap, before and after a play session, and after a meal. The more times you can manage, the more opportunities to reinforce when she does it right! Reward can be verbal/physical/food.
- 🌸 Praise her when she successfully uses the appropriate potty place, but if an accident occurs, don't scold, and certainly don't "rub her nose in it". You'll do nothing but confuse the poor pup. You can, however, interrupt her if she's starting to go in the house, and quickly carry her outside to finish up.

🌸 In order to save your carpets and minimize the number of potty accidents and incidents of inappropriate chewing your pup will have, please do not give your puppy freedom in your house yet unless closely supervised. She isn't ready for it, she hasn't earned it, and keeping her confined will make sure that you don't get frustrated with her over things she really can't control. "Confined is kind".

🌸 If puppy doesn't eliminate despite your having stayed outside for a bit, be very careful of what happens when you go back inside. I get this question with every litter: "we came back inside, and the puppy promptly sneaked into the living room and pooped on the carpet. He "knew" he did something wrong...." Well, I would suggest that if your puppy does not go when you're outside, the last thing you should do when you come back inside is to let the puppy out of your sight! Keep the puppy right next to you or in its crate and try again in 10 or 20 minutes. Smart owner!

CRATE TRAINING

- 🌸 I highly recommend crate training from the first night your puppy is in your home. Your pup has slept in a crate at night for about a week. Use the crate any time you can't closely supervise your puppy (no more than one or two hours at a time during the day), as well as for sleeping. During the daytime, an appropriate chew toy (**NOT RAWHIDE!**) can be placed in the crate with your puppy. Try not to reward or respond to the puppy when he is actively fussing or howling. Wait for the pup to be quiet (even for a brief moment) to remove the puppy from the crate or otherwise pay attention to him.

SLEEP

- 🌸 Where puppy should sleep: If possible, it is good for the puppy to sleep in the crate in your bedroom to minimize crying and whimpering at night, and to allow you to hear when he needs to be let out to go potty. Also, the sound of your breathing and your scent will help your puppy learn to look to you for leadership- you are the new Pack Leader! **Don't let the puppy sleep in bed with you (at least for six months or so).** If you do, he'll soon grow to think that it's HIS bed, not yours, and this can be confusing as to "who's boss".
- 🌸 Puppies will try hard to not soil the area where they sleep; if its crate is a large one, try to partition off an area large enough for the puppy to stand up and comfortably turn around in, but not much bigger than that. The puppies have been sleeping on quilted cotton nursing home "chux" pads at night, and at this age, anything "cushier" than that will be an invitation to chew, and also will be harder to launder if an accident occurs.
- 🌸 Before bedtime: Feed the puppy one last time at about 7:00. Remove water by 8 or 8:30. Shortly before you go to bed, spend some time playing and wearing the puppy out. Just before bed, take the puppy outside to his potty spot and wait for him to sniff around and go. When he does, praise him and bring him back inside without playing. Put him in the crate and calmly say good night.
- 🌸 Your pup may fuss a bit the first couple of nights, but should settle down relatively quickly. I usually hear that on the third night, puppy settles in for a nice, long night's sleep. When the puppy cries at night, you have to decide whether she's looking for comfort or has to go to the bathroom. If she's been asleep for a few hours and wakes up suddenly, she probably needs to go out. Quietly- no playtime!- carry the pup outside to her spot, and repeat the before bed potty routine. Praise, reward, then back in the crate, and good night.
- 🌸 If you think the puppy is looking for comfort, you can soothe him a little, but don't coddle him. Kind reassurance is most useful.
- 🌸 After a couple of nights with this routine, you and your puppy should be able to make it through the night with a minimum of disruption and both of you will wake up refreshed and ready for the new day!

CHEWING

- 🌸 It's normal for your pup to lose baby teeth over the next couple of months, and it's also normal for it to want to chew. You may or may not notice the tooth loss, but I guarantee you'll notice if your darling puppy chews up a favorite pair of shoes! Please realize that it's **your** responsibility to make sure that your puppy doesn't chew what it's not supposed to. Puppies are built to chew! Invest in an assortment of appropriate chew toys and prepare to offer them as a substitute if puppy is chewing something it shouldn't.
- 🌸 Bitter Apple or Bitter Break is available at any pet store and is a deterrent if there's something your puppy just won't leave alone.

EATING

- 🌸 Your puppy has been given 3 meals a day, roughly at 6:30 or 7 am, 1:00 pm., and 8:00 pm. It would be nice to start out with this schedule, but you can quickly adjust it to fit your family's schedule. Remember, an approximate schedule is good, but dogs can't tell time!
- 🌸 I feed **Canidae PureSky Turkey and Duck** grain free food. It is a very good quality, all life stages food (although the bag now says Adult) grain free, and rates an A+ on the grading survey used by many of top breeders and vets. I have provided a copy of this grading method for your future reference. I follow the recommended amounts listed on the back of the bag. You will notice that your dog's poop is very small and firm when feeding Puresky. Easy to cleanup, for sure, and a sign that the food is absorbed well. Feel free to select a food of your choice, but please transition your pup over gradually by mixing with the food they've already been eating, making the portion of the "old" food smaller and smaller and the portion of "new" food bigger. Do this over a week or so- it's easier on your puppy's tummy, and any faster may cause diarrhea.
- 🌸 If you feed Puresky, your puppy won't need to change foods as she grows up. If feeding other food, consult with your own veterinarian for his advice, or contact the customer service number listed on the back of every bag of dog food.
- 🌸 At this point, your puppy is eating dry kibble only. She will drink lots of fresh water every day (and all that water has to go somewhere....., (See **Potty Training**)!
- 🌸 Regarding treats for reinforcing good behavior: I like to use tiny, tiny bits of cheese or tiny cubes of raw butternut squash (Trader Joe's) or cooked sweet potato. It takes just a tiny bit to reward the puppy, and I think that the commercially available treats are too big- think "TASTY MORSEL". You want to be able to reinforce a behavior lots of times without giving too many empty calories. These treats will add your puppy's nutrition, rather than fill her up with junk. It's a lot like feeding your kids!

IMPORTANT- KEEPING YOUR PUP HEALTHY

☛Your puppy's vaccines are incomplete until she is approximately 16 or more weeks of age. Please exercise caution when you take her places- no dog parks or other areas where dogs are known to congregate. We especially worry about Parvo, a virus that is transmitted through dog feces and which can live for 7-10 months through temperature fluctuations and weather. Please read the information at the link below for more information on Parvo:

<http://www.workingdogs.com/parvofaq.htm#Parvo> Transmitted

☛Your puppy should not run on leash with you until she is 16-18 months of age. Her bones aren't mature and the particular motion involved in running on leash, no matter the surface, can cause permanent bone issues and hip/elbow problems, and **will void your health warranty.**

Please call or email me with any questions or concerns you might have. I will always reply as soon as I can. If I don't know the answer to your question, I will research it and get back to you. I'm committed to providing wonderful continuing service to you as long as you need me!

Debi Martin

Mountain Park Labradoodles

503-635-8316

mountainparklabradoodles@comcast.net