

Puppy Care

Congratulations on your new puppy!

Here are some frequently asked puppy questions and answers.

How much should I feed my pup?

- At 7 weeks old they should get a ½ cup three times a day (approx. 7 am, 12 pm, and 5 pm).
- At about 8 weeks start to increase it to ¾ cups three times a day.
- If you notice your pup is starting to look skinny increase it to 1 cup three times a day.
- At around 4 months you should switch to feeding just twice a day.

What food should I use?

- I recommend Shurgain brand food when your dog is old enough.
- You should stop feeding puppy food and switch to regular adult dog food when your dog is approximately 10 months old.
- If you notice consistently loose bowel movements or other problems maybe try a different brand of food or a food with different ingredients.

When will my pup sleep through the night?

- Expect a bit of crying the first night or two after you bring the pup home. One way to mitigate this is to have the pup's crate in your bedroom so that the pup can see you.
- Your pup will probably need to get up in the night to go outside to use the bathroom. Make sure to get her/him really tired out before bed!
- At approximately 9 weeks your pup can physically get through the night without having to get up to go outside.

When should my pup be spayed/neutered?

Check with your vet.

- Most vets wait to neuter males until they are at least 1 year old. Females should be spayed when they are between 1 and 2 years old.

When should I take my pup to the vet?

- Anytime you think something is wrong with your puppy do not hesitate to take them to get checked at the vet. Pet insurance is available if you think you might need it.
- The pups have already had their first vaccination needle. The next needle should be given 1 month after that and then another a month after that one.
- The pups have also been dewormed twice already.

What is the best way to crate train my pup?

We recommend crate training your puppy. It is the easiest method for house training and piece of mind when you leave them at home.

A few tips:

- Be consistent.
- Try to make it a pleasant experience when first getting the pup used to the crate. Use food to get them in the crate. Lots of praise.
- Place the crate in your bedroom where the puppy can still see and hear what is going on.
- Put a blanket or towels in the crate for bedding. A pup will rarely soil the crate, however, if he does, try removing the bedding.
- A crate should not be too big, but large enough for the puppy to stand, stretch and turn around.
- If he should happen to fall asleep somewhere else, pick him up and place him inside and quietly shut the door.
- Don't use the crate for punishment.
- Take your puppy outside to potty before putting him in the crate.
- Take your puppy outside to potty as soon as you take him out of the crate.

When should I start training with a leash?

You can start as soon as you like. Use a nylon collar and leash when you first start walking with them. Take it really easy and use lots of praise and use pieces of dog food as a reward. The pup will not like the leash very much at first but this is normal. Try to keep the first training sessions relatively short until they are old enough.

Best way to prevent ticks and fleas?

Always check your dog after playing outside in the spring and summer. Make sure to pick all of the ticks off as soon as you can with a pair of tweezers. I recommend the use of tick medication such as Bravecto. Please check with your vet to see what age is appropriate to start the medication.

How Do I House Train A Puppy?

House training is one of the first things you'll want to teach your puppy. If done properly, potty training is not difficult. The key is to be consistent.

Never allow YOUR puppy to be unattended or out of YOUR sight. If you are unable to do this remember to use confinement as a means of prevention.

Keep your puppy on a schedule. Feed him at regular times and always give him a chance to relieve himself right after being fed.

Using a designated area in your yard, let your pup have plenty of time (fifteen minutes) to relieve itself..

When the puppy has done his business, praise him lavishly. A good rule of thumb to follow is to give your puppy a chance to relieve himself at a minimum of these times...

When Should I Take My Puppy Out to go to Bathroom?

Anticipating when your puppy will go to the bathroom should be something you know like the back of your hand.

Always take your puppy out to his spot:

1. First thing in the morning.
2. After each meal.
3. After a nap.
4. After playtime.
5. Right before you and your pup retire for the night.

Some more house training tips

1. *Keep an eye on your puppy* – We learned pretty fast that it's important to keep a constant eye on your puppy. If you see him start to sniff around, circle, whimper, or squat then quickly scoop him up and take him out to his designated potty place in the yard. Give him a ton of praise when he is in his spot. It's important to keep your puppy under constant supervision not only for training purposes, but to keep him out of trouble in general. We've found many a chewed up shoe, cell phone, remote control because we didn't keep a close eye on our puppies. This can be both costly and dangerous for your puppy.

2. *Keep a puppy potty schedule*– you'll notice your pup can be fairly predictable with his bathroom times. We just use a sheet of paper and write down every time our puppy goes pee or poop (you'll start to notice trends on your puppy's potty schedule). Here are a few times that should automatically be on your schedule.

- Your puppy will always need to go shortly before and after eating or drinking water. We feed our pups twice a day (our young puppies eat three times a day) at specific times which helps control the times they go poop.
- As soon as your puppy wakes up. Puppies almost always go right after waking up.

3. *Be Consistent* – stay free from variation. Stay consistent so your puppy knows what you want him to do. Be consistent by taking him out the same door to the same spot. Be consistent with your puppy bathroom schedule. Be consistent with your puppy's feeding schedule. Be consistent and make sure everyone in your household abides by the same puppy house training training rules. If you do not stay consistent then it will take longer to house train your puppy.

4. *Be Persistent* – continue firmly with your house training your puppy in spite of any difficulty. At times it may seem like your puppy just does not get it, but don't waver and be persistent.

5. *Be Patient* – defined as the ability to suppress annoyance...puppies are adorable, but they will also test your patience. Try to remain calm and don't get upset with your puppy. It takes time to potty train a puppy. Be patient and you will be rewarded. If you feel yourself

losing your patience step away for a while and let your puppy have some alone time in his crate with his favourite KONG or chew toy.

6. *Praise Your Puppy* – The most important thing is to give your pup tons of praise every time they do something right. Don't forget to give your puppy a ton of praise every time he goes to the bathroom in his designated area. This will help reinforce the behaviour with your puppy.

7. *Puppy Clean Up* - If your puppy pees or poops on the floor or carpet make sure you clean it up immediately (I'm sure I really didn't have to say that). Your puppy's nose is thousands of times stronger than your nose. If your puppy smells the pee or poop on the floor then he will return to this spot to pee again.

If you ever want help with training or behavioural problems please feel free to give me, or my father Arthur a call. We can arrange a time for you to come by with your dog. You can even leave your dog with us for some training if it is needed. Also any type of training class is always beneficial.