

The First Weeks

FEEDING

- Your puppy has been getting three meals a day and fresh water daily.
- We have been feeding them Royal Canin Golden Retriever Puppy. They should have this soaked in some warm water. I would start with $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup three times daily. This will need to increase gradually as you observe the caloric needs of the puppy. DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO GET TOO HEAVY... You get what you pay so it is important that it is properly balanced and has glucosamine added to the diet for orthopedic support.
- I have found the most economic place to find this is online from Chewy's. Plus they have free delivery and auto-ship.
- Allow some quiet time after meals for their food to settle so their stomach will not turn or cause bloat.
- Romping before meals is good, then meal, then potty then nap.

HOME AND PLAY TIME

- It is important to spend a lot of time with your puppy, but remember that they are babies and need their naps.
- A crate or pen is the perfect place for them to take long naps.
- It is important for them to have some alone time. They need to adjust to alone time, and as they grow older become comfortable with these alone times. Puppies that are not given the opportunity to become secure when being alone for short, and then extended lengths of time can develop an anxious and destructive dog when left alone.
- It is recommended that your puppy not be left alone for more than 2 hours if crated at first. If they are left in a pen then no more than 4 hours at first. The exception is when your family goes to bed at night.
- If your puppy has a yard and it is safe, they can stay out for up to 4 hours. Our litter has been outside all their recent lives and enjoys fresh air and romping time.
- Sleeping with your puppy is a personal choice but always remember they need alone time to become secure dogs as adults.

POTTY TRAINING

- Housebreaking will be expedited if puppies are taken out every hour or so. It is best achieved by rewards, frequent trips outside and patience.
- As your puppy grows into an adult dog the length between potty times will expand. Do not expect your new puppy not to mess in their crate or area if left extended amounts of time.
- Do not allow your puppy free range of your house until complete housebreaking has occurred. I tend to wait approximately a year depending on each dog.
- Take your puppy outside after waking up, even from a nap.

- Right after your dog finishes eating, take them outside to let them sniff for a good spot to go. After they go say “good dog.”
- Some puppies will be easy to train, others more difficult. Setbacks in training can occur.
- Patience, a pen and lots of attention will yield great results. Some pups are better than others in communicating their need to go out.

These are some suggestions from my experience. People have many ideas and they all result in the same thing hopefully... A well-adjusted dog!

PUPPY’S PLACE IN THE FAMILY

If you watch puppies at play, you will see a lot of growling and tussling. There is more to this play fighting than meets the eye. They are deciding who is going to be “top dog.” Whether you realize it or not, something very much like this is play fighting is happening at home between your puppy and the rest of the family.

To be confident and secure what puppies need most is a mater they can depend on. For your dog to have a happy life and be a pleasure to own, at least one person in the family must become such a master. Dogs have no mental concept of “friends and equals.” Someone has to be boss.

Assertive puppies will grow up trying to be boss, which won’t make either one of you happy. A submissive puppy may spend its entire life fretting and worrying, never sure what is expected. Everything usually works out just fine automatically – puppies find their place in the family without much trouble and everyone is happy.

ESTABLISH A TEACHER – LEARNER RELATIONSHIP

Use two types of rewards-praise and petting. When your puppy asks for attention, you probably respond by petting, which is natural. Begin using these requests to show that you are the teacher and your puppy is the learner.

Each time your puppy asks to be petted, respond by holding your hand about a foot above their nose and say “(their name), Sit.” Move your hand back over his ears as you speak. This makes them look up, which is the first part of sitting. Keep repeating, “good sit” until they sit. Then pet him on the throat and chest with your other hand for a few seconds as you repeat the praise. If not successful at first, repeat the procedure. When your dog sits from five to ten seconds, release him from the command by saying, “OK”, then pet and praise him again. Gradually increase the time until you have reached one to two minutes before you say “OK.”

Be sure everyone who lives with the pet follows this same procedure. Consistent treatment from the whole family makes for a better adjusted, happier pet.

FIRST AID STRATEGIES

DIARRHEA

- Common in puppies as they forage and eat everything
- If your puppy is bright and happy, do not panic. A bland diet may be helpful to you.
- Kaopectate tablets are safe for puppies.
- 100% Pure Canned Pumpkin mixed in food will help harden stool.
- If it is persistent – submit a fecal sample to your veterinarian.
- My vet says Imodium is safe but only if the puppy is miserable.

DIARRHEA DIET

- 1 cup cooked rice without oil.
- ¼ cup cooked turkey burger with no added fats.
- Mix these together and feed exclusively until diarrhea firms up.
- Then begin to add back in dry food.
- Usually ½ cup at a time with the rice works

VOMITING

- Puppies will eat things that make them sick. If your pup throws up once and otherwise continues to act fine, I usually do not panic.
- My vet advises that you call your local veterinarian if the puppy is sick for more than one day.
- Withhold food and provide ice cubes. If they throw up water then they need to be seen as soon as possible.

BEE STINGS / SWOLLEN FACE

- Give Benadryl – a mg per pound of puppy. EX: 25 lb dog = 25 mg Benadryl.