



Puppy Introduction Letter and Helpful Links

Congratulations on your new puppy! You are just a few weeks out from the beginning of your next lifelong friendship. By now you are anxious to bring the new baby home, and this letter contains a lot of information that we have stockpiled over the years and hope you will find helpful. Remember, if you have any questions, we are here to help you however we can. And if we don't know how to help, we have a very large network of fellow breeders and trainers that we can ask for their opinion on any problem.

Your puppy has been given the very best start to life; each and every puppy is handled by us from day one, and have been worked with daily on ENS (Early Neurological Stimulation) and have been raised loosely following the Puppy Culture program. Over the last 8 weeks they have been exposed to loud sounds, kids, other dogs, cats, and being outside (weather permitting). We provide piano mats, wobble boards, jingly toys, and tactile stimulation to ensure that every puppy goes home with a solid foundation.

Your puppy is going home with an 8-week vet exam, their first puppy vaccine, microchipped, and a prepaid AKC registration. Their microchip registration is prepaid, and is good for life. Every puppy is sent home with a "baby bag," much like the go-home bags that are given to every new mom taking her baby home from the hospital. Every bag has a small blanket that smells like your puppy's littermates, their favorite stuffed toy, two chewy toys, two days' worth of food with added probiotics, a folder with all of your paperwork, and a little keepsake to remember just how small your baby once was. We also include a small Ziploc bag of shavings from their litterbox to help facilitate potty training once you get home.

For the ride home you will need a few things depending on the length of your drive. For any length of a drive you should have a few old towels, a roll or two of paper towels, and a couple plastic bags. For longer drives you should bring a bottle of water and a small bowl in case puppy gets thirsty. If your drive is longer than 4 hours you will likely need to stop to let puppy go potty; if that is the case you will want to stop somewhere where it isn't likely there have been a lot of dogs. Restaurants and bank parking lots are typically the best places to stop. You'll want to put one of your old towels down and let puppy potty on the towel. Your puppy has only had one vaccine when you take him/her home, so it is imperative that puppy does not make contact with public ground.

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Food:

Your puppy is currently eating Purina ProPlan 30/20 Sport, chicken formula.

<https://www.chewy.com/purina-pro-plan-sport-all-life-stages/dp/158929>

Other good foods are Canidae, Eukanuba, and Royal Canin; all of which can be found on Chewy.

We strongly recommend to all of our puppy families to avoid grain free foods as there has been a very strong correlation between dogs diagnosed with DCM (dilated cardiomyopathy) and grain free foods, primarily due to pea/legume proteins. Here is a good article put out by the AKC if you'd like to read more about it, <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/fda-grain-free-diet-alert-dcm/>.

Supplements:

We have used two general supplements with great success: NuVet Plus,

https://www.nuvetlabs.com/order_new2/products.asp and Nature's Pharmacy's Complete, <https://naturesfarmacy.com/dogzymes-complete-3-best-sellers-in-one-product-full-servings-of-ultimate-daily-balance-phyto-flex-provides-probiotics-enzymes-vitamins-minerals-omegas-new-zealand-glucosamine-and-chondroitin-msm-yucca-hyaluronic-acid/>.

A great joint supplement is Synovi G4, which can be found on Amazon.

https://www.amazon.com/Bayer-Supplement-Glucosamine-Boswellia-Ingredients/dp/B008UEUTLS/ref=sr_1_4?crd=1OB1RHT9FVR8P&dchild=1&keywords=synovi+g4+soft+chew%2C+240+count&qid=1588372479&s=pets-supplies&prefix=synovi%2Cpets%2C252&sr=1-4

Training:

I have had the best success with training using “yes” markers. We ask all of our puppy families to *PLEASE* stay away from any training methods by Cesar Milan. His training methods are fear-based, which is not a good way to start off with your puppy. His methods work well enough for dogs that have been abused, but your puppy does not need such harsh methods. He puts on a good show, but that is about it.

Here is an excellent article on training with markers. <https://leerburg.com/markers.htm>. Here are some puppy basics, <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/teach-your-puppy-these-5-basic-commands/>.



Crate training - <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-crate-train-your-dog-in-9-easy-steps/>
<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/why-crate-training-is-great-for-your-dog/>.

Potty training - <https://www.eukanuba.com/dog-articles/puppy/puppy-potty-training-house-training>. This article mentions a biological cleaner for any accidents inside. I use Simple Solution, which is an enzymatic cleaner. https://www.amazon.com/Simple-Solution-Enzymatic-Pro-Bacteria-Cleaning/dp/B078Z2SSL9/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=simple%2Bsolution%2Bfloor%2Bcleaner&qid=1588369338&s=pet-supplies&sr=1-4&th=1

This entire litter is litterbox trained, which makes potty training a breeze. In your baby bag will be a Ziploc bag of the pine pellets from the litter box for you to sprinkle in the yard where you want your puppy to go potty.

Remember when you're leash training that harnesses do not stop pulling. Think of horses pulling a cart, or sled dogs; they use harnesses to distribute the pressure across their chest, which facilitates pulling. Harnesses can also cause shoulder/elbow problems, depending on where exactly the harness sits. Your best option is a properly fitted slip lead, which I will show you how to use when you pick up your puppy.

Treats and toys:

Anything RedBarn is usually a big hit here!

All of our dogs get knuckle bones in their crates. <https://www.chewy.com/redbarn-naturals-white-knuckle-bones/dp/109126>.

Bully sticks are also a favorite, <https://www.chewy.com/redbarn-bully-stick-12-dog-treat/dp/126418>.

Nylabone DuraChews are great for when puppy gets to be about 4 months.

<https://www.chewy.com/nylabone-durachew-peanut-butter/dp/108523>

A few lamb ears and beef tendons are great for the teething days! Lamb ears:

https://www.amazon.com/Lamb-Ears-Dog-Chews-Pack/dp/B07N7LT5NZ/ref=sr_1_7?dchild=1&keywords=lamb+ears&qid=1588373980&sr=8-7

Beef tendons: https://www.amazon.com/Nature-Gnaws-Tendon-Chews-Count/dp/B07BLL7NQS/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=beef+tendon+dog+chew&qid=1588374044&sr=8-6

Kongs are also a great toy, not just for teething but all throughout life.

<https://www.chewy.com/kong-classic-dog-toy/dp/38485>. A great thing to do is fill them with



peanut butter (check the label and make sure there's not xylitol in it) and then pop it in the freezer, the dogs love it and the cold rubber feels great on sore puppy gums.

Misc.:

We use and recommend Mendota slip leashes for walking and everyday use.

<https://www.mendotapet.com/collections/leads-leashes/products/mendota-slip-leash-small?variant=28653986113>

MidWest wire crates are the kennels we use at home and at shows.

https://www.amazon.com/MidWest-Folding-Protecting-Leak-Proof-Intermediate/dp/B0002AT3M4/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=midwest+life+stages&qid=1588375116&sr=8-2

Critter Beds are our go-to for crate pads and beds. <http://critterbeds.com/KennelBeds.htm>

Millers Forge are the best nail clippers money can buy. https://www.amazon.com/Millers-Forge-Nail-Clip-Large/dp/B004QJYZ52/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=millers+forge&qid=1588375809&sr=8-3.

These ones are a bit big for puppies, but these smaller ones are great for a while,

https://www.amazon.com/Millers-Forge-Stainless-Steel-Clipper/dp/B0002ARUKQ/ref=sr_1_9?dchild=1&keywords=small+dog+nail+clippers&qid=1588375927&sr=8-9.

Cat nail clippers also work great for puppies.