

CARING FOR YOUR NEW PUPPY

Puppies **MUST** eat whether they want to or not. A "he'll eat when he's hungry" mentality may work for a Labrador or Shepherd puppy, but not small breed puppies, who can get into serious trouble quickly with just one or two missed meals.

Remember, even though your puppy is weaned, he/she may not like eating in a new environment, especially without litter mates. You are now both a litter mate and mother to this puppy. **ALWAYS** confine the puppy to his/her crib, with food. A baby playpen such as a Pac 'N Play available at Walmart, works well for meals and naps. New puppies are very infantile in their development and haven't sufficient focus to locate food and eat properly without aid.

FEEDING

We feed and recommend Eukanuba Small Breed Puppy food. In addition to dry kibble, which should be available at all times, soaked meals should be provided every four hours for baby's first month with you. To prepare soaked food, mix 1 part kibble to three parts **VERY** hot water and allow to sit for 15 minutes. Once soft, stir in 1-2 tablespoons of high quality canned food such as Cesar or Mighty Dog. Serve in their playpen on a small plate or saucer. Always use a fresh plate with every serving as the mixture will sour. After the puppy turns 16 weeks, soaked meals may be gradually reduced to an all dry kibble diet.

If your puppy will not eat, force feeding may be necessary to avoid hypoglycemia. To force feed, we use instant oatmeal applied via a 3cc syringe barrel. Without cutting the plunger, snip off the tip end of syringe and slowly dispense the oatmeal prepared as directed on the box and at room temperature.

Your puppy should consume 9cc's at every feeding. This should be done every 4 hours until the puppy is eating. If puppy is still not eating after 24 hours, please call us and consult your veterinarian.

WATERING

NEVER PUT WATER OR OTHER LIQUIDS IN PUPPY'S MOUTH!

Your puppy should have a small, clean crock of water or water bottle available at all times. Please remember that even the most ill dog will still drink water, so never force fluids. Doing so could cause puppy to aspirate, choke, develop pneumonia or die. If you feel your puppy is dehydrated, rush to a veterinarian who may administer SQ or IV fluids.

STOOLS

Check your puppy's bottom for stool sticking every day. Some puppies will develop a loose stool and/or contract *giardia* or *coccidiosis* from the stress of leaving his/her familiar home and family. This does not mean your puppy came from an unclean environment or "bad" kennel. These common maladies can be inexpensively treated with medicine from your veterinarian.

VETS

A good rapport with your vet is paramount. We are happy to help you find a reputable veterinarian who will honestly represent his/her services and have your puppy's best interest at heart. Please be aware that veterinarians differ greatly in philosophies and practices and even from human doctors. After all, your human doctor doesn't try to sell you shampoo or food. Veterinary Clinics are a business at the end of the day, and most truly want what's best for our pets. On the other hand, you needn't be victimized or guilted into unnecessary procedures or products. If you are not comfortable for any reason, move on. Your veterinarian is your best ally in your pet's health and wellness. Be choosy!

The best way to potty train a puppy is to control the potty area. A folding round expen set up on your lawn, which clips together at each end to form a circle, is helpful to keep puppy focused on his/her "job". Dogs naturally sniff out an area's perimeter before going potty. If you keep the area small, this process will go much faster, and with fewer distractions running a whole yard may impose.

POTTY TRAINING

Every time you pick up your puppy, take him/her outside first. Some people take their baby out every hour or so. If your puppy has been napping, take him/her out immediately upon waking. First thing in the morning and last task before you go to bed are important "out" times. Above all, patience. Puppies are unpredictable and have accidents just like human babies. The younger the puppy, the more frequently they potty. Just remember that this too shall pass. All puppies grow up to be dogs, who only potty a few times per day.

