



*My forever best friend*

Welcoming a new family member is a huge deal and I couldn't be happier to be a part of this process for your family. It means the world to me that you have chosen me as your breeder and it's my goal to be a resource for support and advice for the remainder of your new dog's life.

## PUPPY FOOD :

Hill's science diet puppy food is the food you will pick up ( the food they are currently on ) if you want to switch them to another food , I will show you the correct way to do so . Switching food over fast will cause an upset stomach !

404 REVIEWS | 27 ANSWERED QUESTIONS



( You can get science diet puppy food from Amazon , Chewy or Petsmart )

## HOW TO SAFELY SWITCH YOUR DOG FOOD

**DAYS 1-3**



25% NEW FOOD

**DAYS 4-6**



50% NEW FOOD

**DAYS 7-9**



75% NEW FOOD

**DAY 10**



100% NEW FOOD

## My opinion of dog food brands:

There are a lot of controversial opinions on dog food brands. The dog food they are currently on is recommended by a veterinarian. I am still on a search for other dog foods brands but for right now I use this. I do know to stay away from any dog food brands that say GRAIN FREE. Studies have shown that it can cause problems. Dog food brands to stay away from are pedigree puppy chow, Cesar and beneful.

## HOW MUCH TO FEED YOUR PUPPY

You can feed your puppy 2-3 times per day: the back of the bag has the recommended amount to feed. Give your puppy an unlimited amount of water.

Take your puppies water up 2 hours before bedtime to help with potty/crate training.

## GROOMING TOOLS TO BUY:



Please purchase these two items ; BRUSH & COMB!! They will be your best friend , If you don't want a naked dog! ( meaning having to be shaved BALD due to Matting) . The brush is great for the top layer of the fur and the comb is great to get deep down . I recommend brushing every day but I know life happens and to be honest I don't but I should 😊 AT LEAST brush a few times a week but everyday is best of course

## BATHING YOUR PUPPY :

Honestly you should be only bathing your puppy once / twice a month . If you bathe too often it will dry out their skin . With puppies, I know they get dirty fast so if you have to bathe them then do so. If it's just small dirt like their paws , you can buy some puppy wipes.

I typically bathe my dogs once a month BUT if they are long and fluffy I do it twice a month because I use conditioner to detangle the hair as well , it works great for that .

( DO NOT TOWEL DRY !!!!! )

After you bathe , you need a brush , comb and blow dryer . This type of fur doesn't do good with towel drying . You will end up causing Mattes . After my dogs have their baths I wrap them in a towel , gently towel dry , then use the brush / comb and blow dry her DRY.

## HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU GO TO THE GROOMERS:

I typically go to the groomers every 6-8 weeks . I get them cut pretty short so I can have a longer time not going to the groomer . If you want that fluffy look ALL the time then you will be at the groomers every 4-6 weeks .

When pups have all their shots , you can take them to get a puppy trim . Basically they groom around the eyes , feet and butt area but leave the body alone . This gets them used to the groomers .

## CRATE SIZES!!!

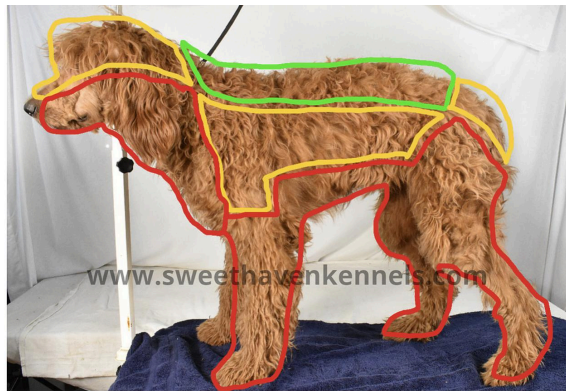
Crate size for medium size pups  
36 inches with a divider !

Crate size for mini size pups  
30 inches

## Puppy Checklist

- Food
- Crate
- Playpen
- Dog bowls
- Collar , leash , and harness
- Poop bag
- Name tag with phone number
- Dog bed
- Car seat is nice to have
- Training treats
- Metal comb :
- Slicker brush
- Puppy toothbrush/ toothpaste
- Puppy pads ( I like the glad brand )
- Puppy shampoo/conditioner
- Puppy carrier ( when traveling ; airplane , vet trips )
- Puppy toys
- Stuffed animal with heartbeat in it ( It helps puppy when leaving their siblings)
- Nail clipper
- Find a vet and make puppy first appointment ( within 48 hours of picking puppy up )

This picture shows the areas that need the most brushing!



**RED ZONE:** Should be brushed FIRST and most often. Red Zone area mats easily.

**YELLOW ZONE:** Do Yellow Zones next! Includes head, sides and tail.

**GREEN ZONE:** The Green Zone encompasses the easiest part and least likely to mat; the back.

## NAIL TRIM:

Cutting your puppy nails is important but also has to be done correctly . If you don't feel comfortable doing it on your own, have your groomer or vet do it !

Here's a video about trimming nails .

<https://youtu.be/sisprxhsc6l>

PARVO : Be mindful / cautious for taking your puppy out before fully vaccinated

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/what-every-puppy-owner-needs-to-know-about-parvo-in-puppies/>

This link right here talks alot about parvo ! VERYYY IMPORTANT TO READ !! This doesn't mean your puppy can't leave the house . If you bring your puppy out , try your best to keep them away from grassy areas where other dogs have been or pet store / Vet office floor !

## HARMFUL THINGS TO YOUR PUPPY :

**Many foods and household products can be dangerous to dogs!**

It's only natural for dogs to be curious. But their curiosity can get them into trouble when they get into areas where you store household items such as food, medicine and detergents. Many common household items that you use everyday can be harmful, and sometimes even lethal to your dog. Always keep garbage and medications out of reach of your pets, children and animals

**FOODS THAT ARE HARMFUL TO YOUR DOG:**

May cause vomiting, abdominal pain and/or diarrhea:

- Wild cherry
- Almond
- Apricot
- Balsam Pear
- Japanese Plum
- Yeast dough
- Coffee grounds
- Macadamia nuts
- Tomato and potato leaves and stems
- Avocados
- Onions and onion powder



- Grapes
- Raisins
- Chocolate
- Pear and peach kernels
- Mushrooms (if also toxic to humans)
- Rhubarb
- Spinach
- Alcohol
- Garlic
- Seeds and pits of fruit
- Corn cobs



**COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS THAT ARE HARMFUL TO YOUR DOG:**

- Acetaminophen
- Antifreeze and other car fluids
- Bleach and cleaning fluids
- Boric acid
- Deodorants
- Deodorizers
- Detergents
- De-icing salts
- Disinfectants
- Drain cleaners
- Furniture polish
- Gasoline
- Hair colorings
- Weed killers



## PET INSURANCE :

There are tons of pet insurance out there ( just search on google and call each company and see which is best for you) . Pet insurance usually covers in case of an emergency situation . Veterinarian offices ( like Banfield ) most times have WELLNESS pet plans that include vaccines and things of that nature but do not cover emergencies . It's not a must to get pet insurance but I do recommend it . If you decide to not get pet insurance . Emergency rooms usually do offer care credit to help pay for emergency visits . FYI the ER is EXPENSIVE !! .

## TRAINING :

Once your pup has all their shots ! I do recommend training . Pet smart has some great training group classes for a good price ! It allows you to socialize with your pup and learn basic tips and tricks . You can also check Instagram for trainers in your area !

## FIRST VET VISIT

I would not recommend placing your puppy on the floor or random surfaces inside or outside the vet's office ( to prevent parvo )

Bring puppy binder with vaccination record.

Bring a poop sample to test for worms ( must be a fresh sample/ the most recent poop ) if you don't bring a sample that is totally fine ! They vet will collect some but it's not the best feeling for them haha lol

Ask your veterinarian about preventative medication for fleas, ticks, and heartworms



## FEEDING

### TO DO LIST:

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

## GROOMING

### TO DO LIST:

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

## TOYS

### TO DO LIST:

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

## BED TIME

### TO DO LIST:

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

### TO DO LIST:

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

## TRAINING



# NOTES FOR YOUR PUPPY

NOTES:

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GOALS :

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ITEMS NEEDED:

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

TO DO:



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# Your Puppy: What to Expect at 8 to 12 Weeks

## The Big Day is Here: Picking up Your Puppy

The big day is here! You're on the road to go pick up your new furry friend and you need to know what to bring along and the best way to introduce yourself to this puppy. After all, first impressions are important!



## Puppy Go Home Instructions

We suggest the following protocol when taking your puppy home to ensure a smooth transition. Stress, lack of sleep, new people etc. can compromise your puppy's immune system, and unfortunately, puppy parasites can flourish. While ALL puppies are tested and leave me "clean" only to be home for

a week or two and have a parasite. Please know that nearly all dogs / puppies have parasites. Parasites and protozoa have a plan for survival in place no matter what. They lay dormant eggs in the tissues of the host. The ONLY way these eggs can be "activated" is through stress, a compromised immune system and sickness / disease. Our job is to keep pups healthy and happy to ensure their body is not a place where dormant eggs can be activated. Unfortunately, a puppy is a preferred host since they are 80% water upon birth, grow at an incredibly fast rate and naturally have a compromised immune system.

After a lot of thought and experience, I recommend you try the following protocol to minimize the activation of dormant parasites:

1. Keep the house completely calm and stress-free for three days to a week (no new visitors, limited commotion, minimal handling, etc.). Treat them like a newborn baby coming home. When you come home or have visitors stop by, please keep all shoes at the door. Parvo can be brought inside on shoes.

2. Do not wake the “sleeping baby”. Puppies sleep an incredible amount of time. Do not worry. As long as your pup wakes up with puppy energy, silliness, eats well, drinks well then all is good!
3. Mushy poop is common with stress, please feed only boiled chicken and white rice for the first three days if your pup develops loose stools. A nice bland diet is imperative during a tough transition. If after three days, stools are firm, then SLOWLY add in dog food to the bland diet, increasing the dog food ratio over the next 5 days.
4. Do not feed ANY treats (including bones, etc.). You don't want to cause an upset tummy due to food or treats. Upset tummies create a nice environment for parasites.

### Sniffs and Snuggles – Letting Your Puppy Learn Your Scent

Let your puppy sniff you as much as possible when you're picking him up to take home! This lets him get completely familiar with your scent.

Once you're in the car, let them sit with you on your lap if it's possible. If not, tuck them into a travel kennel with an old t-shirt or blanket that smells like you and let them get used to your scent. Talk to them in the car so they are reassured and become familiar with your voice in addition to your scent.

### Check for safety hazards at their level

Get on the floor at the eye level of your puppy. What do you see that could be a danger or cause a mess? Could the hanging cord behind the couch look like a toy? Is there a box of tissues that's just asking to be shredded? Anything you see at this low level that you don't want chewed on – get it to a higher & out of reach location.

### Follow the 3-3-3 rule of bringing home a puppy

The 3-3-3 rule for bringing home a puppy: 3 days to decompress, 3 weeks to be comfortable in the house, 3 months to adjust to the house routine.



### Physical and Mental Development

Welcome to kindergarten! From 8 to 12 weeks of age, your puppy is in the “I’m afraid of everything” stage. This period is characterized by rapid learning but also by fearfulness. Your puppy may appear terrified of things that she used to take in stride. This is a good time to avoid loud voices and traumatic events.

For the next several weeks your puppy’s brain will continue to develop rapidly. You want to create a calm environment and minimize her stress.

They should already have learned about where to go potty, but be prepared to offer plenty of pit stops for your precious pooch. Even though she has much better control than when she was younger, plan to offer several potty breaks a day. If possible, try to keep a regular schedule for toilet breaks, so your puppy learns when she will get to go — before breakfast, after breakfast, midday, right before bed, etc. If you are lucky, your puppy may be able to make it through the night during this stage.

For puppies, catnaps have gone to the dogs, because young dogs need 18 to 20 hours of sleep per day to rest their developing brains.

### Behavior Changes

Your puppy already knows how to do all of the important stuff: eat, drink, poop, sleep and, of course, play. This time is definitely defined by play. To keep her and your house safe, practice a little puppy proofing. You will want to get in the habit of keeping windows and doors closed to prevent escapes. Hide or remove power cords that your curious pup may mistake for chew toys. And properly store common toxins, including antifreeze, insecticides, household cleaners, prescription drugs, fertilizer and rat poison.

This is no time for your puppy to be without supervision. You must be prepared to watch her whenever she is out of a “safe area” such as a crate or playpen.

If your little one acts out, a gentle correction is the best approach. Punishment is ineffective and endangers your bond with your puppy. Keep your puppy on a short leash and try gently tugging her away when she jumps on someone or nibbles on a leg of the dining room table. If she gets mouthy — nibbling on you or others — she may be trying to send you a message: She’s hungry, thirsty, bored, or needs a potty break.

At 8 weeks you can already tell a lot about your puppy’s personality if you know what to look for. For example, by watching puppies interact with their littermates and people, you’ll probably be able to identify the bossy bullies, the timid tigers and the eager beavers.



## Rules for Your New Puppy

Here's the thing about bringing a puppy home: It's a lot of fun—and also a lot of work. Everything is brand-new, so your puppy is going to jump up and nip and mouth and want your attention, you have to set the rules early on so that you get what you need from the dog. From house training to “sit” and “stay,” get ready to address these training topics head-on.

## Puppy Training 101

Maybe this is your first time or maybe you are adding to your crew, either way, we are so excited for you. We want to make sure that you are prepared to be the very best puppy parent you can be and offer you an amazing resource.

Being a responsible dog owner ensures that you provide a plan to train your canine companion to be the calm, well-mannered and the best behaved doggie that you could ever want. A trained dog is less stressful, not only in the beginning, but for life. Proper socialization and manners will give you the dog you are envisioning. But you have to do the work and stay committed. They deserve it!

## The Role of “Puppy Puppy Puppy”



We imprint all of our puppies to the recall of “puppy puppy puppy”. In effect, this is actually their “name” and not their assigned “litter name” that we may have referred to throughout our correspondence. This is a lifesaving tool we are giving you, so what can you do to ensure your puppy continues to have this vital recall?

1. Practice twice a week with a high value treat that they never get otherwise. Wait for them to be distracted by something (focus is not on you) and then call, “Puppy puppy puppy!” As soon as your pup gets to you, have the biggest “puppy party” and give them the treat. That is it!

2. Do not ever use “puppy puppy puppy” as a punishment (to put them in their kennel, call them from inside, etc.). It has to be 100% positive EVERY single time!
3. Do not overuse this command. Your dog will learn very quickly to ignore you if this command is overused - twice a week and no more (unless your dog is in a life-threatening situation).
4. How long should you keep reinforcing this command? We recommend doing this for the rest of your dog's life.
5. When can you use this command? If your dog bolts out of the door, won't recall when off leash, and /or could be in danger, etc. To Consider: If your dog bolts out into traffic, assess the situation quickly. Calling them might be fatal because you may be asking them to run back into traffic. If you encounter an aggressive dog, this recall could be great, or it could trigger the aggressive dog to chase (a long down stay might be best in this situation). Again, assess and use your best judgment.
6. Step it up and practice this command with a long drag line (20 plus feet) and take them out in a high distraction area. When they are not focused on you, call the “puppy puppy puppy”. If they don't come? Reel them in and keep calling them. Remember to only be positive and happy (even if you are frustrated you have to reel them in!). Give them lots of praise and a treat when they reach you. Coming to you should always be positive and safe!

### The Role of “THE TREAT” Game

Puppies are notorious for picking up everything and anything. Acknowledging that while dogs explore the world through their mouth and nose, this can also be dangerous when they start gulping items or get a hold of something poisonous. Let's teach our puppy a fun game that could save their life! It is called the treat game.

Week 1: Once a day (if possible) wait for your pup to be interested in something else. Walk up to them and put the tasty treat at their nose and say, “treat”. Give the pup the treat and praise. That's it!

Week 2: Start calling “treat” and have the puppy come to you! No barriers involved. Be in sight. When the puppy comes to you, give them the treat and praise! That’s it!

Week 3: Call treat and go to the fridge. Barriers and distractions can be at play now. Challenge the pup and wait until they are playing with a toy! Reward with a tasty treat! That’s it!

Week 4: You only need to do this a few times a week. Wait for the pup to be really interested in something else (another dog, toy, bone, food, children, etc.). Give a high value treat from the fridge and praise them. That’s it!

Now, anytime the puppy has something in their mouth they should not, or that you need to get from them, simply call, “treat” and go to the fridge. They will drop the item when you say treat or when they get to you. Do not put any focus on it! Put your foot over it and wait for the pup to toddle off. Then pick it up. Do not ever chase a puppy with something in their mouth. You are only adding value to it. Just call “treat” and walk to the fridge. No panic or stress! You have done your work in ensuring you don’t have a resource guarder or gulper in your house!

## Potty Training

This can be a very intimidating process, but with consistency, positive reinforcement, watchfulness and timing, potty training can be a successful process.

Today, your puppy is 75% pad trained, this means that they know what the pad is for, how to use it and will actually go looking for it (in the same place) when they are out of the pen and need to go potty. Sometimes they are so excited and play so hard that they forget they need to use the pad and just go potty where they are. However, you will know! They will put their nose to the ground, start sniffing and running in circles or exploring the floor! Immediately say, GO POTTY ON THE PAD, or take them outside, whichever you are trying to accomplish. Your puppy has been using the pad in their daytime pen and their nighttime pen. They are fully aware of using it!

At 8-10 weeks old, puppies will usually go to the bathroom just a few minutes after eating/drinking. When you notice your puppy losing interest



in his food, put a leash on your puppy and take him outside to a designated potty spot. Say GO POTTY (or whatever word cues you've chosen) and walk your puppy around a bit and praise him when he goes potty, saying GOOD PUPPY (or whatever word cue you've chosen). Do not let the puppy off the leash or let him play until he has gone potty. Your puppy has been trained using disposable pee pads. If your puppy is having a difficult time with potty training, you may want to offer water to your puppy every 30-60 minutes during the day instead of leaving it accessible at all times. This will allow you to better monitor your puppy's need to go potty.

When inside, always monitor your puppy. Make sure you can see him at all times and watch for these signs that he has to go potty:

- Circling
- Sniffing
- Trying to sneak off and hide
- Squatting
- Dragging their tushies on the floor - they get the feeling they need to go but not sure what that feeling is - so they drag or scoot on their behinds.

If you see any of these things happening, pick your puppy up immediately and take him outside to his potty spot and say "GO POTTY" and praise him as he's going.

If you are busy and cannot watch your puppy, put him in his crate/pen. Puppies do not want to potty where they sleep. Or, you can put your puppy on a leash while you are working/in the house. When you feel the leash move, you can check on your puppy to see if he is exhibiting any signs of needing to go potty. Make sure to carry your puppy outside when he has to go. Timing is everything.

### Crate/Pen Training

The crate/playpen can be a very helpful tool when your puppy is young and throughout his life. We have introduced your puppy to the open pen. Our goal has been to make the pen an interesting and safe or fun place to be. You will need to do the majority of the actual pen training once your

puppy is home with you. To start, place a bed on one side of the pen, place the potty pads on the complete opposite side of the pen. In the middle of the pen you can place toys and food/water. If you have made this pen a small 4x4 area, you can still accomplish the above, just minimize the amount of toys and have a smaller bed. At night, cover the pen sides with towels, sheets or blankets so your puppy can't see out. You can pen your puppy when you can't watch him (when you are home or when you leave the house for short periods of time) or for naps and at night. In a happy, excited voice, tell your puppy GO TO YOUR PEN/BED (or whatever word cue you choose) and praise him when he goes in. You can put safe toys (rubber Kong, ball) in the crate with your puppy but be careful not to include toys that can be harmful when not watched, like stuffed animals with fur or bones that they can choke on. Never use the pen as punishment. However, if your puppy gets overstimulated, you can put him in the pen for a rest period and to calm down. You should try putting your puppy in the pen during the day when he first comes home and before you put him in for bedtime. This will help familiarize him with his pen and help you differentiate between whimpering/crying to get out or to go potty.

Your puppy has been trained to understand and live in a pen at our home. We "house" two different pens for them. One is the daytime playpen and the other is the nighttime sleep pen. They are used to being in these areas and understand the difference. We are not suggesting that you have two different ones, however please note, that your puppy is not ready to have the run of the house and needs the structure and safe place to call his own. You can eventually over time, have them out of the pen more during the day and create boundaries for them.

At 8-10 weeks, your puppy should be able to sleep about 7-8 hours at night in his pen, but might wake up once in the night to go potty. (Make sure not to offer food or water after 8pm.) I suggest placing the pen near your bed or in your bedroom. Cover the front of the pen with a blanket or sheet to signal to your puppy that it is time to sleep. They have been experiencing this at our home. I cover the sides of the pen with blankets and sheets - NOT THE TOP. *If you hear your puppy whimper in his pen, CARRY him out to potty IMMEDIATELY.* If he is just barking and crying to get out, ignore him or say NO BARK in a firm, low tone. Do not continue to repeat yourself as it will only make matters worse, one time or a couple of infrequent times you may say NO BARK, but otherwise, we suggest ignoring the behavior. This way the puppy isn't associating his barking/crying with attention (negative or positive). You also may not hear your puppy in the middle of the night as they are used to using the pad to go potty and then go back

to sleep. They have been sleeping in a dark and quiet room and have been sleeping through the night successfully for the last 2 weeks. Another method of soothing is the puppy soother, this is a puppy stuffed animal with a heartbeat. You can find this puppy on the supply list.

### Midnight Potty Breaks – Training Your Puppy to Go Outside Potty

Puppies are tiny and their bladders are even smaller! During the first few nights that your puppy is at home, you'll most likely be woken up in the middle of the night for a bathroom break. Listen to his cry and respond quickly. Take him out to his potty place outside and be patient. This is the hardest time to keep your cool and not lose heart. The puppy will probably wander around and make a lap or two or five around your yard which can be very difficult at 2:37 a.m. Let him take a lap or two or five and potty when he needs to. This is going to keep reinforcing the need to go outside for any potty business no matter the time. After the puppy does his business, reward him with lots of praise.

Please note that your puppy is pad trained and if given enough room in their pen, they know that they can use the pee pad at night to go potty if you choose to not wake up in the night. If you are reluctant to continue with the pad training, then I would suggest making their sleep area at night only their bed, which forces them to cry or wake up and request to go potty, as puppies do not typically go potty where they sleep



# Monthly Review

8-12 WEEKS OLD

## TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## WHAT DO WE NEED TO FOCUS ON?

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## THINGS TO DO FOR NEXT MONTH

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notes



# MONTHLY PLANNER

MONTH:

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GOALS :

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PRIORITIES:

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TO DO:



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