

Break of Dawn Kennels

How to Care for Your New Puppy



DO... Feed puppy food morning and evening until puppy is 6 to 7 months old. Afterwards switch to adult maintenance diet and feed only once a day.

Feed your puppy plain yogurt (live culture) or cottage cheese anytime. These help to build your puppy's immune system, are high in calcium and help counteract the effects of stress.

For chewing, give only natural products: cow hooves, pig ears (limit number) , beef knuckle bones.

Start basic training early: 9-11 weeks...5-10 minutes, 12-16 weeks...10-15 minutes, 5 months and up...15-20 minutes.

Spay or neuter between 6 and 7 months: spaying before the first heat cycle will prevent 3 types of cancer in females; neutering your male pup will prevent prostate cancer, lifting of leg, peeing on bushes or other objects and roaming.

If you plan to breed your dog, only breed to quality, OFA cerf and eye clear dogs as good as or better than the dog you already own, meaning: confirmation, temperament, pedigree, and clearances. This will help to protect the integrity and future of the breed.



DO NOT...

Overfeed or over exercise your puppy: no running for miles, or jumping until 13 months old. These put excessive stress on their growing bones and joints and can cause permanent problems.



DON'TS CONTINUED...

Allow your puppy to jump off of or onto high objects or run up and down stairs. Puppies' bones and cartilage are not fully developed until 13/14 months of age.

NEVER EVER GIVE YOUR PUPPY MILK!

Let your training sessions last more that the times listed above.

Allow your puppy to do things you would not want them to do once they are full grown, such as jump up on you or others or chew on anything other than the chew products listed above. All animals learn by conditioning and repetition and they will learn a bad habit 4 times faster than a good one. If you let a pup do something for 3 or 4 months, you have in fact trained them to do this and should expect to have immense difficulty training them not to do it in the future.

Do not take your puppy out in public until all puppy series immunizations are done (3 sets: at 6, 8, and 10 weeks of age) and Bordetella (at 8 or 10 weeks). Puppy rabies recommended at 3 1/2 months and until this time, be careful about who your puppy plays with. A puppy's teeth and claws are sharp and can break skin, if this happens you risk having your puppy reported and confiscated and quarantined for 30 days to screen for rabies.

Product Recommendations

Eukanuba/Iams products...dry food only because it is much healthier for their teeth and gums.

Favorite starter toys: Vermont woolly toy, clear color Nyl-a-bone, braided rope.

Crate training: prefer plastic crates rather than wire cages. Favorite brand is Furrari crate by Dogloo. Available at Southern States (804) 226-2758. Also check PetSmart.

Interceptor for heartworms covers all types of worms except tapeworms. Also will continue to protect your dog if you miss a few days.

Frontline for flea and tick prevention.

