



FAQ

When should we have our puppy groomed?

Around 10-11 weeks of age is a good time to bring your puppy into the groomer for a short visit. Possibly a bath and brush out, with no dryer. Or just a brush out, if your puppy is particularly weary. About 3 weeks later we do that again but adding 2-5 mins of blow dryer time with lots of treats. Pick your puppy up soon or even stay there for the visit. Slowly build up about every 3 weeks until your puppy can tolerate a full groom which includes bath, blow dry, nails, hair trim and brush out. Once puppy is confident with a full groom, you can move to every 6-8 weeks!

When should we see a Veterinarian?

Your contract recommends an initial visit within 72 hours of the time you take your puppy from me. Do not put your puppy on the ground outside or inside the Vet! Be sure they have thoroughly sanitized the room. Do not allow them to give ANY vaccines at this first visit!! Your puppy is under stress from the change and this is a bad time for vaccines. If you're wanting to give Bordetella or Lepto, begin about 10-14 days after your puppy comes home.

Do we need to keep our puppy home, away from all people and dogs?

No! Puppy Culture discusses "Vaccination vs Socialization". Your puppy has a much higher risk of behavior issues if not socialized early than he/she does of contacting a deadly disease when exposure is done properly. No dog parks. No vet visit "floor play". No floor time at Pet stores, Lowes or Home Depot. Alternative and generally safe ways to socialize your puppy is in the cart on a blanket at stores, even Pet stores. Offer strangers a low scent hand sanitizer and allow them to love on your puppy! Nose sniffs with other dogs are generally safe, but use discretion. Walks in non dog populated areas followed by an alcohol wipe to the bottom of the feet is also usually a good idea. Remember... if you want your puppy to be comfortable with something in adulthood then you must expose your puppy to this sound, sight or smell early! "Socialization" ends at 12 weeks! We expose our puppies to dogs that we know are healthy and "puppy friendly".

When should we start training?

Although we do not suggest you begin formal training with commands such as sit, come or stay until your puppy is fully comfortable in their new environment, basic training begins right away! This includes rewarding calm behavior, not allowing jumping up or mouthing.

What should we do at night?

Generally, we tell our families to kind of spoil their puppy that 1st night. It's been a long day for them and they're under a lot of stress whether you see it or not. This is a great time to sleep on the recliner and let your puppy just sleep on you. The next day, your puppy will be feeling much more themselves and will be ready to begin actual crate training that night.

How do I crate train?

There are many methods to this! Everybody has their favorite. For us, I truly have seen the most success with the method described on my website on the page "Confinement and crate training".

Should we use a collar or a harness?

Either one is fine. Just keep in mind that your puppy is not used to having either one so it's not uncommon for your puppy to spend most of the time the 1st 72 hours of wearing it to just stop and itch it. This can make potty training a bit difficult so if you have a fenced yard I recommend not having these on your puppy during potty time in the beginning so that your puppy can focus on pottying rather than trying to itch this ridiculous contraption off.

***A side note to collars is that there have been studies that have proven that dogs that have "loud, jingling" tags on are more likely to have anxiety and lack of focus. We strongly recommend a tag silencer on your dog's tags.*

What do we do about our puppy crying when left confined or when we walk away?

Honestly? Be strong and ignore it! Initially, it's important to only do small times confined so that your puppy is not overwhelmed by feeling alone. Offer things for your puppy to do while left alone such as chewing on something extra special. Reward your puppy for being quiet by coming over and getting your puppy out of confinement when you notice small moments of quietness. But the more that you give in to your baby crying when left alone the longer that this crying will last. For us, when a new puppy enters our family and is going through "puppy separation anxiety", we can generally have the whole



thing cured within 10 days by being consistent with allowing them to work it out themselves. This will not be new to your puppy because that is exactly what we do here. The puppy that sits quietly at the gate is the puppy that gets picked up.

***Note: Always, always, always give your puppy an opportunity to go potty outside prior to confinement! If you are concerned that your puppy did not have enough time to relieve him or herself and is crying because he or she needs to eliminate, then you need to take your puppy outside, wait a few moments and then re-confine. Remember that a puppy can not be expected to hold it longer than 2 hours in the day - ever. So if you will be gone longer than that, then please follow our recommendations on our website on how to safely confine your puppy for longer periods of time where they have an opportunity to use a litter box.*

How often should I feed my puppy? How much?

Please see the "Feeding my puppy" form..

When should we do training sessions?

Doing 2-4 minute sessions before each meal is a great option! Then 1-2 minute sessions throughout the rest of the day. Always end a session with an "All done!" command and pettings, so your puppy knows when to "shut off" and absorb the information. Long training sessions often result in your puppy offering the "wrong" response more frequently. Keep it short!

How do we control our puppy's biting and mouthing!?

First of all, this is very normal! Your puppy is not exceptional or aggressive because your puppy is constantly biting and mouthing and nipping and



chewing. This is very normal behavior! The most wonderful thing of all is that even if you did nothing, your puppy would outgrow it. Personally, we do make this a “negative experience” for our puppy. Your puppy is not going to chew on a cactus because you told it “No”. It is not going to chew on a cactus because doing so is uncomfortable. So that’s exactly what we do. I do not use verbal commands at all or even any kind of tone with my puppy. When my puppy puts my fingers in their mouth I either pinch the cheek or press on the tongue or whatever I can do in a quick and smooth motion that makes the act of doing so uncomfortable. My puppy may gag or even slightly Yelp or just smack it’s lips and let go. At that point I pet my puppy’s face and give all kinds of verbal love. I have never and I repeat I have never, ever created a hand shy dog by using this method. All of my dogs trust me and all of my dogs love physical affection from me. They just learned early on that chewing on my fingers is not satisfying. If they try to bite at my sleeves or my pant legs or my shoes then I do a quick and strong motion that knocks them off. It works quickly and can turn an issue that could take weeks to train into something that they figure out within 24 hours. This is our method and it has worked for us and many others that we know. I am well aware that there are some trainers that would completely gasp at the idea and frankly, I don’t care much. I am an expert of my own breed and this is what works.

Should we allow our puppy on the furniture or bed?

Well... I do! I would never allow my dog to become possessive over either location but we do invite our dog to join us when we’re watching a movie or laying in bed. It seems to be a sweet time for them. Do remember that if you or a child is on the floor than you are on their level and everything goes! You





can't expect your puppy to not jump on you and to behave as if you are standing or kneeling. If you are on the floor at their level then expect to be mauled! It is unreasonable to expect them to maintain appropriate behavior when you are at their level! So if you're on the floor, you better be ready to play and wrestle!

Should I play "Tug of war"?

Absolutely! Especially for a Border Collie, this is a true act of love and bonding. When done so correctly, it can become a wonderfully positive experience and fun thing to do between you and your dog. Please watch YouTube videos on how to properly play tug-of-war with a puppy where it does not cause them harm to their spine. I do not recommend that young children play tug-of-war at all.

